



WSS NEWS

January 2008

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

Nominations Sought for 2008 Gertrude M. Cox Award

The Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee is seeking nominees for the 2008 Gertrude M Cox Award. Established in 2003 through a joint agreement between the Washington Statistical Society (the Washington DC chapter of ASA) and the statistician in early to mid-career (roughly no more than 12 years after terminal degree) who has already made significant contributions to statistical practice. It is presented at the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Annual Dinner (generally held in June) with the recipient delivering the keynote address at that dinner on a topic of general interest to the WSS membership.

The award is in memory of Gertrude M. Cox (1900-1978), who in the 1950's, when Head of the Department of Experimental Statistics at North Carolina State College, played a key role in establishing Mathematical and Biostatistics Departments at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Statistical Division at the newly founded not-for-profit Research Triangle Institute (RTI). She served as president of the ASA in 1957.

This award is made possible by funding from RTI, and the recipient is chosen by a 6 person committee-3 each from RTI and WSS. This year's committee from RTI consists of Nabil El-Khorazaty, Moshe Feder, with Paul Levy (RTI Chair), and from WSS consists of Karol Krotki, Michael P. Cohen (WSS Chair), and Jill Montaquila. It consists of a \$1000.00 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS dinner, and a commemorating plaque containing the WSS logo. Past recipients have been Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, and Francesca Domenici.

Please email your nominations to Michael P. Cohen (mpcohen@juno.com) and Paul S. Levy (levy@rti.org) by Feb 15, 2008.

2008 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

Applications due by April 15, 2008! The Government Statistics Section (GSS) and Social Statistics Section (SSS) of ASA are pleased to announce the availability of a scholarship in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a founding member of the GSS and long-time contributor to Federal statistics. The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS), co-sponsored with the Washington Statistical Society, the Caucus for Women in Statistics, Harris-Smith Institutes, Mathematica Policy Research, and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence, thereby encouraging them to consider a future in government statistics. Everyone is encouraged to seek out promising candidates and to urge them to apply.

Type of Project

The WJSS Award provides funding of \$1,000 for use in exploring any of a broad number of opportunities for furthering the development of a career related to government statistics. Applicants are encouraged to be creative in seeking support for a wide variety of uses, including:

- * Tuition, board, and books for courses or short courses
- * Conference attendance
- * Purchase of books, software, data sets, or other supporting materials for research projects related to government statistics.

Activities may relate to any level of government, including Federal, state, and local governmental units. They must be statistical in nature, focusing on data, methodology, analysis, or data presentation. Recent award winners have used the WJSS to fund attendance at the Joint Statistical Meetings, support continued public policy research, and to take short courses to better understand and analyze data for current research.

Application

To apply for a WJSS Award, the following information must be sent to the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2008:

- * A completed WJSS Application Form (see: <<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>> for current year's form and click on the format you want to use)
- * A proposal of activity to be funded
- * Academic transcript (for current/recent students) or job performance reviews for the past 2 years (for non-students) or equivalent proof of superior academic and/or professional performance
- * Two letters of recommendation.

Please send materials to:

*Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee
c/o Michael P. Cohen
1615 Q Street NW #T-1
Washington DC 20009-6310 USA*

or electronically to: mpcohen@juno.com

Selection Process

The WJSS Committee, consisting of a total of three GSS and SSS members, will review each proposal, based on an established rating scheme, and select the awardee. Each application will be judged based on the following criteria:

- * Stage in Career
- * Past Performance
- * Quality of the Proposed Activity
- * Relevance of Activity to Government Statistics
- * Innovation/Ingenuity of the Proposed Project
- * Feasibility of Completion of Activity
- * Two Letters of Recommendation

Announcements of the awardees are made by June 1, 2008. All applicants are notified by e-mail.

