



WSS NEWS

July/August 2008

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

William Bell and Robert Groves to Receive 2008 Julius Shiskin Award

William R. Bell, a Senior Mathematical Statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau, and Robert M. Groves, Director of the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, have been selected as the recipients of the 2008 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. This award recognizes unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Dr. Bell is recognized **for innovative statistical research that led to improved economic statistics through important contributions to the theory and practice of seasonal adjustment, small area estimation, and time series modeling**; Dr. Groves is recognized **for innovative statistical research that led to improved economic statistics through important contributions to the theory and practice of survey methods for the conduct of sample surveys of both households and establishments**. Drs. Bell and Groves become the 34th and 35th recipients of the Shiskin Award; they will be honored at events hosted by the three organizations that sponsor the award: the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association.

Dr. Bell has served as a Senior Mathematical Statistician at the Census Bureau since 1998 and, for the previous 10 years, as one of the Bureau's Principal Researchers for Time Series Methods. Dr. Bell, through both individual and collaborative work, has conducted research that has resulted in fundamental contributions to the seasonal adjustment and survey methods used by statistical offices and central banks in many countries. Through his work, Dr. Bell has significantly enhanced the reputation of the Census Bureau and of U.S. economic statistics throughout the world. For seasonal adjustment, his work has provided methods and software for estimating time series models accounting for trading/working day effects, the effects of moving holidays, and the automatic identification and estimation of certain kinds of outlier effects. These methods and software became the time series modeling part of the X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment program that has been used by U.S. statistical agencies and by many national statistical offices throughout the world. Dr. Bell also has provided theoretical and practical results to solidify the foundations for purely model-based methods of seasonal adjustment that are now also used internationally. Dr. Bell is also well-known for an influential article that reviewed the history of and statistical issues arising in seasonal adjustment. The article, "Issues Involved with the Seasonal Adjustment of Economic Time Series," coauthored with Steven Hillmer, was published in the 1984 *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics (JBES)* and reprinted (January 2002) by *JBES* in a special 20th anniversary commemorative issue containing, according to the editors, "reprints of ten of the most influential papers published in the journal."

Dr. Bell also was influential in extending and applying time series modeling techniques to improve the estimates in surveys based on small samples. In this context he established a time series modeling framework that became a foundation of the methods adopted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to produce state-level monthly labor force estimates that are used to allocate billions of dollars in federal funds.

Dr. Bell has also done important work on small area estimation outside of time series approaches. He was an original member of a team at the Census Bureau charged with developing periodic model-based estimates of income and poverty for states, counties, and school districts. On this project -- Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) -- he played a key role as a liaison to the statistical community, most particularly the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel established by Congress to determine that the basis for the estimates was scientifically sound. Following a favorable review by that panel, the Department of Education used the SAIPE estimates to allocate billions of dollars to school districts under their Title I program. In recent years, Dr. Bell has been responsible for oversight of the statistical methods used by the SAIPE program, including changing methods, such as the use of data from the American Community Survey, to further improve the estimates. Dr. Bell was an Associate editor of *JBES* from 1988-1995 and was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1993.

Dr. Groves has directed the University of Michigan Survey Research Center, one of the world's leading academic survey organizations, since 2001; he also is professor of Sociology, research professor at its Institute for Social Research, and research professor at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, at the University of Maryland. Through his research, Dr. Groves has significantly improved the quality of both establishment and household surveys in the areas of sample design, nonresponse effects, data collection methods, weighting design, disclosure security, and data quality. He also has contributed insights on the use of incentives to improve response rates, and his current research interests focus on the development of theories to explain respondent participation in surveys and of models of nonresponse reduction and adjustment. The results of his research have been incorporated into many surveys, including the current employment and consumer expenditure surveys at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, household income surveys at the Census Bureau, and surveys conducted by national statistical offices in the United Kingdom, Sweden, and The Netherlands.

In the past two decades, Dr. Groves has authored or co-authored five books and more than 50 articles. His 1989 book, *Survey Errors and Survey Costs*, was named one of the 50 most influential books in survey research by the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). His book, *Nonresponse in Household Interview Surveys*, (with M. Couper) was given the 2008 AAPOR Book Award. His most recent effort, a coauthored volume, *Survey Methodology*, was published in 2004. Illustrative of his recent research is an article that recently appeared in *Public Opinion Quarterly*. In "Nonresponse Rates and Nonresponse Bias in Household Surveys," he reported that the results of surveys with high nonresponse rates did not necessarily also have high nonresponse bias.

