



WSS NEWS

July/August 2009

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

Helen Tice to Receive 2009 Julius Shiskin Award

Helen Stone Tice, Senior Research Associate at the Center for Civil Society Studies at the Johns Hopkins University, has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 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 interpreting the economy. Dr. Tice is recognized **for innovative research in developing improved measures of the activities on nonprofit institutions throughout the world and for leadership in providing users with comprehensive documentation of the methodologies used for the U.S. economic accounts.** Dr. Tice becomes the 36th recipient of the Award and will be honored at events hosted by the three sponsors of the award: The Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association.

Since 1998, Dr. Tice has been primarily engaged in research on the development of improved measures of the activities of nonprofit institutions (NPIs) in international economic accounts at the Center for Civil Society Studies of the Institute for Policy Studies at the Johns Hopkins University (JHU). At JHU, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), she led a program that resulted in the preparation of the *Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts* to improve the treatment of the nonprofit sector in the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA). Current work on an updated version will align it with both the recently adopted *System of National Accounts, 2008*, and revisions in United Nations classification systems, and will incorporate lessons learned from current implementation experience of the *Handbook*. After publication, Dr. Tice engaged in an extensive outreach and dissemination efforts on the *Handbook*, including organizing workshops with international organizations. The handbook was critical because NPIs have been growing in importance in recent decades and systematic data on NPIs were not available. More recently, Dr. Tice has played a major role in the development of a set of procedures for the creation of a first-time system of labor force and household surveys to provide data to measure the size and nature of volunteer work. This work at JHU was conducted in partnership with the International Labour Organization and resulted in the preparation of the *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work* and a JHU working paper on the findings of the research that Dr. Tice co-authored.

Dr. Tice's innovations in these and other areas of economic measurement has been based on careful and complete research that have resulted in new paths to ensuring the relevance of statistical systems in the face of changing external realities. She also has made sure that these innovations have been workable and consistent with features of the existing systems. In addition, her dedication to her work and respect for colleague has contributed to the success of her many innovations.

From 1977 to 1998, Dr. Tice was engaged in research at the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Among her many innovative contributions while at BEA, the most significant was the design and implementation of the first updating of the methodologies underlying the U.S. accounts in almost 25 years. The publication of these methodologies, several of which she co-authored, in a series of separate methodology reports provided users with useful detail and completeness that was unmatched internationally and greatly enhanced the reputation of BEA throughout the world. She conducted research on the activities of nonprofit institutions for the U.S. national accounts, and this work led to the publication of the first set of U.S. nonprofit accounts in 2003. She contributed several sections to the *System of National Accounts, 1993*. She was a major contributor to the development of the revised industry classification for financial services for the new North American

Industry Classification System. In addition, together with Robert Lipsey of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), she organized a conference on the measurement of saving, investment, and wealth for the NBER Conference on Research in Income and Wealth, and edited the conference volume, *The Measurement of Saving, Investment, and Wealth*, which was published in 1989.

From 1969 to 1977, Dr. Tice was at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System where she designed and implemented a framework for a detailed documentation of the methodologies underlying the Flow of Funds Accounts. She also developed and implemented a set of national balance sheets for these accounts.

During her career at JHU, BEA, and the FRB, Dr. Tice has authored or co-authored numerous books, articles, and papers. In addition to the major sections of BEA's methodology papers, sections of the *System of National Accounts, 1993*, she also wrote articles for the *Review of Income and Wealth* on revisions to the Systems of National Accounts, measurement of wealth, and nonprofit institutions, and article on NPIs for *Voluntas*, and several chapters of a report for Congress, *Institutional Investor Study Report of the Securities and Exchange Commission*. She also is co-author of the forthcoming "Nonprofit Organizations in the System of National Accounts," in *International Encyclopedia of Civil Society*. Dr. Tice also served as a member of the editorial board, *Review of Income and Wealth*, from 1978-81, and as a member of the Executive Committee, Conference on Research in Income and Wealth, from 1979-85.

