



# WSS NEWS

June 2010

WASHINGTON  
STATISTICAL  
SOCIETY

## 2010 Annual Dinner

The WSS Annual Dinner will be held Thursday, June 10, 2010, at *Maggiannos in Chevy Chase* in Washington, DC. Michael R. Elliot of the University of Michigan and winner of the Gertrude M. Cox Award will be our Guest Speaker. Dr. Elliot will speak about the relevance of probability sampling in the 21st century.

### WSS and Other Seminars

(All events are open to any interested persons)

#### June

- 2 Wed. **The Paperwork Reduction Act Requires Federal Agencies to Get OMB Approval Before Collecting Information**
- 8 Tues. **Trends in Income Nonresponse Over Two Decades**
- 16 Wed. **Expeditionessnesses and delay in state courts: An exploration of case processing time in civil trials**
- 30 Wed. **The OMB Clearance Process for Federal Statistical Surveys**

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

## Announcement

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

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

#### 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

## Program Announcement

**Title: The Paperwork Reduction Act Requires Federal Agencies to Get OMB Approval Before Collecting Information**

**Speaker:** Rick Westlund  
Office of Environmental Information  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Chair:** Mel Kollander

**Date/time:** Wednesday, June 2, 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:** Before requiring or requesting information from the public, the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requires Federal agencies (1) to seek public comment on proposed collections and (2) to submit proposed collections for review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB reviews agency information collection requests for approval or disapproval. When OMB approves an information collection, it assigns an OMB control number that the agency must display on the information collection. This presentation will describe the PRA criteria that necessitate OMB review and the approval process.

Point of contact e-mail: [Westlund.Rick@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Westlund.Rick@epamail.epa.gov)

## Program Announcement

- Title:** Trends in Income Nonresponse Over Two Decades
- Chair:** Brian Meekins, BLS  
WSS Methodology Section Chair
- Speaker:** Ting Yan, NORC at the University of Chicago
- Organizer:** David Judkins, Westat  
WSS Methodology Program Chair
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, June 8, 2010, 12:30-2:00pm
- 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.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Section, WSS
- Abstract:** Survey data on personal and household income is usually associated with a large amount of item nonresponse. This talk is adapted from a recent published article by Yan, Curtin, and Jans (2010) that focuses on trends in income nonresponse over the past two decades in the Surveys of Consumers (SCA) conducted in the U.S. SCA asks respondents first to report their income in dollar amounts with an open-ended question. Those who do not provide an answer are followed up with a closed-ended question with income brackets. Analyses indicate that missing data on income has decreased over time, and the decline is related to respondents' overall willingness to participate in the survey and to answer survey questions once in the survey. The results suggest that, for questions on household income, there exists a trade-off between unit and item nonresponse, which may have implications for income estimates and economic modeling.

## Program Announcement

- Title:** Expediuousnesses and delay in state courts: An exploration of case processing time in civil trials
- Chair:** Michael L. Cohen, CNSTAT
- Speaker:** Thomas H. Cohen, Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Discussant:** Nicole Waters, National Center for State Courts
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010 / 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
- 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 Ave., NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Washington Statistical Society's Section on Public Policy
- Abstract:** The issue of how long it takes for America's courts to process civil cases dates back to colonial times and has been a topic of concern going back into antiquity. Although civil case delay has garnered a great deal of attention, most empirical efforts to analyze this topic occurred over twenty years ago and were limited in geographic scope. This paper attempts to update and enhance our understanding of civil case processing time by exploring factors related to disposition time in civil cases concluded by trial in a national sample of courts located in 156 urban, suburban and rural jurisdictions. The article applies multilevel models to examine both the effects of case and litigant characteristics as well as the influence of locale on case processing time. Results show that the legal issues adjudicated at trial, the type of trial (bench/jury), litigant characteristics, post-trial activity, and surprisingly, alternative dispute resolution referrals, are related to longer case processing times. The models also show locale exerting a significant influence on case processing time irrespective of a jurisdiction's case composition characteristics. This effort to empirically explore disposition time provides scholars, policymakers, and court personnel with information that could be used to assess what types of reform efforts might result in more expeditious case resolution and hence, speedier justice.