Dr. Groves has been a long-time contributor to improving federal statistics through his work for the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Academy of Sciences. In addition to serving as a member of CNSTAT from 2000 to 2006, he has chaired or served as a member of many panels and workshops, including the recent panel on business dynamics, and performance. As a member of CNSTAT, Dr. Groves made substantial improvements to the third edition of *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*, in particular to the rationale for the political independence of statistical agencies. Dr. Groves was elected a fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1982, elected a member of the International Statistical Institute in 1994, and named a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences in 2004.

WSS and Other Seminars
(All events are open to any interested persons)

September

10 Wed. **Metadata from the Data Collection Point of View**

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

Administrative Announcements

Mailing Address Change

The mailing address for the Washington Statistical Society is now P.O. Box 2033, Washington, DC 20013 which is in the same building as BLS. The Suitland P.O. box mailing address will be retained for a limited time during the transition.

Changes in the Board

The listing of the members of the Board of Directors and Committees at the end of this issue of the newsletter has been updated for the upcoming program year. Please contact the WSS Secretary as well as the editor of the WSS NEWS with any changes.

Announcement

JSM 2008 SRMS Continuing Education Course

SRMS is pleased to co-sponsor the following short course. Registration for JSM opened on May 1 and ends on July 17th. There is a significant cost savings if you register for the short courses on or before July 17th.

Sunday, August 3, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Sampling in Networks - *Instructor: Steven K. Thompson, Simon Fraser University*

Network models are increasingly used to describe populations, including socially networked human populations, computer and communication networks, and gene regulatory networks. A network has nodes (e.g., people) and links (e.g., relationships between people). The nodes may have characteristics of interest, and the relationships may be of different types and strengths. However, network data generally represent a sample from the wider population network of interest. This short course will cover methods for obtaining samples from networks and using the sample data to make inference about characteristics of the population network. In many cases the only practical way to obtain a large enough sample from the population is to follow links from sample individuals to add more participants to the sample. For example, in studies of the risk behaviors in people at risk for HIV/AIDS, the population is hidden so standard sampling designs cannot be applied. Instead, researchers follow social referrals from individuals in the sample to find more members of the hidden population. Similarly, in studies of the World Wide Web, links or connections from sites in the sample are followed to add more sites to the sample. Network methods also turn out to be useful for spatial sampling in environmental and ecological sciences where the populations tend to be highly clustered or rare. Link-tracing sampling designs will be described, together with design-based and Bayes methods for estimating population characteristics based on such samples. Computational methods and available software also will be described.

Course participants will learn basic ideas and modern methods of network sampling and inference. Introduction to available software and computational methods will facilitate course participants in implementing network sampling and inference methods in their own work.

For more information about the content to be covered in this course refer to <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/onlineprogram>, or contact Leyla Mohadjer at leylamohadjer@westat.com.

Anyone who has suggestions for short course topics or is interested in finding out more about how to submit a proposal to teach a short course at a future JSM conference should contact Leyla Mohadjer at leylamohadjer@westat.com.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Metadata from the Data Collection Point of View
- Speaker:** Daniel Gillman, Information Scientist, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Discussant:** Julia I. Lane, Program Director Science of Science and Innovation Policy, National Science Foundation
- Chair:** Katie E. Joseph, Mathematical Statistician, Energy Information Administration
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, September 10, 2008 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 2. 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.
- Sponsors:** WSS Data Collection Methods and DC-AAPOR
- Abstract:** The term metadata was first used to name the data generated to describe other data - data about data. The success with that approach led to expanding the term to mean data that describes any object. Surveys produce many kinds of objects (e.g., questionnaires, case contacts, edit specifications, etc.), and each can be described. Those descriptions are statistical metadata.

The survey life-cycle is unusual in that metadata from one part of the cycle has an effect on actions in later steps. For example, sampling has an impact on the cost of data collection. Paradata, which is metadata obtained from the data collection process, is included. Unfortunately, using the term paradata rather than metadata has the side-effect of isolating this metadata from other parts of the survey life-cycle in the minds of survey methodologists and analysts. Now, there are many reasons to use paradata to enhance data collection activities only, but paradata may affect other processing, too.