Conference in honor of Joseph Gastwirth

A one-day conference in honor of Prof. Joseph Gastwirth for celebrating his forty-five years of statistical activity will be held at George Washington University on August 1, 2009, one day before 2009 Joint Statistical Meeting in DC. The tentative program, information on free registration, and other information about the conference can be found at the conference website: http://www.gwu.edu/~stat/festschrift_jg.htm.

Program committee consists of Colin Aitken, Efsthia Bura, Mitchell Gail, Joel Greenhouse, Wesley Johnson, David Kaye, Abba Krieger, Zhaohai Li, Nancy Spruill, Scott Zeger, and Gang Zheng.

People who want to register for this free conference do so online (at the website above). The venue and time is also on the website.

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/>.

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Data Users Workshop, August 7, 2009

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) will conduct an all-day workshop on the National Health Interview Survey on Friday, August 7, 2009 at NCHS in Hyattsville, Maryland. This workshop is independent of the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) that will take place on August 1-6, 2009 in downtown Washington, D.C., but it was intentionally scheduled to immediately follow the JSM. The workshop is open to anyone. NCHS is easily accessible by Metro. See Directions to NCHS (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/hyatdir.htm>) for more information.

The target audience for the workshop is beginning and intermediate users of the survey data. A preliminary agenda includes:

- a.. Overview of the National Health Interview Survey
- b.. Questionnaire development and supplements
- c.. Information about the sample design
- d.. Linked data resources
- e.. Accessing data through the Research Data Centers
- f.. Special topic Website demonstrations; tobacco, race/ethnicity, and physical activity
- g.. Creating an analytic file, using weights in analyses, and multiple imputation
- h.. Analytic examples
- i.. Co-sponsoring supplemental questions on the NHIS
- j.. Publications using NHIS data

Registration is free. See NHIS Workshop Registration for more information. Participants should register as early as possible. We strongly encourage you to attend the workshop if you have completed the workshop registration, as space and resources are limited, and our staff has put a great deal of effort into the planning. Please cancel your registration if you plan on not attending to allow others to register. Upon arrival, plan time for clearing security.

Contact Brenda LaRochelle by e-mail or (301)458-4686 if you have any questions, difficulty registering, or to be put on the workshop mailing list.

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)

July

23 Thurs. **An Empirical Evaluation of Signal Extraction Goodness-of-fit Diagnostic Tests**

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

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the September issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until August 14, 2009. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Program Announcement

Title: **An Empirical Evaluation of Signal Extraction Goodness-of-fit Diagnostic Tests**

Chair: Stuart Scott, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Speaker: Christopher D. Blakely, University of Maryland

Date/Time: Thursday, July 23, 2009 / 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: We present a band-limited frequency-domain goodness-of-fit (gof) diagnostic test that is based on signal extraction variances for nonstationary time series. This diagnostic test extends the statistic of McElroy (2008) by taking into account the effects of model parameter uncertainty, and as a result the statistic is a diagnostic of model gof. We explore its size and power through several numerical studies, showing that adequate distributional properties are obtained for fairly short time series (10 to 15 years of monthly data). Our Monte Carlo studies of finite sample size and power consider different combinations of both signal and noise components using seasonal, trend, and irregular component models obtained via canonical decomposition.

Details of the implementation appropriate for ARMA and SARIMA models are given.

Announcement

JPSM Short Courses

www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

September 10-11, 2009

Designing Mixed Mode Surveys

Don A. Dillman, Jolene D. Smyth and Leah Melani Christian

Registration Deadline: August 27, 2009

September 24, 2009 (1-Day course)

