



WSS NEWS

November 2002

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

The 2002 Morris Hansen Lecture

The Washington Statistical Society is pleased to announce the twelfth in the annual series of lectures to honor the memory of Morris Hansen. This lecture series is made possible by a grant from Westat, where Morris Hansen was senior statistician for 20 years and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors at the time of his death. The date of the lecture is November 19, 2002.

This year the Morris Hansen lecture series will have its first panel discussion. Panelists are Eleanor Singer, Norman Bradburn, and Katherine Wallman. Eleanor Singer is currently serving as Senior Research Scientist, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. She has written widely on survey research methods, with special emphasis on privacy attitudes of individuals and their influence on survey response. Her research has touched on many of the important issues in survey methodology: informed consent, incentives, effects of interview length, refusal conversion, and their effect on survey response rates. She has focused on analyzing these issues in particular for the Nation's Decennial Census. Norman M. Bradburn is currently serving as Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation, on leave from the University of Chicago. There he is the Tiffany and Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychology, Graduate School of Business, the College, and the Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies. He has written widely on survey research methods and is a pioneer in developing the application of cognitive psychology to the study of nonsampling errors. His recent work has been on cognitive psychological explanations for behavioral reporting errors, particularly telescoping errors, and on context effects in attitude surveys. Katherine K. Wallman currently serves as Chief Statistician at the United States Office of Management and Budget. In this capacity, she is responsible for overseeing and coordinating Federal statistical policies, standards, and programs; developing and advancing long-term improvements in Federal statistical activities; and representing the Federal government in international organizations such as the United Nations Statistical Commission. In 1992, she served as President of the American Statistical Association.

JUDGES FOR THE 2003 SCIENCE FAIRS

Volunteers are needed to represent the Washington Statistical Society next spring as judges in five regional science fairs in Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and the District of Columbia. Since 1986, WSS has provided special awards at these fairs to students whose projects demonstrate excellence in data analysis or the application of statistical methods. Those who have participated in this activity have very much enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the students and to observe the widely diverse projects which are presented. The fairs are held on a Saturday morning in mid-March to mid-April. The only time required is that one Saturday morning, plus one weekday lunchtime meeting to discuss judging strategy.

If you would like to be a WSS science fair judge next spring, please e-mail Lee Abramson at <lxa@nrc.gov> by January 10, and include your work and home phone numbers, your fax number and your mailing address. If you judged last spring, there is no need to contact Lee unless your e-mail address or phone number has changed. If you have any questions, please call Lee at 301-415-6180.

WSS and Other Seminars (All events are open to any interested persons)	
November	
12	Tues.
The 2002 Roger Herriot Award For Innovation in Federal Statistics	
12	Tues.
Correcting for Omitted-Variables and Measurement-Error Bias in Autoregressive Model Estimation with Panel Data	
Morris Hansen Lecture	
19	Tues.
Privacy and Confidentiality – A New Era?	
21	Thur.
Confidentiality for a Mandatory Reporting System: Challenges and Solutions	
December	
5	Thur.
The U.S. Census Bureau's Corporate Metadata Repository: An Overview of the Development Process and Current Status	

Also available on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss>

SIGSTAT Topics for Fall-Winter 2002/2003

November 13, 2002: SAS Enterprise Guide-- Enterprise Guide® software brings the full power of SAS to business analysts, statistical analysts and SAS programmers in a PC client application via an easy to use point-and-click user interface. This Windows client connects to Version 8 SAS System servers and provides access any data types supported by the SAS System, uses the execution power of the server to run any SAS processes, and returns professional reports and graphics to your PC. Enterprise Guide also provides you with web deployment and repeatability of your analysis and results.

December 11, 2002: SAS Graph--Go-- Graph-n-Go is an interactive application for producing simple or complex graphical representations of data. It can be used for data exploration or for creating presentation-quality graphical images that can be printed or imported into documents.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the CPCUG, the Capital PC User Group, and WINFORMS, the Washington

Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science.

All meetings are in Room 3056, 1800 M St, NW from 12:30 to 1:30. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk. First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the SIGSTAT website, www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the January 2003 WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than November 26, 2002. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Probability and Statistics Day

The Department of Statistics at the George Washington University will hold the Mid-Atlantic Probability and Statistics Day on November 16, 2002. Contributed talks (15 minutes) on topics of interest to Statisticians from academia, industry and government are planned.