Using a fabricated survey, we trace the origin and uses of metadata throughout the survey life-cycle with emphasis and perspective on data collection. The objective is to demonstrate how the data collection process both uses and produces metadata, how metadata produced by one life-cycle step is used in later steps, and how metadata management techniques can greatly increase the usefulness of metadata. This is true for survey processing, survey planning and redesign, and data dissemination.

The ultimate goal of the talk is to show how metadata may be used to tie the pieces of a survey together into a coherent whole. The advantages are numerous.

Announcement

Federal Committee On Statistical Methodology Statistical Policy Seminar

Beyond 2010: Confronting the Challenges

November 18-19, 2008

The Ninth in a Series of Seminars Hosted by COPAFS
(The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics)

Participants will include statisticians, economists, and managers, as well as other professionals in the broader statistical community who share an interest in keeping current on issues related to federal data.

Support Provided by: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality * Bureau of Economic Analysis * Bureau of Justice Statistics * Bureau of Labor Statistics * Bureau of Transportation Statistics * Energy Information Administration * Environmental Protection Agency * National Agricultural Statistics Service * National Center for Education Statistics * National Center for Health Statistics * Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics of the Social Security Administration * Statistics of Income Division of the Internal Revenue Service * U.S. Census Bureau * Science Resources Statistics/National Science Foundation

Topics:

- * Statistical Uses of Administrative Records in Federal Agencies
- * Case Studies in the Statistical Uses of Administrative Records
- * Cell Phones: The New Frontier in RDD surveys
- * New Perspectives and Practices on Non-Response Bias Analyses
- * Current Issues in Privacy and the Safekeeping of Personally Identifiable Information
- * Survey Respondent Incentives
- * Current Trends in Access to Restricted-Use Data
- * Development and Management of Human and Institutional Capital in Statistical Organizations
- * 2010 Census Experiments
- * Issues of Data Capacity and Statistical Quality to Support Modeling and Micro-simulation Efforts
- * Making Survey Processes More Robust in Response to Funding Reductions
- * Using Paradata to Improve the Management of Survey Costs

Keynote Address: Hermann Habermann, Consultant

Location and Seminar Cost:

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024
Cost: \$195.00 per person

For Further Information, Contact the COPAFS Office at:

Phone: 703-836-0404 Email: copafs@aol.com Fax: 703-836-0406

The registration form is available at the COPAFS web site at: www.copafs.org

JPSM Short Courses

INTRODUCTION TO SURVEY MANAGEMENT

A two-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

OCTOBER 23-24, 2008

Presented at the Inn and Conference Center, Adelphi, Maryland

MICHAEL F. WEEKS

RTI International

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will focus on the application of project management principles and techniques to the management of survey research projects. At the conclusion of the course participants will have a basic understanding of:

- The principles of project management as applied to survey research
- The relationship of survey design issues to survey management
- How to plan a survey project
- How to implement the plan and manage the work
- How to manage the project budget
- How to manage the project contract
- How to lead the project team

The course will cover a broad range of survey management topics, including: proposal preparation, Work Breakdown Structures, Gantt charts, organization charts, staffing, budgeting, management tools to monitor the work, earned value analysis, project leadership skills, types of survey contracts, and an overview of survey design issues that survey managers need to know. Class exercises will be used to reinforce concepts. Course participants will receive a workbook containing all material presented in class.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This course will present an introduction and overview of survey management within a contract research environment, with particular emphasis on surveys conducted for the Federal Government. The course is intended for persons involved in the management of survey projects, whether as a project officer, a member of the project officer's staff, a grantee, or a contractor. The course assumes a basic working knowledge of survey design and operations.

THE INSTRUCTOR

Michael F. Weeks is a senior survey director at Research Triangle Institute. His 38-year career in survey research encompasses a comprehensive variety of survey projects and survey designs, and he is well known as a project manager of large, national survey projects. He has conducted research on a variety of methodological issues and has reported his findings in numerous professional papers and publications. He has served on the Editorial Board of Public Opinion Quarterly and on national methodological panels for the National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Bureau of the Census. He has developed and taught short courses in survey management at JPSM, at the annual conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, and at several governmental agencies and survey organizations. He has a B.A. degree from Davidson College and an M.A. from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest.

