WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

WSS NEWS
March 2011

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Title: **CropScape: A new web based visualization portal for the dissemination of NASS geospatial cropland products**

Organizer: National Agricultural Statistical Services

Speaker: Rick Mueller

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/time: **Wednesday, May 11, 2011 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center.
To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE.
Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Agriculture and Natural Resources

Abstract:

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began producing national crop specific land cover classifications called the Cropland Data Layer (CDL) starting in 2009. The CDL data are widely used for a variety of applications for climate and environmental ecosystem monitoring, health research, agribusiness decision support, and internally for NASS crop acreage and yield statistical estimation. To facilitate the application and dissemination of this data layer, a web-service based interactive map visualization, dissemination, and querying system called CropScape (http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape) was constructed. CropScape adopts a service oriented architecture and Open Geospatial Consortium standards and specifications compliant web services, and re-uses functions/algorithms from the George Mason University developed GeoBrain Technology. CropScape enables on-line US cropland exploring, visualization, queries, and dissemination via interactive maps. The data can be directly exported to ArcGIS Explorer and Google Earth for mashups or delivered to other applications via web services. This system greatly improves equal-accessibility, visualization, and dissemination and facilitates crop geospatial information usage.

POC: Rick_Mueller@nass.usda.gov

Title: **Findings from the Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect**

Speaker: Andrea J. Sedlak, Westat

Chair: Arthur Kendall, Capital Area Social Psychological Association

Date/Time: **Wednesday, May 18, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.**

Location:

American Psychological Association (APA), 750 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242. (This is about 1 block north of the First Street NW Metro exit, Union Station on the Red Line. There is also pay parking at Union Station.)

RSVP Instructions: Due to security regulations please RSVP to Ron Schlittler at (202)336-6041 or rschlittler@apa.org

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

Abstract:

This talk will discuss the analysis and results for the Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4).

The National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS) is a congressionally mandated, periodic research effort to assess the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the United States. The NIS gathers information from multiple sources to estimate the number of children who are abused or neglected children, providing information about the nature and severity of the maltreatment, the characteristics of the children, perpetrators, and families, and the extent of changes in the incidence or distribution of child maltreatment since the time of the last national incidence study.

The NIS design assumes that the maltreated children who are investigated by child protective services represent only the "tip of the iceberg," so although the NIS estimates include children investigated at child protective services they also include maltreated children who are identified by professionals in a wide range of agencies in representative communities. These professionals, called "sentinels," are asked to remain on the lookout for children they believe are maltreated during the study period. Children identified by sentinels and those whose alleged maltreatment is investigated by child protective services during the same period are evaluated against standardized definitions of abuse and neglect. The data are unduplicated so a given child is counted only once in the study estimates.

For additional information about NIS-4, the Report to Congress is complete and is available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/natl_incid/index.html

POC: Michael P. Cohen, mpcohen@juno.com or (202) 232-4651.

Title: **Enumerative and Evaluative Surveys Compared: Obvious When Known?**

Organizer: David Judkins, Westat, WSS Methodology Section Chair

Chair: Nick Beyler, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Speakers:

Fritz Scheuren, PhD. Vice President, Statistics and Methodology Department, NORC at the University of Chicago

Nate Allen, Research Analyst, International Projects Department, NORC at the University of Chicago

Discussants:

Michael L. Cohen, Senior Program Officer, Committee on National Statistics

Nate Allen, Research Analyst, International Projects Department, NORC at the University of Chicago

Date/Time: **Thursday, May 19, 2011, 12:30-2:00pm**

Location:

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Main Conference Room
600 Maryland Ave., SW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20024-2512
Virtual attendance is also available by webinar or audio feed by phone

To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please RSVP to Bruno Vizcarra at bvizcarra@mathematica-mpr.com or (202) 484-4231 by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar. Provide your name, affiliation, contact information (email is preferred) and the seminar date. Once on the seminar list, you will be provided with information about webinar and phone viewing for the seminar in case you chose to not attend in person. Mathematica is located at 600 Maryland Ave., SW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20024. If traveling by Metro, take the Orange, Blue, Green, or Yellow Line to the L'Enfant Plaza Station and follow signs to exit at 7th and Maryland. The entrance to the building will be to your right at the top of the escalators. If traveling by car, pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which is located on 6th Street SW, across from the Holiday Inn. Once in the building, take the elevators by Wachovia to the 5th floor lobby and inform the secretary that you are attending the WSS seminar. Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220) if you have trouble finding the building or the 5th floor lobby.