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System

Katharine G. Abraham

Registration Deadline: September 10, 2009

October 29-30, 2009

An Introduction to Survey Management

Michael F. Weeks

Registration Deadline: October 15, 2009

November 19-20, 2009

Focus Groups from Start to Finish

David Morgan

Registration Deadline: November 5, 2009

December 17-18, 2009

Introduction to Survey Sampling

Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski

Registration Deadline: December 3, 2009

January 11-12, 2010

Web Survey Design

Mick P. Couper

Registration Deadline: December 28, 2009

February 1-2, 2010

Experimental Design for Surveys

Roger Tourangeau

Registration Deadline: January 18, 2010

February 23-24, 2010

Balancing Data Confidentiality and Data Quality

Lawrence Cox

Registration Deadline: February 9, 2010

March 3-4, 2010

Introduction to Survey Estimation

David Morganstein and Richard L. Valliant

Registration Deadline: February 17, 2010

March 29-30, 2010

Writing Questions for Surveys: A Workshop

Nora Cate Schaeffer

Registration Deadline: March 15, 2010

April 22-23, 2010

Cognitive Interviewing Methods: A Hands-On Approach

Gordon B. Willis

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2010

May 4-5, 2010

Sampling and Estimation for Establishment Surveys

Richard Valliant and Phillip Kott

Registration Deadline: April 20, 2010

May 26, 2010 (1-Day course)

Introduction to Item Response Theory (IRT) Modeling and Applications

Bryce B. Reeve

Registration Deadline: May 12, 2010

JPSM SHORT COURSES: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

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

JPSM HOME PAGE: www.jpsm.org

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

JPSM Short Course Announcement

DESIGNING MIXED-MODE SURVEYS

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

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2009

Presented at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA

DON A. DILLMAN, JOLENE D. SMYTH AND LEAH MELANI CHRISTIAN

OBJECTIVES

This short course describes why mixed-mode surveys have become increasingly important and the factors that influence whether the use of multiple modes in a single study will improve data quality. A typology of different mixed-mode survey designs is introduced and used to organize the course. Three major factors that influence responses across modes are discussed in detail, including: 1) different question structures and wording, 2) the presence vs. absence of an interviewer, and 3) the influence of visual design and layout. In addition, we discuss various implementation strategies for using multiple modes of data collection. The effect of offering response modes consistent with respondent preferences is examined, along with the question of why offering a choice of response mode tends not to improve response rates. Special attention is focused on addressed-based sampling as a way of using mail to encourage response over the Internet. Participants should gain an understanding of how measurement and nonresponse influence the development of effective mixed-mode designs, and how the design of such surveys can reduce the potential for bias. This course draws heavily on seven years of joint research conducted by the presenters, some of which is reported in the text, and some that is ongoing work.

THE INSTRUCTORS

Don A. Dillman is Regents Professor and The Thomas S. Foley Distinguished Professor of Government and Public Policy in the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University in Pullman. He served as the Senior Survey Methodologist at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991-95, and is internationally known for his work on the improvement of self-administered survey methods. His current research emphasizes the effects of visual layout and design on answers to paper and web surveys and the use of addressed-based sampling to encourage general public survey response over the Internet. Recent papers on these topics are available on his web page <http://www.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/>.

Jolene D. Smyth is an Assistant Professor in the Survey Research and Methodology Program and the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she teaches courses on Data Collection Methods and Questionnaire Design. Her research focuses on measurement and nonresponse in single- and mixed-mode surveys. She has published journal articles and book chapters on the topics of multiple-answer questions, open-ended questions, scalar questions, visual design, Internet surveys, and context effects in web surveys. Her current research emphasizes the effect of mode preference on survey response and data quality as well as the relationship between literacy and survey response.

Leah Melani Christian is a research associate at the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press in Washington, D.C. where her work focuses on public opinion and survey research methodology, with a particular interest in environmental policy and communication technologies. She has published journal articles and book chapters on the influence of visual layout on answers to mail and web surveys, response scale effects within and across modes, and the use of multiple modes in panel survey designs. Her current research focuses on the effects of including cell phones in telephone surveys and various challenges surveyors face when conducting dual frame telephone surveys.

COURSE MATERIALS

Registrants will be provided with a course lecture notebook and a copy of: *Internet, Mail and Mixed Mode Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*, 3rd edition (Wiley, 2009), by Don A. Dillman, Jolene D. Smyth and Leah Melani Christian. This book is a nearly complete revision of the 2nd edition, published in 2000.

