



WSS NEWS

June 2009

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

Annual Dinner

This year's WSS Annual Dinner is at the La Tasca Spanish Tapas Bar & Restaurant in Washington, DC (Metro: Gallery Place station, Chinatown exit), Thursday, June 18, 2009. The Gertrude Cox Award winner is Dr. Jean Opsomer from Colorado State University. Dr Opsomer will speak at the dinner about sampling design. The price for the dinner is \$40 person.

The 17th Federal Forecasters Conference (FFC/2009)

Thursday, September 24, 2009
Washington, DC

The conference theme is "Forecasting and Risk." The conference seeks to highlight how forecasters account for low-probability, but high-cost events. Participants will review how forecasters account for the following risks: economic risk, energy supply risk, food supply risk, health care and epidemic risk, transportation disruptions, and natural disasters. The conference will examine the role of federal forecasters in the evolution of public policies that account for these rare events. For more information, visit www.federalforecasters.org or contact Jeff Busse, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS988, Reston, VA 20192; (703)648-4914; jbusse@usgs.gov

For more info click here: www.federalforecasters.org

WSS and Other Seminars

(All events are open to any interested persons)

June

- 10 Wed. **When is the Verdict or Judgment Final?: An Examination of Post Trial Activity in Civil Litigation**
- 24 Wed. **The Statistical Adventures of an Applied Sociologist: Reflections, Challenges, and Lessons Learned**

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

Announcement

Caucus for Women in Statistics Hosts Breakfast during Joint Statistical Meetings

The Caucus for Women in Statistics will host a breakfast on Monday, August 3 from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at the Embassy Suites at 900 10th St NW (located between I and K Streets) in Washington, DC. The breakfast is open to both members and non-members of the Caucus. You may come to the breakfast even if you are not attending the Joint Statistical Meetings. There will be the traditional roundtables with specific topics for discussion, as well as other tables with no specific topics of discussion. The meal will be the full breakfast buffet offered at Embassy Suites hotels.

Topics for the discussion roundtables (as of May 1) will be

1. Work/Life Balance
2. Negotiating Salary and Other Job Benefits
3. Comparison of Statisticians' Jobs Across Different Settings
4. Legal Rights and Wrongs in the Workplace

Additional roundtables may be added at a later date.

Cost is:

Members--\$13.00

Non-Members--\$15.00

Full-time Students--\$8.00

To reserve a place at the breakfast, email Anna Nevius at nevius@comcast.net by July 22, 2009.

For more information about the Caucus for Women in Statistics go to <http://caucusforwomeninstatistics.com/>.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the Summer issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until July 10, 2009. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Program Announcement

Title: When is the Verdict or Judgment Final?: An Examination of Post Trial Activity in Civil Litigation

Speaker: Thomas H. Cohen, J.D., Ph.D.
Statistician
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/time: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 / 12:00 - 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: In the civil justice system, there is often an expectation of case resolution with jury and bench trials. The assumption that verdicts or judgments provide an end point to civil disputes, however, does not provide an accurate view of the full civil litigation process. Litigants can file motions requesting various forms of post trial relief as a means of challenging or modifying the trial court verdict or judgment. This article applies multivariate logistic regression techniques to examine the factors associated with post trial activity among a national sample of tort and contract trials concluded in 2005. Results show that the legal issues adjudicated at trial, the type of trial (bench/jury), damage award amounts, punitive damages, filing to disposition time, trial length, and geographic location are all significantly associated with the decision of one or both litigants to seek post trial relief.

Point of contact e-mail: Thomas.H.Cohen@usdoj.gov

Program Announcement

Title: The Statistical Adventures of an Applied Sociologist: Reflections, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

Speaker: Henry Y.H. Wong, Ph.D
Director of Program Assessment and Research
Cygnus Corporation, Inc.