CALCULATOR

Registrants should bring a calculator to the course on the second day.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008

- 8:00 - 9:00 Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
 9:00 - 10:15 Introduction and Overview
 Basic Principles and concepts of project management as applied to survey research projects
 10:15 - 10:30 Morning Break
 10:30 - 11:45 Survey Design Issues
 Overview of the survey process, survey errors, sampling methods, questionnaire development, data collection modes, pros and cons of CASIC
 11:45 - 12:45 Lunch Break
 12:45 - 3:00 Project Planning (Part 1)
 Overview of the planning process, content of a typical proposal, development of a Work Breakdown Structure and Activity List
 3:00 - 3:15 Afternoon Break
 3:15 - 4:00 Project Planning (Part 2)
 Scheduling the work, developing a staffing plan, preparing the budget, types of projects costs
 4:00 - 5:00 Project Planning Exercise.
 5:00 Adjourn

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2008

- 8:00 - 9:00 Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
 9:00 - 9:15 Review of Day 1
 9:15 - 10:30 Managing the Survey (Part 1)
 Initiating the project, establishing standard administrative procedures, communications, other survey management "best practices"
 10:30 - 10:45 Morning Break
 10:45 - 11:45 Managing the Survey (Part 2)
 Monitoring production, reporting progress, human subjects issues, OMB, quality, closing down the project
 11:45 - 12:45 Lunch Break
 12:45 - 2:15 Managing the Project Budget
 Fiscal management system, cost-to-complete reports, earned value analysis
 2:15 - 2:45 Earned Value Exercise
 2:45 - 3:00 Afternoon Break
 3:00 - 4:15 Contract Management
 Overview of the Federal procurement process, types of contracts, change management, past performance regulations
 4:15 - 5:00 Leading the Project Team
 Leadership, team building, communication, conflict resolution, consensus building, problem solving, motivation
 5:00 Adjourn

COURSE MATERIALS

Registrants will be provided with a course lecture notebook.

MEALS

JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshments are included in the course fee.

FEES

The course fee is \$600 for JPSM sponsor affiliates, \$600 for full-time university students, and \$810 for other participants. JPSM Sponsor Affiliate List:
<http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors>.

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Confirmation of acceptance will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive an acceptance email. The email will include directions to the course. The automatic web registration number is not an acceptance letter. JPSM Home Page: <http://www.jpsm.org> click on "courses" for online registration. The registration deadline is October 9, 2008.

PAYMENT

Payment by credit card is required. Payment may be done online during registration. Post registration payment may be done online using the registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. Payment is required by October 9, 2008.

CANCELLATION

Please notify JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. Cancellation requests should be done online. You will be fully reimbursed if you cancel by October 9, 2008. Cancellation October 10-15, 2008 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after October 16, 2008 is subject to the full fee amount.

FELLOWSHIP

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology strives to increase the number of survey professionals from groups traditionally under-represented in the field. As part of this effort, a limited number of competitive fellowships are available to African-Americans, Latinos, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians for the short course. The registrant must be a US citizen or permanent resident.

The applicants should submit:

1. Online registration
2. A 500-word essay describing their reasons for wanting to attend this short course and how their participation will enhance their chosen career path. The essay should indicate the applicant's background (i.e. African-American, Latino, Hispanic American, or Native American Indian).
3. A letter of recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.

The online registration form, essay, and letter of recommendation are due September 25, 2008. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by October 2, 2008. The fellowship covers the registration fee, materials to be distributed during the course and the JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshments. The registration must be done online. The essay and letter of recommendation may be faxed to (734) 764-8263 or emailed to JPSMShort@isr.umich.edu.

JPSM CITATION PROGRAM

The citation programs are built around the JPSM short courses. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Survey Methodology is designed to provide the working professional and interested students with state-of-the-art knowledge about current principles and practices for conducting complex surveys

combined with practical skills of day-to-day utility. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Economic Measurement is designed for professional staff requiring a grounding in the principles and practices of economic measurement. Completion of the citation programs involves taking a semester-length JPSM credit-bearing course and eight JPSM short courses, of which four are specified core courses. For information on the Certificate and Citation Programs visit the website at <http://www.jpsm.org> or call 301-314-7911.