MEALS

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

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY: SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

7:30 - 8:30 Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
 8:30 - 10:15 Session 1:
 Why this short course?
 The importance of reducing multiple sources of error
 Types of mixed-mode surveys and the potential errors associated with each
 10:15 - 10:30 Break
 10:30 - 12:00 Session 2:
 Wording and question structure as a source of mode differences
 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
 1:00 - 2:30 Session 3:
 Interviewer vs. self-administration as a source of mode differences
 2:30 - 2:45 Break
 2:45 - 4:15 Session 4:
 Visual design and layout as a source of mode differences
 The importance of unified, mode-specific and enhanced design question writing strategies.
 4:15 Adjourn

FRIDAY: SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

7:30 - 8:30 Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
 8:30 - 10:15 Session 5:
 Designing mixed-mode implementation strategies
 The importance of tailored design
 10:15 - 10:30 Break
 10:30 - 12:00 Session 6:
 Addressed-based sampling and procedures for encouraging response via the Internet: results from recent experiments.
 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
 1:00 - 2:30 Session 7:
 Does giving respondents a choice of mode lower response rates?
 Do respondents have a mode preference?
 2:30 - 2:45 Break
 2:45 - 4:15 Session 8:
 Special topics: examples and challenges designing other types of mixed-mode surveys of individuals, households and establishments surveys
 Additional questions and course summary
 4:15 Adjourn

FEES

The course fee is \$675 for JPSM sponsor affiliates, \$675 for full-time university students, and \$885 for other participants. Sponsor Affiliate List: <http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors>.

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses. 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. The registration deadline is August 27, 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 August 27, 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 August 27, 2009. Cancellation August 28-September 2, 2009 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after September 3, 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. The Online Registration form.
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) and why the fellowship support is needed.
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 August 13, 2009. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by August 20, 2009. The fellowship covers the registration fee, materials to be distributed during the course and the JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshments. 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.

SHERATON CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL

1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202
Phone: (703) 486-1111 or 1-800-862-ROOM Fax: (703) 769-3970
CLASSROOM: Ballroom C

The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel is located in the "Crystal City" business district of Arlington, with nearby access to the Crystal City Metro Stop. Located at the intersection of 18th and Eads Street the hotel is 1 mile from the Ronald Reagan National Airport.

OVERNIGHT ROOMS

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

PARKING

Underground parking is on a first come, first serve basis.

METRO RAIL

Crystal City Metro Stop: Lines Yellow / Blue

AIRPORTS

Ronald Reagan National Airport - 1 Mile

Dulles International Airport - 35 Miles

Baltimore/Washington Airport - 42 Miles

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.

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 .

SHORT COURSES: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

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

JPSM HOME PAGE: www.jpsm.org

TAX IDENTIFICATION (University of Michigan): 38-6006309

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

JPSM Short Course Announcement

AN INTRODUCTION TO SURVEY MANAGEMENT

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

OCTOBER 29-30, 2009

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 presented primarily from the standpoint of a contractor conducting federally sponsored survey projects. However, federal project officers and others responsible for overseeing survey contractors will find the course helpful in terms of defining best practices in the management of survey projects. 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 39-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.

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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY: OCTOBER 29, 2009

- 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 30, 2009

- 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, management tools and best practices.
 10:30 - 10:45 Morning Break
 10:45 - 11:45 Managing the Survey (Part 2)
 More management tools and best practices, IRBs, OMB, project closeout procedures.
 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

FEES

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

REGISTRATION

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THE INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER

University of Maryland, University College (UMUC)
3501 University Boulevard E, Route 193, Adelphi, MD 20783
Phone: 301-985-7300 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. The parking fee is covered in the JPSM contract with the hotel. Please note that this is not the Park and Ride lot. When you enter the parking garage, please obtain a parking ticket from the ticket machine. When you are leaving the parking garage turn over your parking ticket to the attendant and let him know you were attending the "JPSM Short Course".

