Maita Schade Wins 2019-2020 Tarnai Scholarship Award

We are pleased to announce that Maita Schade, a statistician and researcher at the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) of Vanderbilt University, has been awarded a 2019-2020 Tarnai Scholarship by the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO). The award provides a scholarship in memory of John Tarnai, former AASRO president, and recognizes an outstanding early-career Survey Center employee with great promise for long-term involvement in and contributions to the field of survey research.

Ms. Schade is being honored for her many contributions to the LAPOP center. Ms. Schade took on responsibility for updates to the LAPOP infrastructure for online data sharing and accessibility. She managed the creation of a prototype for a new state-of-the-art interactive online data analysis platform and a new data download infrastructure. She has played a lead role in developing more effective report templates. Ms. Schade has co-responsibility for testing and selecting new project management software for the lab, and has worked to refine communications within the organization. Ms. Schade has a meticulous eye for detail, and has made important contributions to quality maintenance and improvement at the Vanderbilt center. Her audit and quality control work has been extremely valuable for the AmericasBarometer project, a periodic study of 34 countries in the Western Hemisphere run by LAPOP. Building on Douglas River's sample matching methods for building web probability samples, Ms. Schade developed high quality samples for two major LAPOP projects. Further, Ms. Schade has been dedicated to expanding this methodology to developing country contexts, and transmitting her project knowledge to students and post-docs for whom it is relevant. AASRO applauds Ms. Schade's many contributions to her center, their clients and students, and encourages her to continue her excellent work in the survey research field.