



# WSS NEWS

April 2010

WASHINGTON  
STATISTICAL  
SOCIETY

## Conference on Quantitative Methods in Defense & National Security “QMDNS 2010”

25-26 May 2010

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA  
<http://www.galaxy.gmu.edu/QMDNS2010/>

Please join us for QMDNS 2010. The goal of the conference is to promote collaboration between those who have quantitative problems in defense and national security, and quantitative professionals such as statisticians, mathematicians, operations researchers, and engineers who are engaged in solving such problems.

### Call for Papers & Posters

The conference is currently soliciting papers and posters on quantitative methods that can be used to solve problems in defense and national security and papers that describe quantitative defense and national security problems. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

data mining, network analysis, data fusion, bioterrorism, automated discovery, forensic analysis, syndromic surveillance, privacy and data integrity, and the description of defense and national security data analysis problems.

Submission & registration information can be found at <http://www.galaxy.gmu.edu/QMDNS2010/>. All submissions must be made prior to 26 April 2010 and authors of accepted presentations will be notified by 3 May 2010. All presenters are eligible to publish their work in the American Statistical Association's Proceedings of the Joint Statistical Meetings.

### Registration

To register to attend QMDNS 2010, visit <http://www.galaxy.gmu.edu/QMDNS2010/>. Register prior to 10 May 2010 to take advantage of reduced Early Bird rates.

### Program Information

The program will consist of invited sessions that have been organized by the Technical Program Committee, contributed presentations, and a special poster session in the evening of the first night. All posters and presentations will be refereed. Contributed sessions will not be held at the same time as invited sessions, and contributed speakers will be given approximately 25 minutes for their talk. See the website for more information.

### Questions?

Contact the Technical Program Chairs, Dr. Jeff Solka ([Jeffrey.Solka@navy.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.Solka@navy.mil)) or Dr. Myron Katzoff ([mjk5@cdc.gov](mailto:mjk5@cdc.gov)) for more information.

## **WSS and Other Seminars**

(All events are open to any interested persons)

### **April**

- 2 Fri. **ROC curves for biomarkers affected by measurement error**
- 6 Tues. **Human Resources in Science and Technology: Surveys, Data, and Indicators from the National Science Foundation**
- 21 Wed. **SAS/STAT 9.22: The Next Generation**
- 26 Mon. **Is it Culturally Ethical? Human Rights Challenges in International Survey Research**
- 28 Wed. **A Stochastic Search Approach to Solving the Cell Suppression Problem for 3-Dimensional Hierarchical Tables**

### **May**

- 12 Wed. **Use of Data Mining Methods For Survey Data**
- 26 Wed. **The Concept of Human Exposure Assessment**

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

### **4th Annual Probability and Statistics Day at UMBC**

The 4th Annual Probability and Statistics Day at UMBC 2010 will be held during April 23 - 24. In addition, this year we will also celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Statistics Graduate Program at UMBC will also be celebrated.

The website for the conference is now open, and here it is....

<http://www.umbc.edu/circ/hosting/ProbStatDay2010/>

Please attend and participate.

## Announcement

The Survey Research Methods Section of American Statistical Association and AAPOR are proud to announce the next webinar in their new web-based training program.

### **Human Resources in Science and Technology: Surveys, Data, and Indicators from the National Science Foundation**

Nirmala Kannankutty, PhD,  
National Science Foundation, Science Resources Statistics, <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/>

Tuesday, April 6, 2010, 1-3pm EST, <http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/webinar.cfm>

#### **Abstract:**

The Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS) is a federal statistical agency housed at the National Science Foundation (NSF). SRS's role within NSF is to "provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources, and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal Government..." Within this mandate SRS is involved in collecting and disseminating information on R&D expenditures and activities and on human capital issues. The United States is unique among major industrialized nations in that it has directly invested in collecting detailed data from a variety of sources on the entire science and engineering pipeline. Each of the data sources came about from U.S. federal administrative needs. The sources have evolved into important elements for the study of higher education and the scientific workforce. In this webinar, these surveys and data sources are described. Key indicators regarding trends in U.S. science and engineering degree production, enrollments, and workforce are defined and described. The *Science and Engineering Indicators: 2010* and *Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering* reports will be used as examples for these indicators. At the end of the webinar participants should be aware of data sources and how data are collected, indicators and reports from the NSF, and where to find more information from the NSF.

#### ***Registration will be opened soon***

For each webinar, participants register for a modest fee. Fees may vary from webinar to webinar depending on the length of the presentation and expected audience. Each registration is allowed one web connection and one audio connection. The section encourages multiple persons to view each registered connection.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rick Peterson at the ASA office using the below information.

Rick Peterson, Education Programs Associate  
American Statistical Association  
732 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22153  
(703) 684-1221 ext. 1864  
FAX: (703) 684-3768  
[rick@amstat.org](mailto:rick@amstat.org) / [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org)

## Announcement

### Interface 2010: Computational Statistics and Human Behavior 41st SYMPOSIUM ON THE INTERFACE

The Westin - Seattle  
Seattle, Washington  
June 16-19, 2010

---

The pdf version of the announcement is attached.