METRO RAIL

College Park Metro Station: Green Line (1.8 Mile)

AIRPORTS

Ronald Reagan National Airport (20 Miles)
Dulles International Airport (35 Miles)
Baltimore/Washington Airport (30 Miles)

JPSM CITATION PROGRAM

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Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

Sponsor Affiliate List: projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors

JPSM Home Page: www.jpsm.org

Tax Identification (University of Michigan): 38-6006309

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

JPSM Short Course Announcement

FOCUS GROUPS FROM START TO FINISH

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

NOVEMBER 19-20, 2009

Presented at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center

DAVID L. MORGAN

Portland State University

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Focus groups are a qualitative method that has found wide acceptance as an efficient and helpful way to understand people's attitudes, beliefs, and experiences. Among those who use focus groups are: survey researchers who wish to design well-worded questionnaires; program intervention teams to who want to understand the people they serve and influence their behavior; managers from government agencies and private businesses who want to discover how their "customers" evaluate their services, as well as how to improve their services and raise customer satisfaction; market researchers who are interested in understanding consumer preferences; and political researchers who want to explore voters' responses to candidates and their messages.

This seminar will introduce participants to focus group methodology and how it can be applied to serve a variety of purposes. Participants will learn: who to choose as participants and how to recruit them; how to design an appropriate set of questions for a group interview; the basic skills involved in moderating focus group discussions; and how to analyze and report on the data from focus groups. In addition, the course will cover the issues involved in both contract with professional focus group providers and conducting your own focus groups

The instructor will give mini-lectures, conduct example focus groups, and lead exercises. The overall goal is to provide practical information.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This short course is designed for people who use or who might like to use focus groups as well as people who evaluate reports based on focus group findings. Those who might benefit from this course include: project managers who are planning new initiatives or programs; survey researchers who wish to use qualitative methods in either the development of their survey tools or the interpretation of their quantitative results; those who are responsible for customer satisfaction programs or cultural diversity efforts; anyone who needs greater insights into the experiences, feelings, and preferences of either the general public or members of their own organization. It is designed to meet the need of individuals in government and not-for-profit organizations, as well as those in industry.

THE INSTRUCTOR

David L. Morgan teaches at Portland State University, where he holds an appointment as a University Professor, along with an adjunct appoint in the Department of Sociology. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Morgan is internationally recognized for his several books on focus groups, including the recent Focus Group Kit (with Richard Krueger) and the edited collection Successful Focus Groups. In addition to focus groups, he is also interested in research that combines qualitative and quantitative methods, including the use of focus groups in conjunction with both survey research and program evaluation.

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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY: NOVEMBER 19, 2009

- 7:45 - 8:30 Registrant Check-In and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 - 9:00 Introduction and Course Overview
- 9:00 - 10:00 Demonstration Focus Group
- 10:00 - 10:15 Morning Break
- 10:15 - 11:00 Deciding to Use Focus Groups
- 11:00 - 12:00 Question and Answer Session
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Break
- 1:00 - 2:00 Group Composition and Recruitment
- 2:00 - 2:45 Asking Questions in Focus Groups, Part #1
- 2:45 - 3:00 Afternoon Break
- 3:00 - 3:45 Asking Questions in Focus Groups, Part #2
- 3:45 - 4:30 Exercise: Writing an Interview Guide
- 4:30 Adjourn

FRIDAY: NOVEMBER 20, 2009

- 7:45 - 8:30 Registrant Check-In and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 - 10:00 Moderating Focus Groups, Part #1
- 10:00 - 10:15 Morning Break
- 10:15 - 11:30 Moderating Focus Groups, Part #2
- 11:30 - 12:00 Question and Answer Session
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Break
- 1:00 - 2:45 Analyzing and Reporting Data, Part #1
- 2:45 - 3:00 Afternoon Break
- 3:00 - 3:45 Analyzing and Reporting Data, Part #2
- 3:45 - 4:30 Question and Answer Session
- 4:30 Adjourn

FEES

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

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses. 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. The registration deadline is November 5, 2009.

PAYMENT

Payment by credit card is required. Payment may be done online during registration. Post registration payment may be done online at www.jpsm.org/shortcourses using the registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. Payment is required by November 5, 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 November 5, 2009. Cancellation November 6-11, 2009 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after November 12, 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. The Online Registration form.
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) and why the fellowship support is needed.
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 October 22, 2009. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by October 29, 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.