Sponsor: Methodology Section, WSS

Abstract:

In our talk, we will seek to directly examine the mixed and analytic applications of enumerative surveys.

Enumerative surveys are derived from censuses and designed to count a finite population. Unlike censuses, enumerative surveys employ samples rather attempting a complete population count. The seminal book by Hansen, Hurvitz and Madow, originally published in 1953, represents the enumerative tradition well. Analytical surveys, which arise in evaluation, are designed to assess the underlying causes that generate the finite population observations.

Widely considered one of the authoritative texts on sampling theory and practice, the analytic survey ideas in Deming (1950) did not make the 1953 HHM book, for reasons we can only speculate. Sample survey books by Cochran and others from that same era are similar in scope, although Cochran does have a chapter (Chapter 2) that deals with some aspects of analytic survey inference.

In official statistical settings, enumerative surveys dominate practice, but are increasingly being applied analytically to address policy "What If" questions. Examples of such surveys include the Current Population Survey (CPS) in the United States, which is employed as an input to a micro-simulation model, and U.S. Agency for International Development's Demographic Health Survey, which is being used to supplement baseline data for a health evaluation we are conducting in the African nation of Lesotho. In examining analytic and mixed applications for enumerative surveys, we touch on these and several other U.S.-based and international examples. We discuss how data collected for primarily enumerative means can be used in conjunction with or supplemented by more analytically motivated data collection. We find that such enumerative surveys can be successfully adapted for work in evaluation – but key distinctions in the design and objectives of both types of surveys should be considered.

Title: **Using statistics to solve the medical mystery of the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)**

Speaker: David T. Mage, (WHO and USEPA, Retired),

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/time: **Wednesday, June 15, 2011 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 (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 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is a diagnosis of exclusion in the absence of finding any sufficient cause of death at autopsy and death scene investigation. The ages of SIDS have a 4-parameter lognormal (Johnson SB) distribution that is apparently SIDS most unique and characteristic property, so any theory for the cause of SIDS must explain its universality.

The four parameters of this distribution appear to apply to all countries and have remained virtually constant during the period of redefinition of SIDS and change of preferred sleeping position from prone to supine in which the SIDS rate decreased dramatically. These data are shown to obey Cramer's Theorem in that age distributions of male SIDS, female SIDS, and Sudden Unexpected Death in infancy (SUDI) [defined here as 'SIDS mentioned on death certificate as a possibility but other possible cause assigned'] have similar age distributions to SIDS where it is the only cause of death given on the certificate.

The proposed universal SIDS age Normal Transform is $y = \text{Log}[(m - a)/(b - m)]$, where $y = mu + sigma\ z$, m is age in months, z is a standard normal deviate, and mu = -1.05 and sigma = 0.291 are median and standard deviation of y. a = -0.31 month and b = 41.2 months are the 3rd and 4th parameters, respectively. For these fixed 3rd and 4th parameters the relative constancy of the mean and standard deviation of the SIDS and SUDI age distributions over many years implies that its parameters are both universal and independent of sleep position. [Internation Journal of Pediatrics 2009 (Free on-line),Scandinavian Journal of Forensic Sciences, 2010;16(1) and 2011;17(1) in press]

POC: MageDonner@aol.com

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

Event: **The 18th Federal Forecasters Conference**
Date/Time: **April 21 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.**
Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington DC, 20212
Take the Red Line to Union Station. Bring a photo ID to the conference.

Sponsors:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology
Administration/Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Veterans
Affairs, Economic Research Service, U.S. Energy Information Administration,
Internal Revenue Service, International Trade Administration, National Center
for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Postal
Service, and Center for Economic Research, George Washington University

Theme:

Environmental issues have become an increasing priority for governments,
businesses, and consumers. Challenges to forecasters include the implementation
of programs and policies addressing efficiency, alternative energy sources, jobs,
health, air and water quality, transportation, land use, and recycling programs.
The 2011 Federal Forecasters Conference will examine how forecasters face this
challenge and how policy-makers and other decision-makers use forecasts to
make decisions.

Description:

For further information visit www.federalforecasters.org or contact Pheny
Weidman at pheny.weidman@dot.gov; (202) 366-2817.