Program Abstract

Title: The 2002 Roger Herriot Award For Innovation in Federal Statistics

Recipient: Daniel H. Weinberg, U.S. Census Bureau

Speakers: Katherine K. Wallman, Statistical Policy Office, Office of Management and Budget
William P. Butz, Rand Corporation
Paula J. Schneider, U.S. Census Bureau (retired)
Daniel H. Weinberg, U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: Edward J. Spar, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2002 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Reception to Follow

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Conference Rooms 7 and 8**. Video Conference to selected sites

Co-sponsors of the Herriot Award: Washington Statistical Society, American Statistical Association's Government Statistics Section and Social Statistics Section

ABSTRACT: On August 12, 2002, Dan Weinberg was awarded the Roger Herriot Award at the annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in New York. Dan is the Chief of the Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division of the U.S. Census Bureau. Dan has been immersed in all three sectors of federal statistics: He taught at Yale and Tufts Universities, worked as a private sector research contractor, and has spent the last 22 years in the federal government. Those who know Dan know he "thinks outside the box" in the tradition of Roger Herriot. Because of his strong intellectual interest and expertise in poverty measurement, Dan has been an active champion for updating the 40-year-old poverty measure. Dan's successful leadership on issues of strategic importance resulted in initiating the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates program. The promise to "end welfare as we know it" set the stage for Dan's vision to establish the Survey of Program Dynamics in order to measure the effects of welfare reform over a 10 year period. These activities exemplify the accomplishments the Herriot Award represents.

Kathy Wallman, Bill Butz, and Paula Schneider will first discuss Dan's contributions to federal statistics. Dan will then present a paper: Better Measures of Income and Poverty

Roger Herriot was the Associate Commissioner for Statistical Standards and Methodology at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) before he died in 1994. Throughout his career at NCES and the Census Bureau, Roger developed unique approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs. Dan truly exemplifies this tradition.

**To attend seminars at BLS, you need to email your name, affiliation, and seminar names to wss_seminar@bls.gov (Underline between "wss" and "seminar") by noon at least two days in advance or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo id to the seminar. A new list begins July 1. Once you are on the list you need not contact BLS for seminars through September 30 2002. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave NE. Use Red Line to Union Station.

Program Abstract

Title: **Correcting for Omitted-Variables and Measurement-Error Bias in Autoregressive Model Estimation with Panel Data**

Speaker: P.A.V.B. Swamy, BLS

Discussant: Tom Lutton, OFHEO

Moderator: Charlie Hallahan, ERS/USDA

Place: BLS Conference Center, Room 6*

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2002, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Sponsor: Statistical Computing Section

Talk to be videoconferenced.

Abstract: The parameter estimates based on an econometric equation are biased and can also be inconsistent when relevant regressors are omitted from the equation or when included regressors are measured with error. This problem gets complicated when the “true” functional form of the equation is unknown. Here, we demonstrate how auxiliary variables, called concomitants, can be used to remove omitted-variable and measurement-error biases from the coefficients of an equation with the unknown “true” functional form. The method is specifically designed for panel data. Numerical algorithms for enacting this procedure are presented and an illustration is given using a practical example of forecasting small-area employment from nonlinear autoregressive models.

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Annual Holiday Dinner!!!

Please come join your friends and colleagues for a celebration of the holiday season. The 2002 WSS Holiday Dinner will be held Tuesday, December 3, at the Star Saloon across from Ford's Theater. Hope to see you there!

Reservations must be received by November 29, 2002.