---

#### Program Chairs

Edward J. Wegman

Department of Computational and Data Sciences and Department of Statistics

George Mason University

MS 6A2, 4400 University Drive

Fairfax, VA 22030

ewegman@gmail.com

Yasmin H. Said

Department of Computational and Data Sciences and Center for Social Complexity

George Mason University

MS 6A2, 4400 University Drive

Fairfax, VA 22030

ysaid99@hotmail.com

#### Keynote Address

Adrian E. Raftery, University of Washington

“Probabilistic Projections of HIV Prevalence Using Bayesian Melding with Incremental Mixture Importance Sampling (IMIS)”

#### Short Courses

Tim Gulden Agent-Based Modeling and Simulation

Edward J. Wegman, Statistical Natural Languages and Text Mining

#### Sponsor

The Interface Foundation of North America

#### Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the May issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until April 15, 2010. Items for publication in the June issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until May 15, 2010. E-mail items to Michael Feil at [michael.feil@ams.usda.gov](mailto:michael.feil@ams.usda.gov). The June issue will be the last issue for which he will be the editor. Email him for more specific information if you are interested in the position.

## Program Announcement

- Title:** ROC curves for biomarkers affected by measurement error
- Speaker:** Neil Perkins, Ph.D. Staff Scientist,  
Division of Statistics, Epidemiology and Prevention Research  
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- Date/Time:** Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 / 11:00a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Location:** Executive Plaza North, 6130 Executive Boulevard, Conference Room H, Rockville MD. Photo ID and sign-in required.
- Metro:** See below.
- Map:** <http://dceg.cancer.gov/images/localmap.gif>
- Sponsor:** Public Health and Biostatistics Section, WSS and the NCI
- Abstract:** Biomarkers are of increasing importance in clinical research and epidemiology. The receiver operating characteristic curve is a statistical tool that helps investigators identify biomarkers which can effectively, for a given criteria, distinguish between two populations, often those with or without a particular disease. These methods are largely well established for true biomarker levels, however it is rarely the case in which biomarkers are measured without error. In this talk, methods to estimate the ROC curve and its summary indices while adjusting or accounting for various types of measurement error will be presented.
- Metro:** Get off at the White Flint stop on the Red Line, and take Nicholson Lane to Executive Blvd. Make a Right and continue, crossing Old Georgetown Rd. When you reach what is more or less tree foliage and the road begins to bend to the right you enter the Executive Plaza Complex parking lot. EPN will be the right most of the two twin buildings.

## Program Announcement

Title: **SAS/STAT 9.22: The Next Generation**

Speaker: Robert N. Rodriguez  
SAS Institute

Robert N. Rodriguez is Senior Director of Statistical R&D at SAS Institute. Bob joined SAS in 1983 and received his Ph.D. in statistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1977. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and is a candidate for ASA president-elect in the 2010 election.

Chair: Brian Meekins, BLS  
WSS Methodology Section Chair

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 21, 2010/ 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](mailto: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.

Video Link: Westat, Rockville Offices  
On a trial basis, Westat is opening up its conference center for watching the lecture remotely. Reservation required. Call Fran Winter, 301-294-4419.

Sponsor: Methodology Section, WSS

Abstract: This presentation will begin with a review of SAS/STAT 9.2 and then describe new statistical functionality in SAS/STAT 9.22, the next major release of SAS/STAT, which will be coupled with the third maintenance release of SAS 9.2. In SAS/STAT 9.22, the new SURVEYPHREG procedure fits Cox regression models to survey data. Many linear models procedures are now equipped with comparable facilities for postfitting inference, including recent techniques for testing complex research hypotheses. The new PLM procedure performs postfitting inference with model fit information saved from a number of modeling procedures. The EFFECT statement, which defines a richer family of linear models, is implemented in a large number of procedures. The EFFECTPLOT statement, which uses ODS Graphics to visualize the influence of model effects, is available in the SURVEYLOGISTIC, GENMOD, and LOGISTIC procedures. The GENMOD procedure provides zero-inflated negative binomial models as well as zero-inflated Poisson models for dealing with overdispersion, and it provides exact Poisson regression. The CALIS procedure provides more powerful features for structural equations modeling.

## Program Announcement

Title: **Is it Culturally Ethical? Human Rights Challenges in International Survey Research**

Speaker: Safaa Amer, Senior Statistician, NORC at the University of Chicago

Discussant: Mary Gray, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, American University

Chair: Michael P. Cohen, Senior Consultant, NORC at the University of Chicago

Date/Time: Monday, April 26, 2010 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.  
(Rescheduled from February 5, 2010)

Location: **PLEASE NOTICE CHANGE FROM USUAL LOCATION.**  
Pew Research Center 1615 L Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036-5621

RSVP Instructions: If you are planning on attending this seminar, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at [carol.blumberg@eia.doe.gov](mailto:carol.blumberg@eia.doe.gov) by Monday, April 19.

