Located at the University of Michigan (‘UM’), the BioSocial Methods Collaborative’s mission is to provide biological and social/behavioral researchers access to methods of collecting data, designing research studies and analyzing biosocial data. The Collaborative is a center brought together by the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the Institute for Social Research, UM Medical School and UM Life Sciences Institute to facilitate collaborations.

1. Our primary focus is on **developing innovative methods**:

Our scientists are building a set of analytic tools to facilitate modeling biological and social science data using a multiple systems approach to analyzing interactions between the various types of data sets. To do this we are focused in the following areas:

1. Statistical interactions between biological and social processes that involve more than two sets of data
2. Visualization tools to represent models and data simultaneously
3. Developing decision aids to promote shared decision-making among patient, caregivers, and healthcare providers
4. Improving clinical trials by developing new tools, measures and metrics that add psychosocial outcomes to traditional clinical trials
5. **Biopsychosocial Data Core**:

The BioSocial Methods Collaborative at the Institute for Social Research facilitates researchers collecting and analyzing biopsychosocial data.

1. **The BioPsychoSocial Lab**. We have equipment such as EEG, eye tracker, facial muscle recognition, blood pressure, skin response and heart rate. We also provide the software to analyze and synchronize the data. The equipment is designed to be flexible and modular so that researchers can determine what and how they would like to collect data.
2. The Survey Research Center at the Institute for Social Research has a **Bio Specimen Lab**, which gives researchers the ability to collect, analyze and potentially store blood and saliva samples.
3. **High capacity, high security computer processing** provided to work with the large amounts of complex data inherent when combining various types of data including genes, MRI data, etc.
4. **BioSocial Methods Conference: The Study of Complex Emotions** – October 23 & 24, 2015 at the University of Michigan

The BioSocial Methods Collaborative is the recipient of an NIH funded U13 conference grant to focus on the study of mixed emotions. This two-day workshop will bring together researchers from several scholarly networks and disciplines (including psychology, economics and neuroscience) to discuss the phenomenon of affective complexity, otherwise known as mixed emotions. This conference is free and open to the public.

***Please note:*** At this time we are only accepting membership applications to the BioSocial Methods Collaborative from those who are affiliated with the University of Michigan but we anticipate opening up the application process to those outside UM in a year or two. In the meantime, we would be happy to add you to our newsletter email list (go to **biosocialmethods.isr.umich.edu** and click on *Contact*, it will take you to a registry form).