Program Abstract

- Title:** Privacy and Confidentiality – A New Era?
- Chair:** Virginia deWolf, consultant
- Panelists:** **Eleanor Singer**, Senior Research Scientist, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan; **Norman Bradburn**, Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation and Tiffany and Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychology, Graduate School of Business, the College, and the Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago; **Katherine Wallman**, Chief Statistician of the United States Office of Management and Budget
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, November 19, 2002: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Location:** The Jefferson Auditorium, USDA South Building, between 12th and 14th Streets on Independence Avenue S.W., Washington DC. The Independence Avenue exit from the Smithsonian METRO stop is at the 12th Street corner of the building, which is also where the handicapped entrance is located. Except for handicapped access, all attendees should enter at the 5th wing, along Independence Avenue. Please bring a photo ID to facilitate gaining access to the building. The lecture will be followed by a reception from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the patio of the Jamie L. Whitten Building, across Independence Avenue S.W.
- Sponsors:** The Washington Statistical Society, Westat, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service.
- Abstract:** Privacy and confidentiality issues are receiving heightened attention for a variety of reasons. The exponential growth of available data and the increased ease with which large databases can be mined are causing government agencies concern over the release of information collected for the public good. At the same time, Institutional Review Boards (required for a number of government surveys) are taking a more restrictive view of what is permissible. And a seemingly minor provision of the USA Patriot Act, in response to the September 11 national tragedy, permits the Attorney General to petition the court for access to confidential data maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics. The success of the Federal statistical system, and the ability to provide accurate aggregate information for the public good, relies on the confidence that respondents place in government statistical organizations and their willingness to participate in government surveys.
- This panel session brings together three key government leaders and researchers to discuss the implications of these important issues. The first speaker, Dr. Eleanor Singer, will review research findings concerning people's concerns about confidentiality of personal information collected by government agencies, focusing on the Census Bureau. In the second presentation, Dr. Norman Bradburn will highlight issues of privacy and confidentiality that are becoming increasingly salient in social and behavioral research. He will argue that information and data are different concepts and that the privacy and confidentiality issues are different for the two concepts. The third speaker, Ms. Katherine Wallman, will discuss some of the issues that have arisen since the events of September 11, the challenges they place on the Federal statistical system, and current initiatives to address these challenges.
- Panelists will identify the main issues in the debate, weigh tradeoffs, discuss the role of informed consent procedures, and consider the long-term implications for federal statistics. The discussion will inform decisions on the need for, and nature of, a formal response from the statistics profession with respect to balancing compelling interests in data for national security against promises made to respondents to Federal surveys.

Program Abstract

- Title:** Confidentiality for a Mandatory Reporting System: Challenges and Solutions
- Speaker:** Rich Allen, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Discussant:** Laura Zayatz, Bureau of the Census
- Chair:** Jay Casselberry, Energy Information Administration
- Date/Time:** Thursday, November 21, 2002, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, Conference Room 9, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington DC. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see Notice at the end of this announcement.
- Sponsor:** WSS Methodology Section
- Abstract:** The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has implemented provisions of a challenging new law which requires large meat packing plants to report details of all purchases for specific time periods every day and requires AMS to issue summary reports an hour later. This presentation will outline security and analysis procedures developed to meet the publication requirements but will concentrate on the confidentiality issues.

Even with active market operations, conventional confidentiality rules meant many planned reports and data cells could not be issued. Detailed study of actual data demonstrated that market participation (and non-participation) was random and that other market participants would not have been able to identify who had purchased even if an occasional report based on one company had been issued. A new confidentiality approach based on continual analysis of 60-day reporting patterns was developed. This presentation will trace the development and approval of the new approach and present follow-up performance evaluations.

NOTICE

To attend this seminar, you will need to do one of the following:

1. email name, affiliation, and name of seminar to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon 1 day ahead or
2. call 202-691-7524 (Karen Jackson) at least 2 days ahead. Finally, bring a photo ID.

Program Abstract

Title: The U.S. Census Bureau's Corporate Metadata Repository: An Overview of the Development Process and Current Status

Speaker: Samuel N. Highsmith, Jr., U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: Manuel de la Puente, U.S. Census Bureau

Date/Time: Thursday December 5, 2002, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, Conference Room 9, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see Notice at the end of this announcement.

Sponsor: WSS Social and Demographic Statistics Section

Abstract: This presentation will provide an overview of the methodology behind the U.S. Census Bureau's Corporate Metadata Repository (CMR). This overview will begin with a discussion of the needs brought about the development of the CMR. This will be followed by a description of the development of the applications which use the CMR and a description of the metadata registry components that have been built or are under construction. The presentation will also outline some of the challenges encountered during the building a metadata registry and conclude with a report on the current status of this effort.

The construction of a corporate metadata repository is based on two combined models: a business process model of the survey and census process at the Census Bureau and a data element registry model providing complete definition of the data elements residing in datasets. The model was first adapted and used in construction of the American FactFinder Internet application. Areas providing data for dissemination on the American FactFinder site were required to provide metadata files describing the dissemination files, their variables and allowable values. The second area to adopt the CMR model was the Economic Directorate in their 2002 Economic Census redesign effort. The Economic Directorate used the CMR model to describe, organize, and all the questionnaire content for their more than 650 paper forms. One of our more recent internal customers is the Geography Division, for whom we have automated the validation of geographic metadata files sent to the AmericanFactfinder staff.

Announcement

THE JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD

On receiving the Roger Herriot Award in June 2001, Jeanne Griffith said: "One of the most rewarding aspects (of Federal statistics) for me was the opportunity to promote creative activities and energies among my staff...."