Sponsors: WSS Data Collection Methods, WSS Human Rights, DC-AAPOR, and Capital Area Social Psychological Association

Abstract: In a global research world the need continues to arise for an umbrella of standards to shield human participants' rights and research ethics. When a team of survey researchers works on an international project where a mix of cultures, languages, or regions is handled, careful eyes should look at ethical and human rights issues. Although the basics of research ethics tend to seem simple, cultural considerations, differences of laws and regulations, level of vulnerability of the population, and many other factors add a twist to the situation. This calls for special handling due to inherent differences in the population of interest and their surrounding environment. This talk presents examples from around the world of challenges faced in social and behavioral projects; use and abuse of cross-cultural ethics; some lessons learned, and future considerations.

Important Note: Videoconferencing will not be available for this seminar.

For further information contact Carol Joyce Blumberg at [carol.blumberg@eia.doe.gov](mailto:carol.blumberg@eia.doe.gov) or (202) 586-6565.

## Program Announcement

- Title:** A Stochastic Search Approach to Solving the Cell Suppression Problem for 3-Dimensional Hierarchical Tables
- Speaker:** Matt Fetter  
National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Chair:** Mel Kollander
- Date/time:** Wednesday, April 28, 2010 / 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto: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:** Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Abstract:** Cell suppression is one method that is commonly used to reduce disclosure risk when data are published in hierarchical tables. A form of optimality is achieved for 2-dimensional tables by formulating the cell suppression problem as a minimum cost flow problem. There are issues with this approach in general, and for its application to 3-dimensional tables in particular. First, cell suppression is fundamentally an integer programming problem with a non-smooth cost function. Secondly, the minimum cost flow approach is not directly applicable to 3-dimensional tables. A stochastic search approach is presented that is guaranteed to generate closed paths in 3-dimensional tables. Although no claim of optimality can be made, this method is capable of finding good solutions significantly faster than a blind random search.
- Point of contact e-mail: [Matt\\_Fetter@nass.usda.gov](mailto:Matt_Fetter@nass.usda.gov)



## Program Announcement

- Title:** Use of Data Mining Methods For Survey Data
- Speakers:** Thomas Jacob, Jaki McCarthy, and Dan Beckler  
National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Chair:** Mel Kollander
- Date/time:** Wednesday, May 12, 2010 / 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto: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:** Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Abstract:** Data mining is the process of discovering meaningful correlations, patterns and trends in large databases. Data mining methods can be very effective at improving survey data quality during data collection, editing, and at summarization. This presentation reports the results of applying some data mining methods to survey data. The methods include anomaly detection, exploratory analysis, clustering, and data visualization.
- Point of contact e-mail: [Thomas.Jacob@nass.usda.gov](mailto:Thomas.Jacob@nass.usda.gov)

## Program Announcement

- Title:**            **The Concept of Human Exposure Assessment**
- Speaker:**        Mel Kollander
- Chair:**           Barry Nussbaum
- Date/time:**      Wednesday, May 26, 2010 / 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Location:**       Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto: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:**        Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Abstract:**        The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized that exposure to environmental pollutants can lead to adverse health effects. Exposures to a given chemical can be occupational and/or non-occupational, and they can take place in indoor and outdoor microenvironments. Exposures can occur via different routes, such as inhaled air, drinking water, ingested food and dermal contact, that need to be added together to estimate a subject's total exposure, that determines their health effect. EPA scientists and survey experts by working together were the leaders in developing scientifically defensible methodologies to characterize human exposures. A number of landmark studies were sponsored by EPA and for the first time quantitative evidence of exposures to pollutants such as Carbon Monoxide (CO) were developed and used to support regulatory development. The presentation will include descriptions of how personal exposures are measured using personal monitors, collections of body fluids, the survey techniques used, and examples of results from such studies.
- Point of contact e-mail:**        [mellk@erols.com](mailto:mellk@erols.com)

## Announcement

### **SUMMER PROGRAM IN APPLIED ECONOMETRICS - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON, DC**

May 10 - May 14, 2010  
FORECASTING - Graham Elliott, U. C. San Diego

May 24 - May 28, 2010  
BAYESIAN ECONOMETRICS & DECISION-MAKING - John Geweke, U Iowa and UTS,  
Australia

The Info-Metrics Institute and the Department of Economics of American University, Washington, DC, are pleased to announce two upcoming summer program courses, "Forecasting," with Graham Elliott, UCSD and "Bayesian Econometrics & Decision-Making," with John Geweke, U Iowa and UTS, Australia.

The primary purpose of the summer program in applied econometrics is to provide students, researchers and faculty with state of the art econometric methods for analyzing data in the Social Sciences. Each day of the week-long course consists of morning lectures that develop the basic concepts and philosophy as well as their applications to real economic problems and data. Each afternoon, these methods will be applied and practiced in the computer lab. These daily tutorials and work in the computer lab provide students with 'hands on' experience in using these methods with real data.