THE INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER

University of Maryland, University College (UMUC)
3501 University Boulevard E, Route 193, Adelphi, MD 20783 Phone: 301-985-7300 Room
Reservations: 1-800-228-9290 Web: <http://marriott.com/property/propertyPage/WASUM>

The course will be held at The Inn and Conference Center. The hotel is located on Route 193 (University Boulevard East) at Adelphi Road, adjacent to the College Park campus of the University of Maryland.

PARKING

Parking will be provided in the UMUC parking garage adjacent to the Conference Center.

METRO RAIL

The College Park Metro Station, Green Line, is 1.8 miles from the hotel.

INQUIRIES

Questions for this course should be directed to the JPSM Short Course, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 426 Thompson Street, Room 4050, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2321, Phone: (800) 937-9320, Fax: (734) 764-8263, Email: jpsmshort@isr.umich.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 38-6006309

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

JPSM SHORT COURSES: <http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST: <http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors>

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

INTRODUCTION TO SURVEY ESTIMATION

A two-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

FEBRUARY 23-24, 2009

Presented at the Inn and Conference Center, Adelphi, MD

DAVID MORGANSTEIN

Senior Statistician and Vice President at Westat

RICHARD L. VALLIANT

Senior Research Scientist, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This short course provides an introductory exposure to producing estimates of population parameters from sample surveys. It will examine the uncertainty of estimates resulting from sampling, through presentation of how sampling errors of survey statistics vary as a function of sample design and weighting procedures.

The course discusses procedures for estimating descriptive statistics like means, percentages, population totals, quantiles as well as model parameters from sample surveys. It also examines statistical procedures used in comparing subgroups on attributes measured in the survey.

The course presents inferential issues that arise in moving from sample-based statistics to describing the target population of the survey. It also describes how to compute the sampling errors of survey estimates and how to make inferences from them to the population. It describes current practices in weight adjustments and in the presentation and description of estimates made from sample surveys. Practical exercises during the short course reinforce the lecture materials and handouts.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Researchers and analysts who need to produce statistical estimates based upon data collected via complex sample survey designs and who need to make inferences about those estimates. The types of estimates to be discussed include: totals, means, percentages, quantiles and model parameters. The elements of complex designs to be examined include: unequal weights, clustered, stratified and multi-stage designs.

Attendees will benefit the most after the session if they have access on their job to software that computes sampling errors for estimates from complex survey data. Such software will be needed to implement the course concepts in their work.

THE INSTRUCTORS

David Morganstein is a Senior Statistician and Vice President at Westat where he is the Director of its Statistical Group. He has over 30 years of experience in sample design and variance estimation. He is one of the developers of WesVar a program for computing sampling errors, and a faculty member of the Joint Program for Survey Methods. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and recipient of its Founders Award. He is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

Richard Valliant is Senior Research Scientist in the Survey Research Center, University of Michigan. He received his Ph.D. in Biostatistics at Johns Hopkins University in 1983 and has over 30 years of experience in sample design and estimation using data from complex surveys. He is currently an Associate Editor of the Journal of Official Statistics, and, has been an associate editor of Survey Methodology and the Journal of the American Statistical Association. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and a faculty member of the University of Maryland. He is a co-author of the text, Finite Population Sampling and Inference: A Prediction Approach.

CALCULATOR

Attendees should bring scientific calculators to use in numerical exercises.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009

8:00-9:00	Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:30	Introduction and Overview
	Why Sample Estimates Differ from Population Values
	Sources of Error

	Types of Sample Designs
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:30	Types of Descriptive Statistics Review of Methods of Estimation Properties of Estimators Steps in weighting Variances of Estimates
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-3:00	Confidence Intervals Degrees of freedom of Variance Estimators Transformations Impact of Sample Design on Sampling Errors
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:30	The Design Effect (Deff) and How to Estimate It Intraclass Correlation Deff from Variation in Weights Comparing Sub-group Estimates
4:30	Adjourn

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

8:00-9:00	Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:30	Methods of Estimating Sampling Errors Exact Methods Linearization Replication
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:30	Estimating Model Parameters Linear Regression Logistic Regression
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-3:00	Software for Estimating Sampling Errors
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:30	Imputation for Missing Items Exercises, Questions and Summary
4:30	Adjourn

COURSE MATERIALS

Registrants will be provided with a course lecture notebook.