Event: **GDRR 2011 - Second Symposium on GAMES AND DECISIONS IN RELIABILITY AND RISK**

Host: CNR IMATI and Institute for Integrating Statistics in Decision Sciences, George Washington University

(Confirmed) Speakers:

Simon French, Miguel Lejeune, Massimo Marinacci, Jorge Mateu, Robert Nau, Nicholas Polson, David Rios Insua, Renata Rotondi, Marco Scarcini, Nozer Singpurwalla, Jim Q. Smith, Fabio Spizzichino, Fabio Trojani and Robert Wolpert

Date: **May 19-21, 2011**

Location: Hotel Villa Carlotta, Belgirate (VB), Lake Maggiore, Italy

Description:

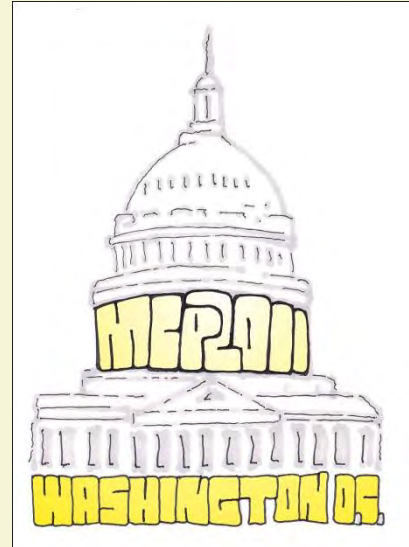The symposium follows the one held in Washington at George Washington University in 2009.

The objective of the symposium is to present novel use of game and decision theory in reliability and risk analysis and to bring together researchers from disciplines such as economics, engineering, finance, mathematics, medical sciences, probability and statistics who have a lot to contribute to this theme.

Event: **The 7th International Conference on Multiple Comparison Procedures**
Date: **August 29 – September 01, 2011**
Location: Hilton, Rockville MD
Description:

The 7th International Conference on Multiple Comparison Procedures will be held on August 29 - September 01, 2011 at the Hilton Rockville Hotel, MD. The main goal of the conference is to promote research and applications of multiple comparison procedures. The application areas of multiple comparison procedures are a rich and important source of cross-disciplinary statistical research. This conference will provide a forum for technical interactions among industry practitioners, research scientists from different subject matter areas and statisticians.

Keynote speakers:
- James O. Berger (Duke University, USA)
- Terry Speed (WEHI, Australia & UC Berkeley, USA)

Topics include:
- Bayesian Methods and Decision Theory
- Bioinformatics and Pharmacogenomics
- Multiple Endpoints Problems
- Adaptive and Sequential Designs
- Clinical Trial Applications
- Closed Testing and Partitioning Principles
- Screening and Selection
- Theory and Foundations (Error Rates, Estimation Procedures, etc.)

For more information, please check the web site www.mcp-conference.org, or contact either Sue-Jane Wang at Suejane.Wang@fda.hhs.gov, Jason Hsu at jch@stat.osu.edu or Frank Bretz at frank.bretz@novartis.com.
The conference is supported by *The International Society for Biopharmaceutical Statistics*
Please submit abstracts by **May 15, 2011** at www.mcp-conference.org.

Event: **Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research Conference**
Date: **January 10-12, 2012 (Save the date!)**
Location: Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
Description:

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is planning a research conference to be held at the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, on **January 10-12, 2012**.

Abstract Submission:

To submit a paper or demonstration for consideration, submit the abstract via email   to **fcsm@census.gov** as soon as possible but no later than **May 6, 2011**. Use the template found at **www.fcsm.gov/events/** for your submission. The maximum length of abstracts is 300 words and should include up to five key words. Please note that authors/ presenters are responsible for their travel expenses, but the registration fee is waived for one presenter per paper.

Tentative Schedule of Activities:

Activity	Date
Abstracts due	May 6, 2011
Papers selected/Authors notified	June 22, 2011
Advance program ready	September 2011
Conference registration open	October 3, 2011
Draft paper due to Organizers/Chairs	November 16, 2011
Final program ready	December 2011
Conference dates	January 10-12, 2012
Final paper due (FCSM Web site)	March 2012

POC:

To obtain conference information or to be included on the mailing list, contact:
Anna Holaus, Conference Coordinator
fcsm@census.gov
Phone: 202-874-0464

Fax: 301-763-3682

For questions about abstracts contact:
Kevin Cecco, Program Chair
Email: Kevin.Cecco@irs.gov
Phone: 301-763-2308