Eligibility

The WJSS is targeted at students and persons early in their career in government statistics. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education. Membership in the Government Statistics Section, Social Statistics Section, or in the ASA is not required. For more information, contact Mike Cohen by e-mail: mpcohen@juno.com

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee

The Committee for 2008 consists of Michael P. Cohen (Chair) mpcohen@juno.com, Robert A. Kominski Robert.A.Kominski@census.gov, and Stephen Campbell Stephen.Campbell@nist.gov. The Committee members thank Juanita Tamayo Lott for her invaluable advice and assistance.

HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are sought for the 2008 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career:

- Dedication to the issues of measurement;
- Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
- Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals at all levels within Federal statistical agencies, other government organizations, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2008 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with and strongly supportive of these organizations during his career. The award consists of a \$1000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2008. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

The previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award are Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (NCHS), Constance Citro (CNStat), Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (Census Bureau), Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau), Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS), and Nancy Kirkendall (EIA).

Nominations for the 2008 award will be accepted beginning in February 2008. Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that should include references to specific examples of the nominee's contributions to innovation in Federal statistics. These contributions can be to methodology, procedure, organization, administration, or other areas of Federal statistics, and need not have been made by or while a Federal employee.
- Up to six additional letters in support that demonstrate the innovative nature of each contribution.
- A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for the 2007 award, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Brian Harris-Kojetin, Chair, 2008 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202-395-7314, or bharrisk@omb.eop.gov. Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2008. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged. Please contact the chair if you need to make arrangements to fax or mail a nomination.

THE JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD

On receiving the Roger Herriot Award in June 2001, Jeanne E. 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...When I have had the blessing to mentor young people in their careers, I have tried to emphasize...(that) only they, themselves, can make the most of (the)...chances that life presents.

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 latter 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 younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award has been established to encourage mentoring of junior staff in the Federal statistical system. It is presented annually, beginning in 2003, to a supervisor who is nominated by co-workers and supervisors, and chosen by the Award Selection Committee.

The 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.

Nominations for 2008 will be accepted beginning in January 2008. The last date for submission of nominations is March 28, 2008, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 9, 2008. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium and a citation, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2008.

The winning mentor will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing, analysis, presentation and organizational skills and knowledge;
- Encouraging junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self confidence through feedback on their efforts, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

For further information on the award, contact Ed Spar, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) by phone: 703-836-0404; fax: 703-836-0406; or by e-mail at copafs@aol.com. The nomination cover sheet and guidelines form-or a photocopy of it-should be attached to a nomination memorandum or letter. Forms can be obtained by contacting Ed Spar, or by downloading from the COPAFS website at <http://www.copafs.org>. All nominations should be returned to the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee, c/o COPAFS, 2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314 no later than March 28, 2008.

Nominations Sought for 2008 Julius Shiskin Award

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The Award is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of information technology techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. The Award was established in 1980 by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and is now cosponsored by the WSS, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The 2007 award recipient was Arthur Kennickell, Senior Economist and Head of the Microeconomic Surveys Unit at the Federal Reserve Board, for his leadership of the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances and his achievements as an international expert on the design and implementation of household economic surveys.

Because the program was initiated many years ago, it is little wonder that statisticians and economists often ask, "Who was Julius Shiskin?" At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and earlier served as the Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Chief Economic Statistician and Assistant Director of the Census Bureau. Throughout his career, he was known as an innovator. At Census he was instrumental in developing an electronic computer method for seasonal adjustment. In 1961, he published *Signals of Recession and Recovery*, which laid the groundwork for the calculation of monthly economic indicators, and he developed the monthly Census report *Business Conditions Digest* to disseminate them to the public. In 1969, he was appointed Chief Statistician at OMB where he developed the policies and procedures that govern the release of key economic indicators (Statistical Policy Directive Number 3), and originated a Social Indicators report. In 1973, he was selected to head BLS where he was instrumental in preserving the integrity and independence of the BLS labor force data and directed the most comprehensive revision in the history of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which included a new CPI for all urban consumers.