MEALS

JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshments are included in the course fee.

FEES

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3. A letter of recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.

The online registration form, essay, and letter of recommendation are due January 26, 2009. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by February 4, 2009. The fellowship covers the registration fee, materials to be distributed during the course and the JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshments. The registration must be done online. The essay and letter of recommendation may be faxed to (734) 764-8263 or emailed to JPSMShort@isr.umich.edu.

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or call 301-314-7911.

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University of Maryland, University College (UMUC)
3501 University Boulevard E, Route 193, Adelphi, MD 20783 Phone: 301-985-7300 Room
Reservations: 1-800-228-9290 Web: <http://marriott.com/property/propertyPage/WASUM>

The course will be held at The Inn and Conference Center. The hotel is located on Route 193 (University Boulevard East) at Adelphi Road, adjacent to the College Park campus of the University of Maryland.

OVERNIGHT ROOMS

Individuals are responsible for making their own overnight room reservations and for payment.

PARKING

Parking will be provided in the UMUC parking garage adjacent to the Conference Center.

METRO RAIL

The College Park Metro Station, Green Line, is 1.8 miles from the hotel.

INQUIRIES

Questions for this course should be directed to the JPSM Short Course, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 426 Thompson Street, Room 4050, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2321, Phone: (800) 937-9320, Fax: (734) 764-8263, Email: jpsmshort@isr.umich.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 38-6006309

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JPSM SHORT COURSES: <http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST: <http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors>

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

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING QUESTIONS FOR STANDARDIZED MEASUREMENT: A WORKSHOP

A two-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

APRIL 6-7, 2009

Presented at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, MD

NORA CATE SCHAEFFER

University of Wisconsin-Madison

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Introduce a structural analysis of parts of a survey question
- Introduce cognitive interviewing as a method for testing survey questions
- Describe guidelines for diagnosing problems in survey questions and writing new survey questions
- Focus on the structure and wording of survey questions, whether for interviewer-administered or self-administered instruments
- Provide an opportunity to apply the guidelines and principles during in-class exercises
- Focus on improving individual questions and sets of questions.

- Summarize research that underlies key decisions in writing survey questions.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Individuals in government, business, academia, and non-profit organizations who will be writing or reviewing survey questions or survey instruments or analyzing survey data. This course gives practical guidance to those who have written survey questions but who are not familiar with research on question design, those who are just beginning to design survey instruments, and those who use survey data but do not themselves design survey instruments.

THE INSTRUCTOR

Nora Cate Schaeffer is Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Faculty Director of the University of Wisconsin Survey Center. She has over thirty years of experience in survey methodology and questionnaire design and has taught Questionnaire Design at the University of Michigan's Summer Institute in Survey Research.

Her research has been published in Journal of the American Statistical Association, Public Opinion Quarterly, Sociological Methods and Research, and Sociological Methodology. She is co-editor (with Douglas W. Maynard, Hanneke Houtkoop-Steenstra, and Johannes van der Zouwen) of Standardization and Tacit Knowledge: Interaction and Practice in the Survey Interview.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009

7:30 - 8:30	Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
8:30 - 10:30	Introduction: Parts of a Survey Question
10:30 -10:45	Morning Break
10:45 -12:00	Cognitive Interviewing to Test Survey Questions
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:30	General Guidelines for Writing Questions
2:30-2:45	Afternoon Break
2:45-4:15	Guidelines for Questions about Events and Behaviors
4:15	Adjourn

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

7:30-8:30	Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
8:30-10:00	Guidelines for Questions about Events and Behaviors (continued)
10:00-10:15	Morning Break
10:15-12:00	Guidelines for Questions about Subjective Things
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:30	Adapting guidelines for Self-administered Questionnaires
2:30	Adjourn

COURSE MATERIALS

Registrants will be provided with a course lecture notebook.

MEALS

JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshments are included in the course fee.