## Program Announcement

- Title:** The OMB Clearance Process for Federal Statistical Surveys
- Speakers:** Paul Bugg, Brian Harris-Kojetin, and Shelly Wilke Martinez, Office of Management and Budget
- Date/ Time:** Wednesday, June 30, 2010/ 12:30-2:00 pm
- 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. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsors:** WSS Data Collection Methods and DC-AAPOR
- Abstract:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) requires that Federal agencies submit proposed information collections to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before imposing information collection burdens on the public. In this presentation the speakers will describe the relevant aspects of the PRA for agencies and contractors that conduct statistical surveys and note common misconceptions about what is required under the PRA. The presentation will cover the process of an OMB review for surveys and highlight the information required for an OMB submission. Key subsections of agencies' information collection request supporting statement will be discussed including the justification of the need for and utility of the collection, and focusing on the information required for collections that employ statistical methods. The speakers will also address some of the common issues that arise in OMB reviews, and what agencies and contractors can do to anticipate and address these issues.

For further information contact Grace O'Neill at [grace.o'neill@eia.doe.gov](mailto:grace.o'neill@eia.doe.gov) or 202.586.6485

## Student Column

The WSS annual dinner is approaching and includes a presentation by Michael R. Elliot from University of Michigan. Come and join us and meet the WSS members.

In this issue, Gurudev Gadwale, a graduate student, has written about the Statistical Consulting Group at American University:

“The Statistical Consulting Group in American University

The Statistical Consulting Group was set up by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at American University to assist in comprehensive understanding and analysis of campus-wide statistical concerns, and also undertakes off-campus projects from time to time. The staff consists of first and second-year statistics graduate students and a faculty member who oversees the group's activities. The questions dealt with are mainly related to study design, data analysis and support with statistical software.

The objective of the Statistical Consulting Group is to encourage the graduate students to work with individuals from non-statistics backgrounds and apply their theoretical knowledge to real-world problems. Typically, a majority of the group's clients are graduate students from the Department of Psychology who need assistance with the statistical aspects of their dissertations - design of experiments, interpretation of results, and so on. The main off-campus project undertaken by the group this year was for the Military Times newspaper. We assisted a reporter with the Military Times in designing and analyzing a survey on the “Don't Ask Don't Tell” policy and its application in the military. The results of the survey were subsequently published in the paper.”

We are here for sharing our experiences and learning from each other's activities. Let's make a powerful network with your support and contribution.

Parisa Meisami  
Student Representative

## Announcement

You are cordially invited to the  
**2010 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Ceremony**

on

**Wednesday, June 23, 2010, at 4:00 pm**

Seminar Room 3, Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center

2 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC

*The 2010 Awardee is:*

**Deborah H. Griffin, U. S. Bureau of the Census**

The ceremony, as in previous years, will be held in the BLS Conference Center, down one flight, after entering the building through the First Street entrance.

**The BLS building is a secured facility, thus those wishing to attend must have their names on the BLS "visitor entrance list" for that day AND have a photo ID with them.**

If you plan to attend, please send an e-mail to Stella Godbolt, Bureau of Labor Statistics, at [godbolt.stella@bls.gov](mailto:godbolt.stella@bls.gov). **Responses are due by Friday, June 18.**

*Sponsors:*

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award is managed by the Government Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association. Sponsors of the award are:

The Government Statistics Section, ASA

National Opinion Research Center (NORC)

American Institutes for Research

Washington Statistical Society

The American Educational Research Association

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

The Interagency Council on Statistical Policy



## Employment

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at [apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com](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

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## 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.



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	<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			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

Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner  
Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 5:30 PM

**Schedule:**

5:00PM- Bar Opens

5:30PM- Presentation: “Probability Sampling in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
Obsolescent or Cutting-Edge?”

**Michael R. Elliot**, University of Michigan  
Recipient of the 2010 Cox Award



6:30PM- Awards

7:00- 9:00 PM- Dinner

**Maggiannos in Chevy Chase**

5333 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20015

Phone: 202-966-5500

(Metro: Friendship Heights- Red line)

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

Cash Bar

*Dishes to be served (all inclusive):*

Brochette	Four Cheese Ravioli	Fresh Asparagus
Calamari Fritte	Ziti Marinara	Sautéed Spinach
Caesar Salad	Chicken Saltimbocca	Spumoni
Chopped Salad	Tilapia Lemon & Herbs	Tiramisu

Price: ..... \$47.00 by online register

..... \$45.00 by check

..... \$25.00 full-time<sup>i</sup> student

**DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT: FRIDAY, JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Please register at: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=mvgyr>
- Or make check payable to: “Washington Statistical Society”

**–Include the full names of all individuals paid for by the check.**

Send to: Chris Cummiskey

701 13<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Suite 750, Washington, DC 20005

Questions?

Please Contact: Chris Cummiskey, [ccummiskey@rti.org](mailto:ccummiskey@rti.org) / (202) 728-2064

<sup>i</sup> NOTE: Full-time students must have 12+ credit hours. Send check for \$25 or pay \$47 online and receive a \$20 reimbursement after dinner.