Nominations for the 2008 award are now being accepted. Individuals or groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated. The award will be presented with an honorarium of \$750 plus additional recognition from the sponsors. A nomination form and a list of all previous recipients are available on the ASA Website at <www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html> or by writing to the Julius Shiskin Award Committee, Attn: Monica Clark, American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1943. Completed nominations must be received by April 1, 2008. For further information contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, at paben.steven@bls.gov.

WSS and Other Seminars

(All events are open to any interested persons)

January

- 9 Wed. **Reliability Growth Projection of One-Shot Systems**
- 9 Wed. **Alternative Survey Sample Designs, Seminar #2: Sampling with Multiple Overlapping Frames**
- 16 Wed. **Medicaid Underreporting in the CPS: Results from a Record Check Study**
- 17 Thur. **Questionnaire Design Guidelines for Establishment Surveys**
- 23 Wed. **Coverage Measurement for the 2010 Census**

February

- 6 Wed. **Statistical Analysis of Bullet Lead Compositions as Forensic Evidence**
- 13 Wed. **Conducting a 360 Degree Feedback Survey for Managers: Implementing Organization Culture Change**

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

Announcement

SIGSTAT Topics for Spring 2008

January 16, 2008: Survival Models in SAS: PROC LIFEREG Part 2
(<http://www.sas.com/apps/pubscat/bookdetails.jsp?pc=55233>)

Continuing the series of talks based on the book "Survival Analysis Using the SAS System: A Practical Guide" by Paul Allison begun in October 2007, we'll continue with Chapter 4: Estimating Parametric Regression Models with PROC LIFEREG.

Topics covered are:

1. Categorical variables and the CLASS statement
2. Maximum likelihood estimation
3. Hypothesis tests
4. Goodness-of-Fit tests with the likelihood ratio statistic
5. Graphical methods for evaluating model fit

February 13, 2008: Survival Models in SAS: PROC LIFEREG Part 3
(<http://www.sas.com/apps/pubscat/bookdetails.jsp?pc=55233>)

Continuing the series of talks based on the book "Survival Analysis Using the SAS System: A Practical Guide" by Paul Allison begun in October 2007, we'll finish Chapter 4: Estimating Parametric Regression Models with PROC LIFEREG.

Topics covered are:

1. Left censoring and interval censoring
2. Generating predictions and hazard functions
3. The piecewise exponential model

March 12, 2008: Rasch measurement using SAS procedures

The Rasch measurement model is a latent-trait item response theory model that is being used increasingly to assess and develop multiple-indicator measures of social, psychological, and other phenomena outside of the educational testing field where most of the development of such models has occurred. Specialized software exists to fit response data to Rasch and related models, but for some applications, SAS procedures can also be used. Joint (or unconditional) maximum likelihood models (JML) can be estimated using SAS PROC LOGISTIC. A new STRATA option in PROC LOGISTIC makes it possible to estimate conditional maximum likelihood (CML) models. Marginal maximum likelihood (MML) models can be estimated using PROC NL MIXED. The talk will be presented by Mark Nord.

April 16, 2008: Survival Models in SAS: PROC PHREG Part 1

(<http://www.sas.com/apps/pubscat/bookdetails.jsp?pc=55233>)

Continuing the series of talks based on the book "Survival Analysis Using the SAS System: A Practical Guide" by Paul Allison begun in October 2007, we'll start Chapter 5: Estimating Cox Regression Models with PROC PHREG.