Dr. Griffith died in August 2001 after working for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's highest priorities was to mentor and encourage junior staff to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

This is to announce the establishment of The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. The purpose of the award is to encourage the mentoring of younger staff in the Federal statistical system.

This award is co-sponsored by the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, the Council for Excellence in Government, the Washington Statistical Society, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. It will be presented yearly to a mid-level supervisor, generally at the GS-14 or GS-15 level, who is nominated by coworkers and supervisors, and chosen by the Award Selection Committee.

The first of these yearly awards will be presented in 2003. Submission of nominations should begin in November 2002; nominations will be due back by April 1, 2003; and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 1, 2003. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium and a citation.

The winning mentor will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of younger staff. Such efforts would include the following types of activities:

- *Working with junior staff to help develop their skills, knowledge, experience, self-confidence, and insights into organizational functioning;
- *Advising junior staff to help them develop career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts;
- *Making resource support available for junior staff attendance and oral presentations at meetings, training courses, and conferences;
- *Providing opportunities for junior staff to participate in meetings with higher level officials and staffs of other agencies and to represent the office at external meetings;
- *Offering informal feedback and coaching to assist junior staff in developing analysis, writing, presentation, and other professional skills.

For further information on the award, contact Ed Spar, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) by phone: 703-836-0404; fax: 703-684-3410; or by e-mail: copafs@aol.com. A nomination form can be obtained by contacting Ed Spar or downloaded from the COPAFS website at <http://www.copafs.org>. All nomination forms should be returned to the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee c/o COPAFS, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 by no later than April 1, 2003.

Employment

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at apeterson.ipr@verizon.net or (703) 979-1191.

Survey Director/Senior Survey Director

Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Survey Science (IRISS) at Iowa State University invites applications for Survey Director or Senior Survey Director positions. Duties include direction of survey research projects or observational studies. For further information about these positions, visit our website at www.hrs.iastate.edu/jobs/4prof.htm#023487 or email sandie@iastate.edu. ISU is an EO/AA employer.

EMBARK ON A CAREER AT THE NATION'S LEADING HEALTH STATISTICS AGENCY

NCHS, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is the Nation's leader in providing statistical information on health to guide actions and policies to improve the health of the American people. NCHS obtains statistics through household interviews, examination surveys, surveys of health care providers and facilities, and the collection of statistics on births and deaths in partnership with State government.

The Office of Research and Methodology is looking for talented, energetic, creative statisticians who have the vision to meet the needs of the health care statistics system of the 21st century. Current ORM research programs include: design of complex sample surveys; editing and imputation; estimation procedures; non-response & total survey error; statistical analysis & modeling; statistical computing and graphics; statistical disclosure limitation; web-based survey methods; cognitive survey research methods; and questionnaire design;

Positions Available include Chief, Statistical Design Staff (GM-1529/1530-15); Sr. Mathematical Statistician, Survey Design (GS-1529-14); and Mathematical Statistician, Survey Methods (GS-1529-

13). Qualifications are degree, training and/or experience in mathematics, (bio)statistics or survey methodology.

Applicants will work in Hyattsville, Maryland, close to Washington, DC. United States citizenship is required.

For NCHS Employment Opportunities see: <http://www.cdc.gov/hrmo/hrmo.htm>

To apply, please send your resume today to:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics
6525 Belcrest Road, Room 1175
Attn: Personnel Specialist ORM
Hyattsville, MD 20782
Phone Number: 301-458-4040

NCHS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

BIostatistician

At Human Genome Sciences, we believe that our genomics-based drugs will usher in a new generation of healthcare products to treat and cure disease for patients around the world. We currently seek a Biostatistician to develop statistical methodology to support clinical and pre-clinical studies. Actively participating in project teams, your duties will include developing and collaborating on clinical protocols, analytical plans, and final clinical study reports, as well as developing new technology to assist in expediting the approval of biologics. Requires a PhD in Statistics, Biostatistics or a related field, plus at least 2 years experience in the biopharmaceutical industry demonstrating familiarity with all federal regulations such as CFRs and ICH guidelines. Knowledge of S-Plus, SAS, and R statistical packages, good verbal and written communication skills and proficiency with computer systems and web technology will be expected. In addition to future growth in one of today's most exciting healthcare research fields, you'll enjoy a competitive salary and excellent benefits as a member of the HGS team. Apply online by visiting our website at www.hgsi.com and search by Job Title or Job ID# 198. Human Resources, Human Genome Sciences, 9410 Key West Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Equal Opportunity Employer.



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