FEES

The course fee is \$600 for JPSM sponsor affiliates, \$600 for full-time university students, and \$810 for other participants. JPSM Sponsor Affiliate List:

<http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors>.

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Confirmation of acceptance will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive an acceptance email. The email will include directions to the course. The automatic web registration number is not an acceptance letter. JPSM Home Page: <http://www.jpsm.org> click on "courses" for online registration. The registration deadline is March 23, 2009.

PAYMENT

Payment by credit card is required. Payment may be done online during registration. Post registration payment may be done online using the registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. Payment is required by March 23, 2009

CANCELLATION

Please notify JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. Cancellation requests should be done online. You will be fully reimbursed if you cancel by March 23, 2009. Cancellation March 24-March 29, 2009 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after March 30, 2009 is subject to the full fee amount.

FELLOWSHIP

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology strives to increase the number of survey professionals from groups traditionally under-represented in the field. As part of this effort, a limited number of competitive fellowships are available to African-Americans, Latinos, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians for the short course. The registrant must be a US citizen or permanent resident.

The applicants should submit:

1. Online registration
2. A 500-word essay describing their reasons for wanting to attend this short course and how their participation will enhance their chosen career path. The essay should indicate the applicant's background (i.e. African-American, Latino, Hispanic American, or Native American Indian).
3. A letter of recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.

The online registration form, essay, and letter of recommendation are due March 9, 2009. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by March 16, 2009. The fellowship covers the registration fee, materials to be distributed during the course and the JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshments. The registration must be done online. The essay and letter of recommendation may be faxed to (734) 764-8263 or emailed to JPSMShort@isr.umich.edu.

JPSM CITATION PROGRAM

The citation programs are built around the JPSM short courses. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Survey Methodology is designed to provide the working professional and interested students with state-of-the-art knowledge about current principles and practices for conducting complex surveys combined with practical skills of day-to-day utility. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Economic Measurement is designed for professional staff requiring a grounding in the principles and practices of economic measurement. Completion of the citation programs involves taking a semester-length JPSM credit-bearing course and eight JPSM short courses, of which four are specified core courses. For information on the Certificate and Citation Programs visit the website at <http://www.jpsm.org>

or call 301-314-7911.

HYATT REGENCY BETHESDA

One Bethesda Metro Center, 7400 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814 Front Desk:
301-657-1234 <http://bethesda.hyatt.com/property/index.jhtml>

The course will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, One Bethesda Metro Center, 7400 Wisconsin Avenue, at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road in Maryland. Registrants seeking accommodation can call the hotel's front desk at 301-657-1234. The hotel is in the heart of Maryland's high-tech corridor, just 6 miles from downtown Washington, D.C., with convenient access to the Capital Beltway and Metro Subway.

OVERNIGHT ROOMS

Individuals are responsible for making their own overnight room reservations and for payment.

PARKING

There is a parking garage located directly underneath the Hotel, which offers both valet and self-parking. The garage is not owned or operated by the Hyatt Regency Bethesda.

METRO RAIL

The Hyatt is accessible via the Metro Red Line at the Bethesda Metro stop.

INQUIRIES

Questions for this course should be directed to the JPSM Short Course, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 426 Thompson Street, Room 4050, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2321, Phone: (800) 937-9320, Fax: (734) 764-8263, Email: jpsmshort@isr.umich.edu.

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

JPSM SHORT COURSES: <http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors>

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

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.

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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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STATISTICIAN/PROGRAMMER

MACRO INTERNATIONAL INC., (MACRO), is a professional services firm offering high quality research, management consulting and information technology services supporting business and government.

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We are seeking a master's level statistician or quantitative social science researcher with strong SAS programming skills who is interested in sampling and estimation. The Statistician/Programmer will work in multidisciplinary teams involved in sampling design, research design, estimation and analysis in support of various projects.

Masters degree or equivalent experience, preferably in a consulting environment needed. Data management and quantitative skills using SAS required (some knowledge of SPSS a plus), and the ability to communicate effectively. Must be able to function well in an interdisciplinary team environment; must be either experienced in sampling and estimation or interested in learning. Programmatic knowledge in higher education, energy, housing, education, veterans issues, elder issues, international assistance, or food assistance a plus.

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Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the September issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until August 15, 2008. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.



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