WASHINGTON MARRIOTT AT METRO CENTER

775 12th Street NW, Washington, District Of Columbia 20005 USA

Phone: (202) 737-2200

Web: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasmc-washington-marriott-at-metro-center/>

The course will be held at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center. The hotel is situated near the Metro Center Station, with easy access to Reagan National Airport (4.0 mi N), Washington Dulles Airport (25.0 mi E) and BWI Baltimore Washington Airport (40.0 mi S) as well as the Amtrak station.

OVERNIGHT ROOMS

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

PARKING

Registrants are responsible for parking fees. Valet parking is available at the hotel for \$35 per day. There are numerous parking garages near the hotel. Parking garage rates range from \$13 to \$20 a day.

METRO RAIL

Metro Center Station: Red, Blue, Orange Lines (G & 12th Street)

AIRPORTS

Ronald Reagan National Airport (4 Miles)

Dulles International Airport (25 Miles)

Baltimore/Washington Airport (40 Miles)

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.

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.

Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

Sponsor Affiliate List: projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors

JPSM Home Page: www.jpsm.org

Tax Identification Number (University of Michigan): 38-6006309

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

JPSM Short Course Announcement

INTRODUCTION TO SURVEY SAMPLING

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

DECEMBER 17-18, 2009

Presented at the Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center

COLM O’MUIRCHEARTAIGH

Senior Fellow, NORC and Professor, Harris School, University of Chicago

JAMES M. LEPKOWSKI

University of Michigan

Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This is a foundation course in sample survey methods and principles. The instructors will present, in a non-technical manner, basic sampling techniques such as simple random sampling, systematic sampling, stratification, and cluster sampling. The instructors will provide opportunities to implement sampling techniques in a series of exercises that accompany each topic. Group work is an integral part of the course. Participants will be allocated arbitrarily to four-person groups who will collaborate on the solution of course exercises. All participants must bring a calculator that includes at least a square root function in order to complete group exercises. Participants should not expect to obtain sufficient background in this course to master survey sampling, but they can expect to become familiar with basic techniques well enough to converse with sampling statisticians more easily about sample design.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Individuals in government, universities, business, and nonprofit organizations interested in understanding survey sampling methods and applying them in practice. Introductory course work in statistical methods is strongly recommended. Participants should be familiar with descriptive statistics, the normal and binomial distributions, chance selection, expected values, standard error, and confidence intervals. If you are uncertain whether you have adequate background, examine methods contained in *Statistics, 2nd Edition*, by Freedman, Pisani, Purves, and Adhikari (W.W. Norton & Company, New York, 1991), Chapters 3-6 and 13-16. Those wishing to have a brief introduction to some of the material in the course will find it useful to read Chapters 1-8 in the monograph *Introduction to Survey Sampling*, by Graham Kalton (Sage Publications, California, 1987).

THE INSTRUCTORS

Colm O’Muircheartaigh is Senior Fellow in the National Opinion Research Center and Professor in the Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, at the University of Chicago. He was formerly at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where he had been a faculty member in the Department of Statistics since 1971. He was the first director of The Methodology Institute, the LSE center for research and training in social science methodology. He selected his first national sample in 1968 (a probability sample of manufacturing establishments in Ireland). Together with Vijay Verma and Christopher Scott, he was responsible for the sample designs for the World Fertility Survey (1976-84), and was a member of the Sampling Advisory Group for the UK Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. He was Sampling Coordinator for two cross-national studies by the International Association for Educational Assessment (IEA) (1988-94 and 1997-2001) and for the OECD Network C cross-national study (1994-6). Since joining NORC in 1998, he has been responsible for the re-design of the national sampling frame and the introduction and evaluation of list-based sampling for national and local probability samples of households. His research encompasses measurement errors in surveys, cognitive aspects of question wording, and latent variable models for nonresponse. He has served as a consultant to a wide range of public and commercial organizations, including the BBC World Service, AGB, British Household Panel Survey, and the U.S. Bureaus of Labor Statistics and the Census.

James M. Lepkowski is Research Professor at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, where he directs the Michigan Program in Survey Methodology. He is Professor of Biostatistics at Michigan and Research Professor in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. His research encompasses telephone sampling design, analysis of complex sample survey data, methods for compensating for missing data in surveys, and the behavior of interviewers and respondents in survey interviews. He has served as a consultant for public and private organizations, including the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census, the National Center for Health Statistics, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Center for Education Statistics.