**TARGET GROUP AND REQUIREMENTS:** Each course in the program is open to students who have completed at least a year of econometrics at the Ph.D. level, to professional economists, researchers and econometricians who work in government agencies, non-governmental organizations and in the private market.

**CLASS MATERIALS:** The text for each class will be announced prior to the class and will include a text book and/or a reader consisting of a collection of papers.

**DAILY SCHEDULE:** Classes begin at 9:00 am and end at 4:30 or 5:00 pm. There will be a morning coffee break, a lunch break and an afternoon break.

**REGISTRATION:** Please visit  
<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/econometrics.cfm>  
and  
<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/news.cfm>  
for information on how to register.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Further questions about this program should be directed to Amos Golan, Professor, Info-Metrics Institute and Department of Economics.

Further questions about registration and administrative issues should be directed to Aisha Malik, Senior Administrative Assistant, or Glen Arnold, Administrative Coordinator, Department of Economics:

**ADDRESS:** Department of Economics, American University  
Roper Hall 105, 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20016

**PHONE:** (202) 885-3770

**FAX:** (202) 885-3790

**EMAIL:** ECON@AMERICAN.EDU, malik@american.edu or gwarnol@american.edu

## Announcement

### **WSS Participates in ‘Counting America’** Amelia Vogel, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Saturday, February 27, 2010 was the [2<sup>nd</sup> Annual African American History Program Free Family Day](#) at the Marian Koshland Science Museum in Washington, DC. This year’s theme was “Counting America,” an event about the history of and the perceptions surrounding the decennial Census. In addition to the Washington Statistical Society (WSS), the program included representatives from the Bureau of the Census, the National Archives, and the American Anthropological Association. When Shail Butani (also of BLS and the WSS Quantitative Literacy Coordinator for K-12) asked if I would like to represent the WSS to perform a hands-on statistics demonstration for the event, I jumped at the opportunity. Before I attended graduate school, I had worked part-time at a science museum as an exhibit explainer, sort of a tour guide for the museum. The best part of the job was getting to perform science demonstrations in front of an audience—making vinegar and baking soda “volcanoes” or causing children’s hair to stand on end from static electricity—so being offered a similar opportunity through WSS was right up my alley. I was joined by three other WSS representatives: Tran Kratzke (BLS), Carol Joyce Blumberg (EIA), and Jon Lisic (USDA-NASS).

Our demonstration was a capture-recapture study. We had a large bowl full of Pepperidge Farm Goldfish crackers (parmesan flavored, mmmm), to simulate a lake populated with fish. Pretending to be wildlife ecologists, we caught a sample of the Goldfish population, tagged them, and released them back into the wild of the fishbowl. Ok, so we actually just replaced the captured pale-yellow parmesan Goldfish with an equal amount of dark-brown pretzel Goldfish, in effect “tagging and releasing” the first sample. We then selected a second sample from the fishbowl and determined the proportion of tagged pretzel fish that we had recaptured. Since we already knew the total number of pretzel fish that exist in the population (we made sure to count our first tagged sample), we were able to estimate the total population size contained within the fishbowl from the proportion of pretzel fish we caught in our second sample. By accumulating the results through repeated sampling, with the assistance of museum visitors, our estimate became a better and better approximation of the true population size of all fish in the pond, parmesan and pretzel.

How does this demonstration relate to the Census theme of the event? Capture-recapture methods are also used to estimate homeless populations. An investigator may visit a location and interview homeless people present on the day of the visit. By returning to that same location on subsequent visits and noting the proportion of same individuals who were interviewed during the first visit, the total homeless population for that location can be estimated.

I am happy to report that the Koshland Museum’s Family Day was a smashing success. There were about 150 visitors in attendance, from elementary school children to adults. We, the WSS representatives, were asked many wonderful questions and the visitors were engaged by our demonstration. Of course, offering small paper cups with extra “non-experimental” Goldfish for snacking may have helped in attracting an audience.

## Announcement

### Quantitative Methods in Defense and National Security 2010

**Dates:** Tuesday May 25 - Wednesday May 26

**Place:** George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

The goal of the Quantitative Methods in Defense and National Security conference is to promote collaboration between users who have quantitative defense and national security problems & quantitative professionals such as statisticians, mathematicians, operations researchers, engineers, etc.

The conference is soliciting papers on quantitative methods that can be used to solve problems in defense and national security and papers that describe defense and national security data analysis problems. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to quantitative methods involving data mining, network analysis, data fusion, bioterrorism, automated discovery, forensic analysis, syndromic surveillance, privacy and data integrity, and the description of defense and national security data analysis problems. Submission & registration information can be found at <http://www.galaxy.gmu.edu/QMDNS2010/>.