Topics covered are:

1. The proportional hazards model
2. Partial likelihood
3. Tied data

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 S3031, 1800 M St, NW from **12:00 to 1:00**. 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, <http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/>.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the February issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until January 10, 2007. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Announcement

Seminar on Survey Respondent Incentives: Research and Practice

March 10, 2008
L'Enfant Plaza Hotel
Washington, DC

Hosted by the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Incentive payments to survey respondents have been used extensively for many years to improve response rates. Considerable research evidence supports the value of monetary incentives to increase cooperation and improve the speed and quality of response in a broad range of data collection efforts. In 1992, a Symposium on Providing Incentives to Survey Respondents, hosted by the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS), brought together a broad spectrum of survey research professionals from government, business, academia, and research organizations to focus on these issues in detail—to review the “state-of-the art.” (To read the report go to: www.members.aol.com/copafs/incentives.htm). Since that time, the use of respondent incentives in survey practice has increased dramatically across all sectors. Yet there has been no professional forum since the 1992 symposium that has sought to bring survey professionals together with a specific focus on these issues. The purpose of the proposed seminar is to fill that void.

The first session of the seminar will describe current practices in the use of respondent incentives across the three major domains of surveys: 1) surveys sponsored by federal agencies; 2) surveys conducted by academic investigators, including those funded by federal or other grants; and 3) surveys sponsored and conducted by private sector organizations and commercial establishments.

Session two will be a panel discussion bringing together survey research professionals who have conducted and are knowledgeable of major research, practices and trends on the use of respondent incentives in government, academic, commercial surveys. The theme of this session is: who, what, where, when, why and how do we pay? The panelists will focus in detail on what we are doing and what we know about the use of respondent incentives.

The concluding session will bring together a panel of survey researchers who have had considerable experience in the design and implementation of sample surveys. They will attempt to consolidate and synthesize the seminar discussion, identify common elements/themes, and suggest future directions for implementation and research.

Seminar Registration: \$125.00. For a copy of the program and registration information contact COPAFS at copafs@aol.com or call COPAFS at 703-836-0404 and ask for Edward Spar or Lee Ann Sklar. The program and registration form are also available at the COPAFS site at: www.copafs.org

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Reliability Growth Projection of One-Shot Systems**
- Speaker:** Brian Hall, Army Evaluation Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland
- Chair:** Myron Katzoff, CDC/National Center for Health Statistics
- Date/Time:** January 9, 2008 (Wednesday) / 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to email your name, affiliation and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (note that there is an underscore after 'wss') by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message with this information. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** WSS Defense and National Security Section
- Abstract:** This paper offers several contributions to the area of discrete reliability growth projection. We present a new, logically derived model for estimating the reliability growth of complex, one-shot systems (i.e., the reliability following implementation of corrective actions to known failure modes). Multiple statistical estimation procedures are utilized to approximate this exact expression. A new estimation method is derived to approximate the vector of failure probabilities associated with a complex, one-shot system. A mathematically convenient functional form for the s-expected initial system reliability of a one-shot system is derived. Monte-Carlo simulation results are presented to highlight model accuracy with respect to resulting estimates of reliability growth. This model is useful to program managers, and reliability practitioners who wish to assess one-shot system reliability growth.
- Index Terms—**One-shot system, projection, reliability growth.

Program Announcement

U. S. CENSUS BUREAU DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICAL METHODS DIVISION SEMINAR

Title: **Alternative Survey Sample Designs, Seminar #2: Sampling with Multiple Overlapping Frames**

Speaker: Professor Sharon Lohr, Arizona State University

Discussant: Professor Jean D. Opsomer, Colorado State University.

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 9, 2008 / 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: U. S. Census Bureau, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Auditorium, Suitland, Maryland.
By Metro, use the Green Line to Suitland Station and walk through the Metro parking garage to the main entrance of the Census Bureau. Please send an e-mail to Carol.A.Druin@census.gov, or call (301) 763 4216 to be placed on the visitors' list for this seminar by 4 January 2008. A photo ID is required for security purposes.

Abstract: The Census Bureau's Demographic Survey Sample Redesign Program, among other things, is responsible for research into improving the designs of demographic surveys, particularly focused on the design of survey sampling. Historically, the research into improving sample design has been restricted to the "mainstream" methods like basic stratification, multi-stage designs, systematic sampling, probability-proportional-to size sampling, clustering, and simple random sampling. Over the past thirty years or more, we have increasingly faced reduced response rates and higher costs coupled with an increasing demand for more data on all types of populations. More recently, dramatic increases in computing power and availability of auxiliary data from administrative records have indicated that we may have more options than we did when we established our current methodology.