Call for Papers:

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

Survey design and data collection

- Questionnaire design issues
- Improving coverage and response rates
- Instrument design and pretesting
- Survey integration and cross-survey planning
- Treatment of missing data/imputation methods
- Uses of innovative methods for data collection, processing, and dissemination
- Responsive survey design
- Advances in frame development
- Model-based survey estimation adjustment
- Innovative methods in sample design and estimation
- New edit and imputation methodologies
- Multi-mode and web data collection
- Survey redesign

Estimation and analysis

- Bayesian statistical methods
- Variance estimation
- Small area estimation
- Exposure analysis and modeling
- Forecasting, time series, and seasonal adjustment
- Methods of statistical/econometric modeling
- Meta-analysis
- Application of microdata techniques to economic data
- Estimation of immigration/emigration
- Collection and analysis of survey paradata
- Analysis of complex surveys

Evaluation

- Census and survey evaluation methodologies

- Evaluating mode effects
- Identifying and reducing sources of survey error
- Measuring process and data quality
- Nonsampling error: estimation and evaluation
- Innovative approaches to program evaluation
- Nonresponse and measurement error research

Cross-cutting topics

- Impact of the global economy on national statistics
- Statistical issues in national security, healthcare reform, housing, financial well-being, and the environment
- Special issues related to establishment Surveys
- Confidentiality, privacy, and disclosure issues in data dissemination and linkage
- Data mining, warehousing, and metadata
- Design and analysis of longitudinal studies
- Measurement issues and bridging changes in classification systems
- Use of data for policymaking
- Statistical uses and quality of administrative records
- Data sharing and linking
- Usability testing
- Quality standards, best practices, and guidelines
- Geospatial statistics
- Economic measurement concepts and techniques
- Development of economic statistical indicators
- Statistical literacy and communication of results

Event: **2nd ACM SIGHIT International Health Informatics Symposium (IHI 2012)**

Date: **January 28-30, 2012**

Location: Miami, Florida

Website: http://www.sighit.org/ihi2012 , http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/ihi2012/

Description:

IHI 2012 is the main conference of the newly formed ACM Special Interest Group on Health Informatics (SIGHIT). IHI 2012 is ACM's premier community forum concerned with the application of computer science principles, information science principles, information technology, and communication technology to address problems in healthcare, public health, and everyday wellness. The conference highlights the most novel technical contributions in computing-oriented health informatics and the related social and ethical implications. IHI 2012 will feature keynotes, a multi-track technical program including papers, demonstrations, and panels. New additions to the IHI 2012 program include tutorials and a doctoral consortium.

IHI 2012 serves as a venue for the discussion of innovative technical contributions highlighting end-to-end applications, systems, and technologies, even if available only in prototype form (e.g., a system is not deployed in production mode and/or evaluation may be performed by giving examples). We strongly encourage authors to submit their original contributions describing their algorithmic contributions, methodological contributions, and well-founded conjectures based on an application-oriented context. A paper does not have to be comprehensive and can focus on a single aspect of design, development, evaluation, or deployment.

Contributions in the realm of social and behavioral issues might include empirical studies of health-related information use and needs, socio-technical studies on the implementation and use of health information technology, studies on health informatics in the context of community impact and implications, studies on public policies on leveraging health informatics infrastructure, among others.

Call for Papers:

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

The conference will accept both regular and short papers.

Regular papers (6-10 pages in length) will describe more mature ideas, where a substantial amount of implementation, experimentation, or data collection and analysis will be described.

Short papers (1-5 pages) can be less formal and will describe innovative ideas where a less degree of validation and implementation have occurred.

All papers will appear in the ACM Digital Library. The list of conference topics is available on the conference web site.

The best papers of IHI 2012 will also be considered for journal publication in a special issue of the ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST).

IHI 2012 has three tracks: analytics, systems, and human factors.

- The analytics track focuses on data analysis.
- The systems track focuses on building health informatics systems (e.g., architecture, framework, design, engineering, and application).
- The human factors track focuses on understanding users or context, interface design, and user studies of health informatics applications.

When submitting a paper, the authors must select a track that they regard as the most appropriate one for their paper. Before the review process starts, the PC co-chairs will check each paper and make adjustment if necessary to ensure the submission will be reviewed in the correct track.