The program will consist of invited sessions that have been organized by the Technical Program Committee, contributed presentations, and a special poster session in the evening of the first night. All contributed posters and presentations will be refereed. Contributed sessions will not be held at the same time as invited sessions, and contributed speakers will be given approximately 25 minutes for their talk.

Contact Jeff Solka ([Jeffrey.Solka@navy.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.Solka@navy.mil)) or Myron Katzoff ([mjk5@cdc.gov](mailto:mjk5@cdc.gov)) for more information.

For more info click here: [www.galaxy.gmu.edu/QMDNS2010/](http://www.galaxy.gmu.edu/QMDNS2010/)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:resume@westat.com) / FAX: (888) 201-1452

Equal Opportunity Employer.

[www.westat.com](http://www.westat.com)

---

## CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS

The Biostatistics Center  
The George Washington University

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 Qualifications:** 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](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu). Only complete applications will be considered.

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

### STATISTICIANS

Mathematica Policy Research is seeking statisticians to support its survey sampling and analysis activities. Currently, we have openings in our Washington, D.C. office and our headquarters in Princeton, NJ. Mathematica is seeking statisticians with knowledge and experience in survey sample design and selection (including, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation) or biostatistical methods. The candidate should also have strong oral and written communication skills, the ability to work in an interdisciplinary team, and familiarity with statistical software.

Mathematica is a nationally recognized research organization that conducts social policy studies on health care, disability, education, welfare, nutrition, and related topics. Through our projects and presentations before Congress, federal, state and local governments, foundations, and at professional association conferences, Mathematica strives to improve public well-being by bringing the highest standards of quality, objectivity, and excellence to bear on the provision of information collection and analysis to our clients. Our projects use interdisciplinary teams made up of subject matter specialists, statisticians, data collectors, and systems analysts that span our offices in Washington DC, Princeton NJ, Cambridge MA, Ann Arbor MI, Chicago, IL, and Oakland, CA. See our website (<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com>) for more information about our work.

Qualifications of the position:

- Ph.D. in statistics, biostatistics, or an equivalent combination of education and experience
- Background and experience in sample design and survey methodology or biostatistics
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Knowledge and experience with statistical programming is desirable
- Knowledge and/or experience in one or more of the following areas is desirable: small area estimation, causal inference, hierarchical linear modeling, or experimental (random assignment) and quasi-experimental design

We offer our employees a stimulating, team-oriented work environment, competitive salaries, and a comprehensive benefits package, as well as the advantages of employee ownership. We provide generous paid time off and an on-site fitness center.

Please submit a cover letter, resume, salary requirements and contact information for three references to our employment website at:

<https://careers.mathematica-mpr.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=51310>.



P.O. Box 2033  
Washington, DC 20013

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

<b>President</b> John Eltinge	202-691-7404	<b>Past President</b> Karol P. Krotki	202-728-2485	<b>President-Elect</b> Michael Brick	301-294-2004
	<b>Secretary</b> Darryl Creel	301-770-8229	<b>Treasurer</b> Jane Li	240-314-2566	
<b>Vice Chair for District 2 of Council of Chapters</b> Glenn White	202-327-6414	<b>Representative-at-Large</b>		<b>Council of Chapters Representative</b> Jonaki Bose	240-276-1257
	Jim Knaub	202-586-3014	Elizabeth Margosches	202-564-7636	
	Christine Cox	301-458-4164	Robert Santos	202-261-5904	
<b>Student Representative</b> Parisa Meisami	202-412-2251				
<b>WSS Program Chairs</b>					
<b>Agriculture and Natural Resources</b>		<b>Economics</b>		<b>Methodology</b>	
Mel Kollander	703-642-8079	Linda Atkinson	202-694-5046	Brian Meekins	202-691-7594
Mike Fleming	202-366-0183	Anne Polivka	202-691-7395	David Judkins	301-315-5970
Barry Nussbaum	202-566-1493				
<b>Public Health and Biostatistics</b>		<b>Public Policy</b>		<b>Quality Assurance and Physical Sciences</b>	
Grant Izmirlan	301-496-7519	Michael L. Cohen	202-334-3765	Amrut Champaneri	202-366-5998
Carolyn Carroll	202-320-8709	Shelly Martinez	202-395-3147	Alan Jeeves	202-366-4194
<b>Defense and National Security</b>		<b>Human Rights</b>			
Wendy Martinez	540-284-1032	Michael P. Cohen	202-232-4651		
Myron Katzoff	301-458-4307				
<b>Short Courses</b>		<b>Social and Demographic Statistics</b>		<b>Statistical Computing</b>	
Sylvia Dohrmann	301-610-5119	Judy Droitcour	202-512-9145	Charlie Hallahan	202-694-5051
		Promod Chandbok	202-366-2158		
<b>Electronic Mail Committee</b>		<b>Data Collection Methods</b>		<b>Membership</b>	
Michael Greene	301-504-7335	Carol Blumberg	202-586-6565	John Czajka	202-484-4685
S.V. (Vince) Massimini	703- 983-5893	Eugene Burns	202-586-1385	John Dixon	202-691-7516
<b>Webmaster</b>		<b>WSS NEWS Editor</b>		<b>Curtis Jacobs Award</b>	
Dan Jacobs	301- 405-6383	Michael Feil	202-690-3130	Tom Krenzke	301-251-4203
<b>Employment</b>		<b>Quantitative Literacy</b>		<b>Local Arrangements</b>	
Anne Peterson	703-979-1191	Jill Montaquila	301-517-4046	Kevin Cecco	202-874-0464
<b>Video Librarian</b>		<b>Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition</b>		<b>Quantitative Literacy Workshop</b>	
Phil Kalina	703-725-6600	Cammy Fine	202-327-7730	Mark Otto	301-497-5872
		Nicole Miller	202-327-8309		
<b>Social Arrangements</b>		<b>WSS Committee on ASA Fellows</b>		<b>Financial Advisor and Audit Committee</b>	
Yasmin Said	301-538-7478	Dwight Brock	301-517-4026	Stuart Scott	202-691-7383
Yves Thibaudeau	301-763-1706	Marilyn Seastrom	202-502-7303	R. Clifton Bailey	703-893-8719
Chris Cummiskey	301-704-4576	Randy Curtin	301-458-4172		
		Fritz Scheuren	202-320-3446		
<b>Video Coordinator</b>		<b>Historian</b>		<b>Science Fair Coordinator</b>	
Dan Gillman	202-691-7523	Tom Mule	301-763-8322	Bob Clickner	301-294-2815