This seminar series is the beginning of an exploration into alternative methods of sampling. In this second seminar of the three seminar series, from 9:30 to 10:30, we will hear about Professor Lohr's work on the use of multiple overlapping frames for sampling. She will discuss various alternative approaches and their statistical properties. Following Professor Lohr's presentation, there will be a 10-minute break, and then from 10:40 to 11:30, Professor Jean Opsomer will provide discussion about the methods and their potential in demographic surveys, particularly focusing on impact on estimation. The seminar will conclude with an open discussion session from 11:30 to 11:45 with 15 additional minutes available if necessary.

Seminar #3 is currently slated for June 2, 2008 and will feature Professor Yves Tille of University of Neuchatel in Switzerland discussing balanced sampling.

This event is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, Computer Aided Real-time Translation (CART), or other accommodation needs, to HRD.Disability.Program@census.gov. If you have any questions concerning accommodations, please contact the Disability Program Office at 301-763-4060 (Voice), 301-763-0376 (TTY).

Program Announcement

Title: Medicaid Underreporting in the CPS: Results from a Record Check Study

Chair: Robert Stewart, Congressional Budget Office

Speaker: Joanne Pascale, U.S. Census Bureau

Discussant: John Czajka, Mathematica Policy Research

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 / 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center
To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Methodology Program, WSS

Abstract: The Medicaid program covers roughly 38 million people in the U.S., and the research community regularly studies the effectiveness of the program. Though administrative records provide information on enrollment status and history, the data are 3 years old before they can be used for analysis, and they do not offer information on certain characteristics of Medicaid enrollees, such as their employment status, health status and use of health services. Researchers generally turn to surveys for this type of rich data, and the Current Population Survey (CPS) is one of the most common sources used for analysis. However, there is a fairly substantial literature that indicates Medicaid is underreported in surveys when compared to counts from records. Recently an inter-agency team of researchers was assembled to address the Medicaid undercount issue in the CPS. Records on enrollment in 2000-2001 were compiled from the Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS) and matched to the CPS survey data covering the same years. This matched dataset allows researchers to compare data on known Medicaid enrollees to survey data in which those same enrollees were (or were not) reported to have been covered by Medicaid. This kind of "truth source" enables a rich analysis of the respondent and household member characteristics associated with Medicaid misreporting. In the CPS a single household respondent is asked questions about coverage status for all other household members, and one possible source of misreporting is the relationship between the household respondent and the other household members for whom he or she is reporting. Recent research from cognitive testing of the CPS suggests that the household respondent may be more likely to report accurately about another household member if they both share the same coverage. This paper explores whether the hypothesis suggested by cognitive testing is evident in the records data. Other variables are also considered, such as recency and duration of coverage and demographics of both respondents and people for whom they are reporting.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Questionnaire Design Guidelines for Establishment Surveys
- Speaker:** Rebecca L. Morrison, Survey Statistician, U.S. Census Bureau
- Discussant:** Brenda G. Cox, Survey Research Leader, Battelle
- Chair:** Jennifer K. Lawhorn, Graduate Student, Georgetown University and Intern, Energy Information Administration
- Date/Time:** Thursday, January 17, 2008 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 9. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after `wss`) by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** WSS Data Collection Methods
- Abstract:** Previous literature has shown the effects of question wording or visual design on the data provided by respondents. However, few articles have been published that link the effects of question wording and visual design to the development of questionnaire design guidelines. This article proposes specific guidelines for the design of establishment surveys within statistical agencies based on theories regarding communication and visual perception, experimental research on question wording and visual design, and findings from cognitive interviews with establishment survey respondents. The guidelines are applicable to both paper and electronic instruments, and cover such topics as the phrasing of questions, the use of space, the placement and wording of instructions, the design of answer spaces, and matrices.
- This talk is an expanded version of a paper given at ICES-3 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in June 2007. It represents a collaborative effort with Don A. Dillman (Washington State University), and Leah M. Christian (University of Georgia).