A subset of highly-ranked papers will have oral presentation slots. The other accepted papers, which are not selected for oral presentation, will be presented as posters.

Submitted papers must not have appeared in, or be under consideration for, another conference, workshop, journal, or other target of publication.

Abstract submission deadline: June 23, 2011 11:59pm EST
Paper submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST
Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST
Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

NON-REFEREED EXTENDED ABSTRACTS SUBMISSIONS

The non-refereed extended abstract track offers an opportunity for health informatics practitioners and researchers to present their work in progress in two ways:
(1) as a poster presentation at the IHI conference and;
(2) as an article in the SIGHIT Record, the newsletter of SIGHIT (http://www.sighit.org/record/).
Extended abstracts will not appear in the conference proceedings.
Although the non-refereed extended abstract submissions will not be formally reviewed, the IHI 2012 conference organizers will read all of the submissions to ensure every accepted submission is appropriate for IHI.
The conference organizers will work on ensuring that poster sessions are well attended and have a vibrant discussion environment.
Extended abstract submission deadline: September 8, 2011 11:59pm EST
Notification of acceptance: September 15, 2011 11:59pm EST
Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

DEMOS SUBMISSIONS

A submission proposal includes a demo paper and can optionally include a demo video, whose URL should be referred to in the textual demo description for reviewers to take into consideration when analyzing the submission. Note that the demo paper should differ from regular papers in several important aspects.

(1) it should clearly describe the overall architecture of the system or technology demonstrated.

(2) the paper should put great emphasis on the motivation of the work, on the applications of the presented system or technology, and on the novelty of the work.

(3) the proposal should clearly describe the demo scenario. In particular, it should describe how the demo audience can interact with the demo system, to better understand the underlying technology.

A list of IHI areas/topics can be found in the Call for Papers.

For demos running over the web, a back-up scenario should be described, in case connectivity is limited at the demo venue.

The notification for acceptance of demo papers is the same as that for regular papers.

Accepted demo proposals will appear in the final proceedings and in ACM digital library.

Demo paper submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST

Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM SUBMISSIONS

The doctorial consortium is expected to offer a supportive learning opportunity for doctoral students in two ways:

(1) as a poster presentation during a poster session of the IHI conference and

(2) as an article in the SIGHIT Record, the newsletter of SIGHIT (http://www.sighit.org/record/).

Extended abstracts will not appear in the IHI conference proceedings.

All extended abstract submissions for the doctoral consortium will be formally reviewed by the IHI Program Committee to ensure every accepted submission is appropriate for IHI.

The conference organizers will work on ensuring that the doctoral consortium is well attended and have a vibrant discussion environment.

Doctoral consortium submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST

Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

PANEL PROPOSALS SUBMISSIONS

Panel proposals are expected to address new, exciting, and controversial issues on computing-oriented health informatics and appeal to IHI 2012 attendees with various health informatics-related expertise. The proposed panel should be provocative, insightful, and informative. A mix of industry, government, and academic panel members is encouraged.

A panel typically includes approximately 4 panelists and a chair who serves as the moderator. The 90-minute panel should provide a balance between panelists' presentations/debate and audience interactions/discussions.

Panelists must make a commitment to participate. If for any reason, one panelist cannot attend the panel, the panel chair must first obtain the approval of the conference general/PC chairs before making another arrangement.

Panels will be featured prominently in the conference program.

Panel proposals will be reviewed by the PC Co-Chairs and the Conference Leadership, based on the IHI attendees' likely interest in them, the expertise of the chairs and the panelists, and the planned interactivity.

Panel proposal submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST

Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

TUTORIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

Tutorials at IHI 2012 will be presented by domain experts to cover current topics directly relevant to the conference theme of computing-oriented health informatics (a list of IHI areas/topics can be found in the Call for Papers). Proposed tutorials should be comprehensive, informative, and appealing to IHI 2012 attendees.

Each tutorial will be 120-minutes long. Tutorial instructors must make a commitment to prepare the tutorial materials (e.g., slides) that reflect the high quality standard of IHI.

Tutorials will be free to all IHI 2012 attendees, and tutorial instructors will receive free registration but not any financial aid from the conference.

All tutorials will be featured prominently in the conference program.

Tutorial proposals will be reviewed by the PC Co-Chairs and the Conference Leadership, based on the IHI attendees' likely interest in them, the breadth and depth of the topic(s), the planned materials to be used, and the expertise and credential of the instructor.