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/time: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 / 12:00 - 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: The primary objective of the presentation is aimed to reflect on a 30 year career of encountering various types of statistical challenges. Starting from the introduction to the Applied Sociology program in the graduate school and applying social statistics and population projections for the dissertation research, to the experience of facing new statistical applications along the professional paths. These experiences included the challenges of developing national manpower forecasts and labor policies, applying national income account for measuring the labor productivity changes, and managing a Construction Project Costing System for an oil rich nation; designing community-based household survey for the collection of biometric measures and development of physical growth standards for newborn and pre-school children in a developing country; tackling biostatistics in a randomized controlled trial for the U.S. Army; overseeing a data resources center for an NIH institute; and dealing with the OMB regulations in conducting health communications and social marketing research for government contracts. The discussion will conclude with lessons learned from the journey through these various statistical adventures.

Point of contact e-mail: wongh@cygnusc.com

Announcement

Workshop on How to Do Nonresponse Bias Analyses in Household and Establishment Surveys

June 10, 2009

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is sponsoring a one-day workshop designed to help Federal agencies meet the OMB guidance for conducting nonresponse bias analyses when surveys achieve response rates less than 80 percent. The workshop will feature illustrative examples of the research done by Federal agencies and their contractors to examine nonresponse bias in Federal surveys. The workshop is intended to provide a forum for agencies to learn and share experiences in conducting nonresponse bias analyses, with emphasis on the methodology, and each session will include time for floor discussion. A variety of techniques will be illustrated on different surveys, including Federal surveys of individuals, households, business establishments, farms, and educational institutions.

Research presented will include the examination of potential nonresponse bias by:

- Using data obtained from the survey frame or panel,
- Using data from response history,
- Benchmarking to external data and administrative records,
- Examining additional information obtained from a subsample of nonrespondents, and
- Evaluating different nonresponse weighting procedures.

In addition, some research will also be presented that compares two or more of these techniques and approaches to investigating potential nonresponse bias.

The workshop is targeted to:

- Individuals in Federal agencies who manage and conduct surveys;
- Federal statisticians, survey methodologists, and others who design, conduct, and evaluate surveys; and
- Individuals in universities, business and nonprofit organizations who are involved in the development, implementation or evaluation of Federal government surveys.

The workshop will assume a working knowledge of data collection methods in survey research. Examples will be presented and only rudimentary statistical knowledge of concepts such as bias and variance of estimates is required of participants.

Registration fee \$95. Attendance is limited.

For further information/questions regarding registration, please contact

Edward Spar or Lee Ann Sklar

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 200, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone: 703-836-0404 Fax: 703-836-0406

E-mail: COPAFS@aol.com

Announcement

2009 JPSM Summer Courses

Please visit www.testudo.umd.edu for the course schedule and to register for courses.
Or the direct link:

<http://www.sis.umd.edu/bin/soc?crs=SURV&sec=&term=200906&starthour=12&startmin=00&rm=am&level=All¢er=0>

The following classes are held in conjunction with the University of Michigan's Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques. All classes are held at the University of Maryland, College Park campus.

SURV623 Data Collection Methods in Survey Research; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.
Review of alternative data collection methods used in surveys, concentrating on the impact these techniques have on the quality of survey data, including measurement error properties, levels of nonresponse and coverage error. Reviews of the literature on major mode comparisons (face-to-face interviewing, telephone survey and self-administered questionnaires), and alternative collection methods (diaries, administrative records, direct observation, etc.). The statistical and social science literatures on interviewer effects and nonresponse, and current advances in computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI), computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), and other methods such as touchtone data entry (TDE) and voice recognition (VRE).

0101(21560) F. Conrad (Seats=20, Open=17, Waitlist=0) [Books](#)

Meets 06/01/09-06/26/09

MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 3:00pm ([LEF](#) 1208)

SURV625 Applied Sampling; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

Prerequisite: statistics course approved by the department. Practical aspects of sample design. Topics include: probability sampling (including simple random, systematic, stratified, clustered, multistage and two-phase sampling methods), sampling with probabilities proportional to size, area sampling, telephone sampling, ratio estimation, sampling error estimation, frame problems, nonresponse, and cost factors.