Program Announcement

- Title:** Coverage Measurement for the 2010 Census
- Chair:** Gregg Diffendal, U.S. Census Bureau
- Speaker:** Thomas Mule, U.S. Census Bureau
- Discussant:** Michael Cohen, Committee on National Statistics
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, January 23, 2008 / 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Program, WSS
- Abstract:** For the 2010 Census Coverage Measurement (CCM), we plan to use logistic regression modeling instead of post-stratification cells in the dual system estimation. We believe that by using logistic regression that we can potentially utilize more variables than we have used in the past in trying to minimize the impact of correlation bias and high variances. Logistic regression gives us the option of using variables in the modeling as main effects and not having to introduce any unnecessary interactions. In addition to potentially utilizing more variables, logistic regression can also use variables in the model as continuous variables. This presentation shows some of the initial results of using continuous variables for the modeling and dual system estimation.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Statistical Analysis of Bullet Lead Compositions as Forensic Evidence
- Speaker:** Karen Kafadar, Indiana University
- Chair:** Myron Katzoff, CDC/National Center for Health Statistics
- Date/Time:** February 6, 2008 (Wednesday) / 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to email your name, affiliation and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (note that there is an underscore after 'wss') by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message with this information. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** WSS Defense and National Security Section
- Abstract:** Since the 1960s, FBI has performed Compositional Analysis of Bullet Lead (CABL), a forensic technique that compares the elemental composition of bullets found at a crime scene to that of bullets found in a suspect's possession. CABL has been used when no gun is recovered, or when bullets are too small or fragmented to compare striations on the casings with those on the gun barrel.

The National Academy of Sciences formed a Committee charged with the assessment of CABL's scientific validity. The report, "Forensic Analysis: Weighing Bullet Lead Evidence" (National Research Council, 2004), included discussions on the effects of the manufacturing process on the validity of the comparisons, the precision and accuracy of the chemical measurement technique, and the statistical methodology used to compare two bullets and test for a "match". The report has been cited in recent appeals brought forth by defendants whose trials involved bullet lead evidence (60 Minutes, 11/18/2007; Washington Post, 11/18-19/2007). This talk will focus on the statistical analysis: the FBI's methods of testing for a "match", the apparent false positive and false negative rates, the FBI's clustering algorithm ("chaining"), and the Committee's recommendations. Additional analyses on data later made available, and the use of forensic evidence in general, also will be discussed.

Program Announcement

Title: Conducting a 360 Degree Feedback Survey for Managers: Implementing Organization Culture Change

Speaker: Eduardo S. Rodela, Ph.D., Rodela Consulting Group, Fairfax, Virginia

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/time: February 13, 2008 (Wednesday) / 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: WSS Agriculture and Natural Resources Section

Abstract: A nationwide 360 Degree Feedback (Multi-Source) Pilot for Managers was conducted in a federal agency. The multi-source work group conducted an on-line survey asking managers to rate themselves on fifty two questions addressing important managerial behaviors (e.g., strategic planning skills). The number of managers participating in the study was around 500. In addition to having the managers rate themselves, the managers' supervisors, peer group, and employees rated the manager as well. While the pilot work group did not have access to survey data, a number of lessons were learned about administering a multi-source feedback pilot for managers. The discussion will focus on the survey methodology and lessons learned.

e-mail: esrodela@cox.net

JPSM SHORT COURSES

JPSM HOME PAGE: <http://www.jpsm.org> Click on "Short Courses"

INFORMATION, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION:
<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

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January 24, 2008 (Open for registration) Practical Tools for Nonresponse Bias Studies
Robert M. Groves and J. Michael Brick
Registration Deadline: January 10, 2008
Information: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2008-0124.html>