Tutorial proposal submission deadline: June 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

Notification of acceptance: September 1, 2011 11:59pm EST

Camera-ready copy due: September 30, 2011 11:59pm EST

Event:	**Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys**
Host:	Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions
Date:	**June 11–14, 2012**
Location:	Sheraton Centre Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada
Description:	

The ICES series of conferences serves an important role in the world of survey methodology. Few other conferences focus on methods and applications for establishment surveys.

The first three conferences held in 1993, 2000 and 2007 were successful, with more than 400 attendees per conference. The conferences covered a spectrum of survey methods for businesses, farms, and institutions. The fourth conference will continue along this path. Examples of potential topics include the following:
• Updating business registers
• Sample design challenges
• Questionnaire design for establishment surveys
• Collecting data electronically from establishment surveys
• Issues of multi-mode data collection
• Factors that affect establishment survey participation
• Generalized survey processing systems for establishment surveys
• Measuring nonresponse bias
• Variance estimation
• Advances in disclosure protection
• Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
• New directions in establishment surveys

The conference will include short courses, a keynote speaker, poster sessions, software demonstrations, and invited and contributed paper sessions. Online solicitation for contributed papers will occur **June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011**.
Inquiries may be directed to ices4@amstat.org.

Invited Paper Session Proposals:

Deadline to submit a proposal for an invited paper session has *passed*.

The ICES-IV program committee will review submitted proposals and notify session organizers by the end of May 2011 to let them know whether their proposal has been accepted.

Invited sessions will have three 25-minute presentations, a 15-minute formal discussion in which a discussant draws out the main themes of the session and asks questions of the authors, and a 5–10-minute floor discussion.

Session Proposals:

Deadline for online submission of invited session proposals has *passed.*

If a session proposal is accepted, session presenters will be asked to upload an abstract to the conference system by September 30, 2011. If a proposal is not accepted as an invited session, the organizer will be invited to resubmit the session as a topic-contributed session. The deadline for contributed papers (including topic-contributed sessions) is August 31, 2011. Information about the differences between the invited and contributed sessions and their formats is available at **www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012**.

Event: **International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Reach Populations**

Host: H2R|2012: Survey Methods for Hard-to-Reach Populations

Date: **October 31—November 3, 2012**

Location: Marriott New Orleans at the Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Description:

The H2R 2012 conference will bring together survey methodologists, sociologists, statisticians, demographers, ethnographers, and other professionals from around the world to present new and innovative techniques for surveying hard-to-reach populations. Addressing both the statistical and survey design aspects of including hard-to-reach groups, researchers will report findings from censuses, surveys, and other research related to the identification, definition, measurement, and methodologies for surveying and enumerating undercounted populations.

Identifying, Defining, and Measuring the Hard-to-Reach (H2R)

Defining H2R populations
Measuring undercounts for H2R groups
Improving measurement with administrative records
Sampling H2R populations

Techniques and Methodologies

Recruitment methods
Targeting the H2R
Use of social marketing and outreach campaigns
Overcoming language and literacy barriers
Use of community-based organizations

Dealing with complex living and housing situations
Tracking and tracing H2R populations

H2R Subpopulations

Racial minorities
Immigrant populations
Indigenous populations
Highly mobile and migrant populations
Homeless and refugee populations
Sexual minorities
Populations affected by natural disasters
Populations in zones of armed conflict
Stigmatized populations
Cross-cultural similarities and differences in H2R populations
Linguistic and cultural minorities

Calls for Submissions

February—March 2011: Invited Call for Submissions
April—May 2011: Contributed Call for Submissions

Information: (website) www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012
(email) H2R2012@amstat.org.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

JPSM Short Course

Main site: www.jpsm.org
Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

Forthcoming Info-Metrics Workshops and Summer Classes:
(Announcements and Call for Papers)

Info-Metrics Institute
   AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC
   http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/econometrics.cfm

Registration and additional information about activities, reports, etc., see:
   http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/index.cfm

WORKSHOPS:
   Fall 2011 (October)
       Philosophy of Information, October 3, 2011, Washington DC, USA
       http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2011-fall.cfm
   Fall 2011 (November)
       Information Theory and Shrinkage Estimation, November 12, 2011, Washington DC, USA
       http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2011-november.cfm
   Spring 2012 (March)
       Information and Econometrics of Networks, March 30-31, 2012, Washington DC, USA
       http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2012-spring.cfm