CALCULATOR

Please bring a calculator to class. The calculator should include at least a square root function in order to complete the group exercises.

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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY: DECEMBER 17, 2009

- 8:00 - 9:00 Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:00 Background: Course introduction, Simple random sampling methods
Exercise 1. The sampling distribution
- 10:00 - 10:15 Coffee break
- 10:15 - 12:00 Element sampling: A brief history of survey sampling
Estimation of population means and proportions
Sampling variance
Sample size determination; Exercise 2
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:45 Element sampling: Systematic sampling; Exercise 3
Cluster sampling: Equal sized clusters
- 2:45 - 3:00 Coffee break
- 3:00 - 5:00 Cluster sampling (continued): Subsampling
Design effects and intracluster homogeneity; Exercise 4
- 5:00 Adjourn

FRIDAY: DECEMBER 18, 2009

- 7:30 - 8:30 Registrant Check-in and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 - 10:00 Cluster sampling (continued): Sampling unequal sized clusters
Probability proportionate to size selection; Exercise 5
- 10:00 - 10:15 Coffee break
- 10:15 - 12:00 Stratification: Purpose of stratification
Stratified sampling estimates
Determining sample allocation; Exercise 6
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:45 Sampling problems: Frame problems
Objective respondent selection
Weighting: unequal probabilities of selection; Exercise 7
- 2:45 - 3:00 Coffee break
- 3:00 - 4:30 Sampling problems (continued):
Weights for unit non-response and poststratification
General issues in variance estimation
Concluding exercises
- 4:30 Adjourn

FEES

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

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses. 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. The registration deadline is December 3, 2009.

PAYMENT

Payment by credit card is required. Payment may be done online during registration. Post registration payment may be done online at www.jpsm.org/shortcourses using the registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. Payment is required by December 3, 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 December 3, 2009. Cancellation December 4-9, 2009 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after December 10, 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. The Online Registration form.
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) and why the fellowship support is needed.
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 November 19, 2009. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by November 26, 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.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS CONFERENCE CENTER

Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20212-0001

Visitor Entrance: 1st Street, NE

Conference Center: (202) 691-6800

Classroom: 1-2

VISITOR ENTRANCE

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building, 1st Street, NE Washington, DC 20212-0001
Registrants must enter through the visitor entrance on 1st street. Do not use the main entrance on Massachusetts Avenue.

ID REQUIREMENT

All visitors must present a valid photo ID at the visitor's entrance and pick up a visitor's badge. Please arrive 10 minutes early to allow enough time to go through security.

SCREENING

Visitors and packages will be processed through the x-ray and metal detector screening equipment.

OVERNIGHT ROOMS

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

PARKING

Traveling by metro is preferred. Parking is available in a number of commercial parking lots within a 1-4 block radius of BLS. Daily parking fees range from \$14-20.

METRO RAIL

Union Station: Red Line

AIRPORTS

Ronald Reagan National Airport (5.7 Miles)

Dulles International Airport (28 Miles)

Baltimore/Washington Airport (31 Miles)

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.

INQUIRIES

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Tax Identification Number (University of Michigan): 38-6006309

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

Student Corner

In the last student corner, I presented several pseudoanagrams. Here are the answers:

MOLNAR	Normal
NECNOCDIFE	Confidence
LIBBYOTRAIP	Probability
MARNOD	Random
MAPLES	Sample
ACIMOPSTTY	Asymptotic
BURITTOSDINI	Distribution
USSENC	Census

Since last month, I found the following clever mathematical anagrams in Wikipedia: "Eleven plus two = Twelve plus one" and "A decimal point = I'm a dot in place"

We're now in the heat of summer in Washington and less than two months away from the Joint Statistical Meetings. Once again, I would like to encourage all students to attend these meetings in DC from August 1 to August 6. Besides choosing from hundreds of cutting edge lectures and bonding with fellow students at the student mixer, you can also meet potential employers, interview for jobs, dance, and socialize with thousands of statisticians at the mixer. It's a great place to meet "famous" statisticians and get autographs for your favorite textbooks. I wrote a little limerick about the JSM to encourage you to attend.