0102(21570) J. Lepkowski (Seats=20, Open=20, Waitlist=0) [Books](#)

Meets 06/01/09-07/03/09

MTuWThF... 3:00pm- 5:00pm ([LEF](#) 1208)

SURV630 Questionnaire Design; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

The stages of questionnaire design; developmental interviewing, question writing, question evaluation, pretesting, and questionnaire ordering and formatting. Reviews of the literature on questionnaire construction, the experimental literature on question effects, and the psychological literature on information processing. Examination of the diverse challenges posed by self versus proxy reporting and special attention is paid to the relationship between mode of administration and questionnaire design.

0101(21579) P. Campanelli (Seats=20, Open=6, Waitlist=0) [Books](#)

Meets 06/01/09-06/26/09

MTuWThF...10:30am-12:30pm ([LEF](#) 1208)

SURV699B Special Topics in Survey Methodology: Introduction to Survey Sampling; (1 credit) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

0101(21610) R. Tourangeau (Seats=30, Open=28, Waitlist=0) [Books](#)

Meets 07/06/09-07/10/09

MTuWThF... 9:00am-12:00pm ([LEF](#) 1208)

SURV699D Special Topics in Survey Methodology: Introduction to Survey Quality; (1 credit) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

0101(21611) P. Biemer (Seats=10, Open=10, Waitlist=0) [Books](#)

Meets 07/13/09-07/17/09

MTuWThF... 9:00am-12:00pm ([LEF](#) 1208)

SURV699F Special Topics in Survey Methodology: Psychology of Survey Response; (1 credit) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

0101(21641) R. Tourangeau (Seats=20, Open=19, Waitlist=0) [Books](#)

Meets 07/06/09-07/10/09

MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 4:00pm ([LEF](#) 1218)

SURV699O Special Topics in Survey Methodology: Introduction to Survey Nonresponse; (1 credit) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

0101(21652) STAFF (Seats=10, Open=9, Waitlist=0) [Books](#)

Meets 07/20/09-07/24/09

MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 4:00pm ([LEF](#) 1218)

Student Corner

The end of the academic year has come. For many of us, that means summer vacation and a chance to recuperate from a busy year. For others, it's time for uninterrupted research, studying, and internships.

Of course, some lucky graduates already have statistical jobs lined up.

Regardless of your plans, the summer offers a change of pace, often filled with playful moments. To assist you in summer fun, I have scrambled eight statistical terms. I hope you will enjoy unscrambling them.

MOLNAR
NECNOCDIFE
LIBBYOTRAIP
MARNOD
MAPLES
ACIMOPSTTY
BURITTOSDINI
USSENC

Additionally, I have written a little haiku to help celebrate the hot summer months and spread good cheer.

Numbers in the heat.
Summertime stats students count.
Awaiting next Fall.

If you are inspired this month to write a haiku or short poem about a statistical topic, please send it to me and I'll try to print it in the next student corner.

Tim Kennel (tkennel@survey.umd.edu)

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.

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 1,900 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/90001)

A total of 3 or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Applicant 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:

Job Code is REQUIRED to apply.

Westat

Attn: Resume System

1650 Research Boulevard

Rockville, MD 20850-3195

Email: resume@westat.com / FAX: (888) 201-1452

Equal Opportunity Employer.

www.westat.com

ASSOCIATE TO FULL PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS OR BIOSTATISTICS

The Department of Statistics (DOS) and The Biostatistics Center (BSC) of The George Washington University are recruiting a tenured faculty position at the Associate Professor or Professor level. Basic Qualifications are a PhD in Statistics or Biostatistics, an established program of research, and a strong national and international reputation. Core responsibilities of the position will be to serve as Principal Investigator or co-Investigator on one or more BSC major projects; to teach 1 course per year in the DOS and to advise PhD students in Statistics and Biostatistics. The position will be tenured and funded 100% in Year 1. Salary support will decrease to 25% over a 5-year period. The remaining salary will be funded by sponsored projects (either at the BSC, or other external funding secured by the faculty member). Review of applications will begin May 1, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled. For additional information and the application procedure, please see <http://www.gwu.edu/~stat/>.