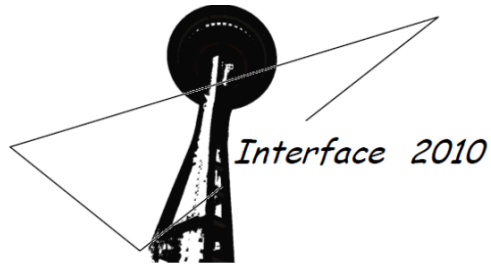


**FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT  
and  
CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

**41<sup>st</sup> Symposium on the Interface:  
Computing Science and Statistics**

Theme:  
**Computational Statistics  
and Human Behavior**

June 16-19, 2010  
Westin Hotel, Seattle, Washington



***Interface 2010***

**Sponsored by**

The Interface Foundation of North America

**Hosted by**

George Mason University

**Financial Sponsors**

ASA Section on Statistical Computing  
ASA Section on Statistical Graphics  
National Institute of Statistical Science

**Cooperating Organizations**

ASA, CSNA, ENAR, IASC, IMS,  
INFORMS, SIAM, WNAR

This symposium is a long-standing forum focusing on the  
interface between computing science and statistics.

## ***An Invitation***

The Interface Foundation of North America cordially invites you to participate in the 41<sup>st</sup> Interface Symposium, the premier annual conference on the interface of computing and statistics. The Foundation is a non-profit educational corporation founded in 1987 to sponsor the symposium and publish the proceedings. IFNA also co-publishes the *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*. For further information about IFNA visit our web site at <http://www.interfacesymposia.org>.

## ***Call for Participation***

In 2010 we are focusing on modern problems related to the conjunction of computational statistical methods and the modeling of human, societal, and cultural behaviors. With the emergence of social networking software and the dramatically increased interest in understanding societal behavior and cultural understanding, computational tools such as agent-based modeling and simulation and social network analysis have attracted considerable attention in academic circles as well as more clinical and applied settings. The 2010 Interface will focus on traditional computational statistics topics with an awareness of how our computational tools can enhance the quantitative and computational studies in the social sciences.

We invite papers and presentations from all areas of statistics, computer science and application areas relevant to modern social science data analysis. However, submissions need not be limited to social science applications, but can include all of the traditional topics covered in the Interface traditions. Discipline scientists are often at the frontier of work with new data types and we encourage them share their problems and solutions with us whether or not those solutions appeal to traditional statistical or data mining methods.

Sessions will include invited, special focus, refereed, and contributed paper sessions.

**Invited sessions** are organized by members of the Program Committee and designed to cover both the depth and breadth of current research related to the theme. See the section below on the Invited Program.

**Special focus sessions** are new this year: any participant can organize a special focus session on the topic of their choice by submitting a set of four or five abstracts related to the topic. The Program Chairs will review the abstracts and endeavor to keep the papers together in a devoted session. **Individuals who wish to propose a special focus session should submit their titles and abstracts by March 1, 2010.**

**Refereed paper sessions** offer participants the opportunity to develop their research records with a relatively rapid review process. Refereed contributions are to be full, conference-style papers (not to exceed 12 pages) **submitted by April 1, 2010**. They will be reviewed by members of the Program Committee or others appointed by the Program Chairs. Refereed papers which are accepted as such will be collected into special sessions and speakers will be given a full 30 minutes to present their results - the same as invited speakers. Papers submitted as refereed, but not accepted as such will still be part of the contributed program.