February 5-6, 2008 (Open for registration) Balancing Data Confidentiality and Data Quality
Lawrence Cox
Registration Deadline: January 25, 2008
Information: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2008-0205.html>

February 26-27, 2008 (Open for registration) Introduction to Survey Estimation
David Morganstein and Richard L. Valliant
Registration Deadline: February 12, 2008
Information: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2008-0226.html>

March 11-12, 2008 (Not yet open for registration) Survey Methods for Businesses and Organizations
Paul Biemer, David Cantor and Robert Gaddie

March 27-28, 2008 (Open for registration) Guidelines for Writing Questions for Standardized Measurement: A Workshop
Nora Cate Schaeffer
Registration Deadline: March 13, 2008
Information: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2008-0327.html>

April 17-18, 2008 (Open for registration)
Cognitive Interviewing: A Hands-on Approach
Gordon B. Willis
Registration Deadline: April 3, 2008
Information: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2008-0417.html>

May 5-6, 2008 (Open for registration)
Sampling and Estimation for Establishment Surveys
Richard L. Valliant and Phill Kott
Registration Deadline: April 25, 2008
Information: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2008-0506.html>

May 20-21, 2008 (Open for registration)
Applied Structural Equation Modeling
Patrick Sturgis
Registration Deadline: May 6, 2008
Information: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2008-0520.html>

May 27-28, 2008 (Not yet open for registration) Focus Groups from Start to Finish David Morgan

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

Announcement

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed at different times between March and June 2008 – to judge entries in the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project; to judge entries in the WSS Statistical Poster Competition; and to judge science fair projects at the regional science fairs in Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and the District of Columbia. The WSS needs you to volunteer now for any one – or all three!

The WSS has a longstanding and active program of reaching out to elementary and secondary school students to encourage them to gain an understanding and appreciation of Statistics. We do this in part by sponsoring two annual competitions – the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project and the WSS Statistical Poster Competition – and by awarding prizes at the annual regional science fairs.

The Curtis Jacobs Award program focuses on gathering information and analyzing for making decisions. Entries are typically due in May and are distributed to judges; judges review and score the entries at their convenience and transmit their evaluations and scores by late May. If you are interested in volunteering to judge the entries, contact Tom Krenzke at TomKrenzke@westat.com or 301-251- 4203.

The poster competition is open to students in grades K-12 and entries may be in any area of statistics. Judging is typically in May or June. If you are interested in judging, contact Stacey Chan at Stacey.Chan@EY.com or 202-327-5914, or Ryan Petska at Ryan.Petska@EY.com or 202-327-7245.

Since 1986, WSS has provided special awards at the five regional science fairs to students whose projects demonstrate excellence in data analysis or the application of statistical methods. The fairs are generally held on Saturday mornings in March. The fairs require volunteers willing to devote a Saturday morning to interact with students, judge their projects, and give them some guidance and encouragement. Those who have participated in these activities have very much enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the students and to observe the widely diverse projects they have presented. If you would like to be a science fair judge, please e-mail Robert Clickner at Robertclickner@westat.com by February 12, and include your e-mail address, work and home phone numbers, your fax number and your mailing address. If you have any questions, please call Bob at 301-294-2815.

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@insightpolicyresearch.com or (703) 373-6645.

CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS M.S. and Ph.D. Level Positions

With an opportunity for substantial leadership responsibility in studies of international public health import.

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University, founded in 1972, is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health. We enjoy over \$45 million per year of NIH research funding for major studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. The center has a staff of over 100 with 27 biostatisticians/epidemiologists, including 10 faculty. We are recruiting M.S. and Ph.D. level staff to participate in these and future studies. Please visit our web site (below).

Master's Level Research Positions: These positions require a Master's in Biostatistics or Statistics and 1-5 years experience in analysis, supervision of data management and study design for biomedical applications. Good written and oral communication skills, and detailed knowledge of SAS required. Send CV to address below.