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

CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University is currently recruiting biostatisticians 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.

Basic 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. All interested applicants 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, professional activities and travel. Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. For complete information and application procedures, please visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu. Only complete applications will be considered

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

AEA Washington Representative position

The American Economic Association (AEA) seeks a part-time professional to open a Washington, DC office for the Association and to represent the Association's scientific interests in Washington. The AEA is a non-partisan membership society of about 18,000 professional economists who work in academe, business, government and research institutes. Its goals are to promote and publish high-quality economic research and to encourage open discussion of economic issues.

The responsibilities of the person hired for this job will include developing sources of information about legislation, regulations and agency decisions pertinent to the scientific interests of the AEA and, working closely with the Association's Committee on Government Relations, to keep members of the Association informed about these developments. The ideal candidate will have significant Washington experience. Some background in economics and/or statistics would be a significant asset. The position will be based in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. For more information about the position, please visit http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/DC_position.htm.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest, CV or resume and list of references to Regina Montgomery, American Economic Association, 2014 Broadway, Suite 305, Nashville, TN 37203. Preference will be given to applications that are received by June 1, 2009 and a start date in the early fall of 2009 is preferred, but the position will remain open until filled.

**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY AT THE NATION'S
LEADING STATISTICAL HEALTH AGENCY****COME JOIN THE STAFF OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS****Organization description**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), located in Hyattsville, Maryland, is seeking a Senior Service Fellow to work in the Office of Planning, Budget, and Legislation. NCHS is the principal health statistics agency in the United States and one of the eight centers and institutes that comprise CDC. NCHS provides statistical information that guides actions and policies that will improve the health of the American people. NCHS employees work closely with other researchers, federal and state agencies, and academic institutions to develop statistical methodology, establish statistical policy, and advance health statistics through research. As the Nation's principal health statistics agency, NCHS leads the way with accurate, relevant, and timely information. For more information about NCHS, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about.htm>.

Fellowship overview

The Fellow will serve as the principal advisor to the Center's Associate Director for Planning, Budget, and Legislation, Associate Director for Science, and Confidentiality Officer on complex methodological issues relating to the evaluation of data products for disclosure risk. The Fellow will also conduct research that will allow NCHS to better protect participant confidentiality while maximizing access to data. In addition, the Fellow will provide expertise in the application of statistical theory in the development of new or significantly modified approaches to the evaluation of disclosure risk in NCHS products.

Qualifications

This fellowship opportunity is open to all citizens of the United States or legal permanent residents with a work authorization. Applicants are responsible for obtaining the necessary work authorization. Applicants must have a doctoral degree or equivalent obtained from a recognized college or university that included 24 semester hours of mathematics and statistics, of which at least 12 hours were in mathematics and 6 were in statistics. Applicants must also have substantial post-doctoral experience in disclosure risk assessment. Strong speaking, writing, and interpersonal skills are highly desirable.

Terms of appointment

The Fellow will be offered an initial 36-month appointment, with the potential for extension. A starting date will be determined by mutual agreement. An initial salary of \$86,927 to \$153,200 (GS-13, step 1 to GS-15, step 10) will be offered based on education and experience. Salary increases will be commensurate with performance. The Fellow will be eligible for annual and sick leave, Thrift Savings 401(k)-equivalent, health and life insurance, and a flexible work schedule. The fellow will have the option of free on-site parking or a public transportation subsidy. The local subway station is within walking distance of NCHS.