Come to the JSM in DC,
Where you will almost certainly find glee.
Statisticians abound,
Presentations profound.
And a dance to boot, don't be an absentee.

In a playful spirit, I would like to end this student corner with a cool statistics quote for the summer. According to Aaron Levenstein, "Statistics are like a bikini. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital."

Have a wonderful summer. I'll see you at JSM.

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.

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. **

TAX ECONOMIST

U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Overview

The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the agency that works for Congress and the American people. Congress mandates GAO to study the programs and expenditures of the federal government. GAO, commonly called the investigative arm of Congress or the congressional

watchdog, is at the epicenter of government decision-making. When GAO reports its findings to Congress, it recommends actions. Its work leads to laws and acts that improve government operations, and save billions of dollars.

GAO was founded in 1921. It has a staff of approximately 3200 employees across 13 locations and a budget of nearly \$500,000,000. Its headquarters is in Washington, DC. Field offices include: Atlanta, Boston, Norfolk, Huntsville, Chicago, Dallas, Dayton, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. See: www.gao.gov.

The federal government faces a range of challenges in the 21st century, including the nation's large and growing long-term fiscal imbalances and an aging and more diverse population. Given these challenges, the federal government needs to engage in a comprehensive review, reassessment, reprioritization, and, as appropriate, re-engineering of what the federal government does, how it does business, who does its business, and how government is financed. The Strategic Issues (SI) team focuses on the federal government's role in achieving national goals in an increasingly networked environment and its ability to deliver, and ensure accountability for, meaningful results.

The SI team focuses on:

- re-examining the federal government's role in achieving evolving national objectives.
- supporting the transformation to a results-oriented, high-performing government.
- supporting congressional oversight of key management challenges and program risks to improve federal operations and ensure accountability.
- analyzing the government's fiscal position and strengthening approaches for addressing the current and projected fiscal gap, and analyzing federal tax policy and administration.

Requirements

Successful candidates will have experience with one or more of the following:

- 1.) Analyses of the economic impacts (including tax causes distortions or inefficiencies in particular markets such as housing or health insurance as well as economy wide, tax incidence, distributional effects, and revenue effects) of tax policy.
- 2.) Detailed knowledge of the design intricacies of the individual income tax, the corporate income tax, the sales tax, value added taxes, etc. and an understanding of how those design features affect tax compliance and tax payers' compliance burden.
- 3.) Understand tools such as benefit/cost analysis and public goods.

Responsibilities

The SI team analyzes a range of public finance issues related to tax policy and administration, the federal budget, and intergovernmental relations. Recent studies cover tax reform, state and local fiscal capacity, effective corporate tax rates, specific tax preferences such as the research tax credit, and resource allocation within IRS. They seek public finance economists with applied microeconomic and econometric skills interested in the behavioral effects, incidence and benefits/costs of federal tax and other policies.

Generally speaking, public finance economists do analyses of the economic efficiency and distributional effects (incidence) of government spending and tax policies. In SI's case, the focus is more on the tax side, especially federal tax policy and administration. However, an SI Tax Economist could also expect to work on a broader range of topics including federal budget issues, such as long-term projections for federal deficits, and intergovernmental fiscal relations. Strong candidates will have a solid background in applied public finance -- meaning an applied microeconomics and econometrics background combined with knowledge of federal tax policy, public goods and

benefit/cost analysis. They will have shown interest in working on analyses of: tax caused distortions or inefficiencies in particular markets such as housing or health insurance; incidence or distributional effects of tax policy; revenue effects of tax policy; and tax compliance, tax administration, and taxpayer compliance burden.

Compensation: Up to \$114,642. No relocation expenses provided.

Location: Washington, DC

Education: Advanced degree highly preferred

EEO: All candidates will be considered without regard to race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. The GAO provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities.

Citizenship: U.S. Citizenship required.

Contact:

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JDG Associates, established in 1973, is a leading provider of executive recruiting services to federal/state/local government, non-profit organizations, trade associations, Fortune 1000 corporations, and a variety of government contractors.



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