**Contributed sessions** will be organized by the Program Chairs from contributed abstracts, which are **due by April 15, 2010**. Depending on participation level, it is possible that some contributed authors may be asked to prepare poster presentations.

Full instructions and an abstract submission form are available on the conference web site, <http://www.interfacesymposia.org/Interface2010/>. The proceedings will be published, for Interface 2010 in the form of a CD-ROM and online. Former page restrictions have been raised and color illustrations, animations, data, and software source code will be allowed.

## ***Financial Support***

Limited funds may be available to support travel and per diem expenses with preference given to young researchers and graduate students. Highest priority will be given to those who will be presenting papers or posters. **Request for financial support should be made electronically by April 15, 2010 via the form available on the conference web site.**

## ***Accommodations and Air Discounts***

Accommodations and all sessions will be at the Westin Hotel in Seattle. The Westin is located at 1900 5th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101, which is in the city center of Seattle. It is ideally situated near Seattle's best attractions and offers breathtaking views of Lake Union, Puget Sound, and the surrounding mountains. The facility is near the famous Space Needle linked to it by a monorail. The nightly rate will be \$149 plus tax. **A limited number of rooms are reserved and Interface participants should make reservations as early as possible.** Guest room reservations for attendees can be made either online: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/InterfaceFoundation2010> or by calling The Westin Reservations Department 1-206-728-1000, or through the Central Reservations office in U.S. and Canada at 1-888-627-8513. The Group will be listed as INTERFACE FOUNDATION OF NORTH AMERICA in their reservations system. Interface has arranged for discounted tickets

on Alaska Airlines offering 7% discount with discount code ECCMB1268 and on American Airlines offering 5% discount with discount code 4760AT.

### ***Transportation from the Airport***

For people flying in to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac), the Downtown Airporter offers bus transportation between the airport and eight major hotels including The Westin. Tickets can be purchased [online](#) with a valid credit card, email address, and printer (required), from Downtown Airporter Drivers, or at the Gray Line of Seattle desk at the south end of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport main terminal in the atrium. Reservations are not accepted. Buses run every 30 minutes departing from the Airport starting at 6:30 am and ending at 9:00 pm. Buses leave The Westin Seattle every 30 minutes departing at 20 and 50 minutes after the hour beginning at 5:20 am. The last bus leaves The Westin Seattle at 9:20 pm. For attendees traveling in groups of 2 or 3, a taxi can be an economical alternative transportation mode between Sea-Tac Airport and The Westin in Seattle. During the daylight hours, there is a free bus that circulates in the downtown Seattle area.

## ***The Preliminary Program: Invited Sessions and Organizers***

**Keynote Address:** *Adrian E. Raftery (University of Washington)*

- 21st Century Applications of Agent-Based Models, *Yasmin Said (George Mason)*
- Computational Epidemiology Applications to Public Health *Yasmin Said (George Mason)*
- Computational and Statistical Issues in Agent-Based Models, *Georgiy Bobashev (RTI International)*
- Uncertainty in Simulation Modeling, *Georgiy Bobashev (RTI International)*
- Computational Social Science, *Adrian Raftery (Washington)*
- Sampling and Inference for Hidden Networked Populations *Mark Handcock (UCLA)*
- Recent Computational Topics in Astrostatistics *Rebecca Nugent (CMU)*
- Model Selection Problems in Kernel-Based Methods with Applications *Hamparsum Bozdogan (Tennessee)*
- Robust Methods in Regression *David Scott (Rice)*
- Separating the Wheat from the Chaff - Feature Selection in High-Dimensional Regression *Tim Hesterberg (GOOGLE)*
- Computationally Intense Inverse Problems *C. Shane Reese (Brigham Young)*
- Learning from Proximity Data *Michael W. Trosset (Indiana)*
- Computer Models, Virtual Laboratories *Stephan R. Sain (NCAR)*
- All at See: Snapshots of Modern Visualization Research *Antony Unwin (Augsburg)*
- Visualizing Intrusion Detection Data *Rida Moustafa (dMining Technology)*
- JCGS Highlights: Graphical Methods *David van Dyk (Cal, Irvine)*
- Non-English Text Data Mining Via the Vector Space Model *Jeffrey Solka (NSWC)*
- Interfacing Text Mining and Image Analysis *Adi Wilhelm (Jacobs)*
- Quantitative Horizon Scanning *David Marchette (NSWC)*
- Computing on Streams *William F. Szewczyk (NSA)*
- Statistical Analysis and Data Mining: Exploring the Future of Their Interface *Arnie Goodman*
- Statistical Analysis and Data Mining: Novel Data, Reordering and Graphics *Arnie Goodman*

### **Short Courses:**

- **Tim Gulden** *Agent-Based Modeling and Simulation*
- **Edward J. Wegman**, *Statistical Natural Languages and Text Mining*