Application process

There will be several cut-off dates established during the open period (through November 30, 2009) of this announcement that will be used to create referral lists. The first cut-off date will be June 30, 2009. Thereafter, additional referral lists will be generated through the open period as vacancies occur. If further evaluation or interviews are required, applicants will be contacted. Interested applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, a cover letter describing relevant experience, copies of all graduate transcripts (official transcripts will be required if selected), and three reference letters to Dr. Jennifer Madans at the mailing address below. Inquiries or questions regarding this fellowship can be directed to Dr. Jennifer Madans at JMadans@cdc.gov.

Mailing address

National Center for Health Statistics

3311 Toledo Road, Room 7217
Hyattsville, MD 20782

**The United States government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, membership in an employee organization, or other nonmerit factor. **

Statistical Programmer

Information Management Services (IMS) Inc, a biomedical software company, with over 30 years of experience, located in Silver Spring and Rockville, MD invites applications for a statistical programmer. Candidates must have a PhD in statistics or math, plus familiarity with modern biostatistics analysis techniques, and good interpersonal and communication skills. Knowledge of the R programming language is essential. Experience with statistical and genetic analytic packages and C/C++ is a plus. Background in genetic analysis is desirable. Opportunities exist for collaborative publications and the development of software products which have wide distribution and impact.

This position offers collaboration with nationally recognized statisticians within the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, NCI: (<http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci/dceg>), Biostatistics Branch (<http://www.dceg.cancer.gov/bb>). The division conducts population-based and interdisciplinary research to discover the genetic and environmental determinants of cancer. The biostatistics branch develops statistical methods and data resources to strengthen observational studies, intervention trials, and laboratory investigations of cancer. The Branch also provides information on cancer rates for generating etiologic leads and developing appropriate study designs, and it plans and conducts independent and collaborative descriptive and analytic studies of cancer. High priority is given to methodological issues in genetic epidemiology. Examples include: the development of cancer risk assessment tools, interactive attributable risk programs, cutting edge development in the analysis of whole genome scans, and methods associated with overcoming issues of measurement risk. For more information and to apply see www.imsweb.com or send your resume to jobs@imsweb.com.

Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner

Thursday June 18th, 2009 5:30 PM

Note change in schedule from past years

5:00PM- Bar Opens

5:30PM- Presentation

Jean Opsomer, Colorado State University, recipient of the 2009 Cox Award: "Aspects of Sampling Design: A Tale of Two Natural Resource Surveys"

6:30PM- Awards

7:00 PM- Dinner

La Tasca Spanish Tapas Bar & Restaurant (basement level)

722 7th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001 Phone: (202) 347-9190

(Metro: Gallery Place station, Chinatown exit)

www.latascausa.com

Cash Bar

Dishes to be served (all inclusive):

Garlic bread with cheese

A selection of cured Spanish meats

Battered squid, deep fried and served with traditional garlic mayonnaise

Arugula and Manchego cheese salad with bacon vinaigrette

Chicken croquettes

Grilled marinated flank steak with sherry and mushroom sauce

The traditional Spanish potato and onion omelet

Deep fried potatoes in a spicy sauce and garlic mayonnaise

Fresh chicken breast and red peppers marinated with spices

Shrimp sautéed and sizzling in olive oil, fresh garlic and hot Spanish "guindilla" peppers

Fried eggplant with a Cabrales cheese dip

Fresh mussels cooked with garlic, parsley and Ribeiro white wine

Grilled salmon over a ragout of vegetables

Price:..... \$40.00

..... \$20.00 full-timeⁱ student

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT: Monday, June 8th

- Please register at: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=zbst>
- Or make check payable to:
"Washington Statistical Society"
–**Include the full names of all individuals paid for by the check.**

Send to: Chris Cummiskey

701 13th Street, NW Suite 750, Washington, DC 20005

Questions? Please Contact: Chris Cummiskey, ccummiskey@rti.org / (202) 728-2064

ⁱ NOTE: Full-time students must have 12+ credit hours. Send check or pay \$40 online and receive a \$20 reimbursement after dinner.