Assistant to Full Research Professorial Positions are available immediately to serve as Co-Investigator or Principal Investigator (Project Director) and to provide statistical direction of the design, conduct and analysis of studies and the conduct of methodologic research to meet the projects needs. We are seeking individuals who want to join a highly competent team of academic biostatisticians and epidemiologists; who desire to contribute to the design and analysis of major medical studies, seek substantive scientific and statistical responsibility, enjoy interacting with medical investigators; take pride contributing to the publication of major papers in leading medical journals, and desire to make an impact on the public health. Our faculty also participate in graduate programs in biostatistics, epidemiology and statistics which afford opportunities for teaching at the graduate level. The research projects also provide an environment rich in methodological problems, with opportunities for collaboration with research active Center faculty and graduate students.

Minimum Position Requirements: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in Biological Science, Physical Science or Computer Science with a Masters in Biostatistics or Statistics, 1-5 years' experience with clinical trials, especially study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience.

Application Procedures: Applicants must send a Curriculum Vitae and three letters of reference; a letter to include a synopsis of their role in collaborative medical research that has led to medical scientific presentation or publication and a statement of career purpose indicating their career goals and how this position can help you achieve those goals; and applicants for Assistant Research Professor positions must send an Official Transcript of graduate coursework leading to the doctoral degree to: Sarah Fowler, Research Professor and Director, The George Washington University Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852.

[HTTP://WWW.BSC.GWU.EDU](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu)

Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employees (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children.

All research and regular faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may apply for the Samuel W. Greenhouse Biostatistics Research Enhancement Award. For a period of 1 year, the award will provide 20% effort for methodological research and a discretionary fund to support professional activities, travel to professional meetings, supplies and equipment. Applicants for the research faculty position may also apply for the Greenhouse Award while their faculty application is being considered. For complete information including Award Application Materials Requirements, please visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu.

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer

Survey Sampling Statistician

WESTAT: AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED RESEARCH CORPORATION

Westat is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, DC (Rockville, Maryland). We provide statistical consulting and survey research to the agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, Westat has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,800 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Westat statisticians are actively involved in teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities.

We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/7001)

Three or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics and have excellent writing skills. Coursework in sample survey design is highly desirable.

Westat offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, indicating the Westat Job Code, and resume by one of the following methods to:

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Data Analyst

The Government Accountability Office has one or more positions for experienced Data Analysts familiar with SAS, SPSS, STATA, or IDEA. Salary Range: \$71,900.00 - \$104,700.00 per year. OPEN PERIOD: November 29, 2007 to January 13, 2007. US citizenship is required. GAO is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This position functions in a multi disciplinary environment in support of policy research on a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to, education, military manpower, homeland security and justice, international affairs and trade, and natural/environmental resources. Applicants are expected to be able to create, manage, and analyze complex data sets, and be able to assess the reliability of existing data. Applicants should possess effective interpersonal skills and have the ability to meet deadlines while working concurrently on multiple projects.

In order to apply, go to <http://www.usajobs.gov/> and search for announcement number N-08-ARM-2210-03

Biostatistician

The Georgetown University Medical Center seeks a well-qualified Biostatistician for the Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Biomathematics. The successful candidate will be knowledgeable in biostatistical methodology, proficient with statistical programming packages, and possess good communication and writing skills. Under general direction of a faculty biostatistician, this individual will provide biostatistical consultation and collaboration on the design, conduct, analysis, and interpretation of research projects. These projects involve basic science, clinical medicine, and population science. The individual will prepare reports and analyses of research projects both for scientific papers and grant proposals. Requirements are a Master's degree in biostatistics/statistics, programming skills in SAS and S-Plus, at least two years' experience with biostatistical aspects of medical research projects, and some experience in a consulting environment.

All qualified candidates should send resume, a list of three references, and cover letter to:

Françoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Ph.D., Chair
Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Biomathematics
Georgetown University Medical Center
4000 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20057
E-mail: lrs8@georgetown.edu

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