

Survey of Russian Elites CALL FOR QUESTIONS

**2020 Questionnaire
10/5/2019**

The Survey of Russian Elites (SRE) invites scholars to suggest questionnaire content for inclusion in the eighth wave of the survey to be fielded in early 2020.

What Is the SRE?

The SRE is a data set consisting of seven surveys of high-ranking Russian individuals that were fielded in 1993, 1995, 1999, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016. The number of those interviewed in each of the seven waves ranges from a low of 180 to a high of 320 respondents, for a total of 1,664. In all seven waves, individuals were selected on the basis of positional criteria using a quota sample, with an emphasis on identifying those connected in some way with foreign policy issues. Each survey includes Moscow-based elites from the following sub-groups: the legislative and executive branches of government, the military and security agencies, state-owned enterprises, private businesses, scientific and educational institutions with strong international connections, and the media. In each of the seven waves, between 30 and 40 persons were selected from each category and all interviews were conducted face-to-face.

The combined data set is on deposit with the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan and can be accessed here:

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/3724>. The principal investigators' codebook can be located either under the Data and Documentation tab on the ICPSR site or here: <https://academics.hamilton.edu/documents/SurveyofRussianElites1993-2016Codebookv2.5-1August%202018.pdf>.

What Topics Are Covered in the Survey?

The dataset includes questions on international relations, threat perceptions, foreign policy decision-making, domestic politics, and economic issues. For example, respondents were asked their opinions about the national interests of Russia, the role of military force in international relations, the greatest threats to stability and security, the enlargement of the European Union, NATO expansion, the need for order in Russia, and how closely Russia should follow the path of developed countries. Additional questions, among others, asked respondents about their level of influence on foreign policy decision-making, how they find out about world and domestic events, their attitudes regarding government spending, the type of political system that is most appropriate for Russia, various forms of property ownership, political protests, and the environment.

To the greatest extent possible, core questions in the survey have been asked in several waves of the survey. While not a panel study, the collection is the only repeated cross-sectional survey of contemporary Russian foreign policy elites and therefore provides a unique window into how the attitudes of the elite stratum as a whole in Russia have changed over time.

What Are We Seeking?

In consultation with the members of the International Advisory Board (listed below), the Principal Investigators hope to revise the 2020 questionnaire in order to increase its use, academic and policy relevance, and impact. We are soliciting suggestions for specific survey questions from interested scholars from all ranks (including graduate students), disciplines, and places of employment. In particular, we seek to include items that will be of broad and sustained interest to the scholarly and policy communities.

For all questions submitted, please include:

- Full question wording and response categories. (Submissions can be in English, Russian, or both. If the question has been used before, please provide the exact question wording used in the previous study.)
- Information about the origin of the question, i.e., where you found it or whether you wrote it yourself.
- Rationale for including the question and, if relevant, connection to the theoretical or policy literature to which the question would contribute.
- If the question has been used or tested before, any available evidence assessing its validity and reliability.
- Your c.v. and institutional affiliation.

Upon explicit request and with appropriate justification, authors of accepted questions may be provided a reasonable time period (up to one year after data collection) during which they will have the exclusive right to present, circulate, or publish the results of the survey question they contributed. After this period, the survey question and results will become part of the SRE to be made available to the broader scientific community. This request (along with the justification) must be made at the time the item is proposed.

How Can Questions Be Submitted?

Please attach a Word file with your suggestions and email it to the Principal Investigator at srivera@hamilton.edu. Submissions, including supporting evidence if available, should be no longer than four pages. The deadline for submission is midnight on November 30, 2019.

What Happens After Submission?

The advisory board will review all submissions and will correspond with those whose submissions are approved before the questionnaire is finalized. Every attempt will be made to contact the authors of all submissions, whether successful or unsuccessful.

Thank you for your interest in the SRE!

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