### *The Preliminary Conference Schedule*

Date	Events
Wed. June 16	<p style="text-align: center;">Registration begins</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interface ½ day Short Courses:</p> <p><b>Short Course I: Agent-Based Modeling and Simulation</b> (8:00 a.m. - noon) Tim Gulden, George Mason University</p> <p><b>Short Course II: <i>Statistical Natural Languages and Text Mining</i></b> (1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.) Edward Wegman, George Mason University</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Evening Mixer (8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)</p>
Thurs. June 17	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address (8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Technical sessions begin (10:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conference Banquet (7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.)</p>
Fri. June 18	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical sessions continue (8:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.)</p>
Sat. June 19	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical sessions continue (8:00 a.m. - noon)</p>

### *About Seattle*

The founding of Seattle is usually dated from the arrival of the Denny Party in 1851. The next April, Arthur A. Denny abandoned the original site at Alki in favor of a better protected site on Elliott Bay that is now part of downtown Seattle. Around the same time, David Swinson "Doc" Maynard began settling the land immediately south of Denny's. Seattle in its early decades relied on the timber industry, shipping logs and milled timber to San Francisco. A forest of trees up to 1,000–2,000 years old and towering as high as nearly 400 ft (100 m) covered much of what is now Seattle. The logging town developed rapidly over decades into a small city. Despite being officially founded by the Methodists of the Denny Party, Seattle quickly developed a reputation as a wide-open town, a haven for prostitution, liquor, and gambling. On July 14, 1873 the Northern Pacific Railway announced that they had chosen the then-village of Tacoma over Seattle as the Western terminus of their trans-continental railroad. This set up a continuing rivalry between Tacoma and Seattle. Seattle made several attempts to build a railroad of its own. The Great Northern Railway finally came to Seattle in 1884. The early Seattle era came to a halt with the Great Seattle Fire of June 6, 1889. Started by a glue pot, the fire burned 29 city blocks almost entirely wooden buildings. It destroyed nearly the entire business district, all of the railroad terminals, and all but four of the wharves.

Modern Seattle rose from the ashes and has become the major metropolitan area in the Pacific Northwest. Some things to do besides Interface 2010 include **The Space Needle** with a 41-second elevator ride taking you up 520 feet to the observation deck from the 1962 World's Fair. The **Pike Place Market**, born 1907, is the granddaddy of farmers' markets. Today, it's a major tourist attraction with 200 businesses operating year-round, 190 craftspeople and 120 farmer booths - plus street performers and musicians. **Ferries** are a state of mind as much as a means of transportation to some of the Puget Sound's most historic and scenic sites with views of the Olympic and Cascade mountains, the Seattle cityscape and the green shorelines. The **Underground Tour**: After the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, the city was rebuilt over the top of the ruins. This guided tour takes visitors through the hidden subterranean passages that once were the main roadways and storefronts of old downtown Seattle.

**Program Chairs:**

Dr. Edward J. Wegman  
George Mason University  
Center for Computational Data Sciences  
Mail Stop 6A2  
4400 University Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444  
email: ewegman@gmail.com

Dr. Yasmin Said  
George Mason University  
Center for Computational Data Sciences  
Mail Stop 6A2  
4400 University Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444  
email: ysaid99@hotmail.com

**Registration Fees**  
(IN US DOLLARS)

REGISTRANTS* * : (INCLUDES ONE BANQUET TICKET)	BY MAY 1	AFTER MAY 1
MEMBERS OF INTERFACE	\$275	\$325
MEMBERS OF COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS	\$325	\$375
NON-MEMBERS	\$385	\$440
STUDENTS	\$100	\$125
SINGLE-DAY (W/O BANQUET)	\$125	\$150
BANQUET TICKET	\$50	\$65

**REGISTRATION FORM**

MAIL TO: INTERFACE 2008  
PO BOX 7460  
FAIRFAX STATION, VA 22039

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ I WANT TO JOIN INTERFACE NOW \$35

JOB AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

JOB ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\* \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE FEES

MEMBER (INTERFACE) \$275 / \$325

MEMBER (COOPERATING) \$325 / \$375

NON-MEMBER \$385 / \$440

STUDENT \$125 / \$150

SINGLE DAY \$125 / \$150  
(NO BANQUET TICKET)

GUEST BANQUET

TICKETS @ \$50 / \$65 EACH \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL (CHECK ENCLOSED) \$\_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD:

\* \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\* \_\_\_\_\_

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

CARD TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ EXP.DATE \_\_\_\_\_

THREE OR FOUR DIGIT SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Returned checks or denied credit cards will be rebilled with \$30 surcharge. Make checks payable to Interface. No refunds are available after May 1, 2010. Interface will accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express. If you wish to use a credit card please include the name, billing address, type of card, card number, the three- or four digit security code (found on the signature line on the back of the card), and expiration date of the credit card. Note: the regular registration includes a banquet ticket; student and one-day registration does not. In order to take a short course, one must be registered for the Symposium.