SUMMER PROGRAM:
   May 9-13, 2011
       Info-Metrics: Theory and Practice
       Instructor: Amos Golan (American U)
   May 23-27, 2011
       Spatial Econometrics: Theory and Practice
       Instructor: Ingmar Prucha, U. of Maryland College Park

Five-Week Online SAS Training in Summer

The Department of Statistics, George Mason University will be offering a 5-week introductory course in SAS programming in Summer 2011 from 6/6/011 to 7/10/2011. This is a perfect opportunity to become facile with one of technology's leading software packages to perform data management and data analysis using modern statistical methodology, from the comfort of home or office.

The course is offered completely online and does not require coming to campus. The course is taught by Dr. Linda Davis, Associate Professor of Statistics. Dr. Davis holds a Ph.D. in Statistics from Rutgers University and is an expert in data analysis and applied statistical methods.

There are two mechanisms to register for the training course:

Continuing Education: not for credit, fee $500. Register at
http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/seminars/sas_programming.php

Summer Statistics Courses at George Mason University

* STAT 250   Introductory Statistics I
* STAT 250 (Distance Education) Introductory Statistics I
* STAT 344   Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I
* STAT 350   Introductory Statistics II
* STAT 501 (Distance Education) SAS Language and Basic Procedures
* STAT 789   Bootstrapping Methods

Contact: William F. Rosenberger, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman
                George Mason University, Department of Statistics, Volgenau School of Engineering
                4400 University Drive, MS 4A7
                Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
                 Phone: 703-993-3645
                FAX: 703-993-1700
                wrosenbe@gmu.edu
webpage: http://statistics.gmu.edu, http://summer.gmu.edu

STUDENT COLUMN

In this issue, the Student Column includes testaments from several Georgetown University students and a profile of an emerging research center at UMBC.

Students Reflect on their Experiences at Georgetown University

"The master's program in mathematics and statistics at Georgetown University combines applied mathematics and statistics into a degree track that focuses on practical and professional applications. The curriculum is intended for individuals who have strong backgrounds, but not necessarily baccalaureate degrees, in mathematics. It is the only such program in the greater DC area, and it culminates in an MS degree in mathematics and statistics. The program derives its philosophy from government and industry organizations in the DC area and has placed graduates into government agencies, defense and financial firms and nonprofits. There is a flourishing internship program that has placed interns at organizations including the US Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Energy, Department of Justice, Department of Agriculture, Controller of the Currency, Federal Reserve Board, Federal Aviation Administration and various financial consulting firms. The website is http://math.georgetown.edu/programs/graduate/, where additional information and contacts can be found.

Toni Blaslov, an international student from Croatia, reports that "I chose the program for its diversity in course offering, as well as the practicality of the topics offered. As an international student I find the faculty and the student community very helpful in integrating into a new lifestyle of the United States."

According to alumnus Mike Lal, "an internship was a very important component of my experience in the program. My search for an opportunity was largely aided by the growing list of contacts developed not only by the directors of the program but also the students. When I began my internship, two of my classmates had already completed the same internship and accepted full time positions; the possibility of a full time offer factored greatly into my choice for an internship. Furthermore, the skills and knowledge base learned in the classroom were directly applicable to a wide range of opportunities, which greatly benefited my internship search and interview process. Additionally, an internship can be a great source of ideas and resources for projects or independent studies done for credit."

Ben Petersen is a part-time student and working professional who remarks, "I began my career working as a research assistant and started exploring and teaching myself computer programming. Though I learned a lot from colleagues, reading books, and experimenting with various programs, to further develop my technical and professional skills, I decided to pursue a master's degree. After researching several local universities, I found Georgetown University's program in applied mathematics and statistics to best suit my needs. Not only did the program's curriculum incorporate topics that I knew I enjoyed, but it also required I take classes I was interested in trying out. Since I already had a background in mathematics, I was searching for a program that taught skills that I could put to practical use in the workforce and the combination of requirements in both applied mathematics and statistics seem to do just

that. Plus, the majority of courses were offered at night, which proved to be a huge benefit as I am working full-time and it fits my busy schedule. After joining the ranks, I discovered the community of faculty and students to be diverse and welcoming and found the program to be very fulfilling. I've gained a wide range of technical skills such as mathematical modeling and general linear regression and have also gained new interests in fields such as stochastic simulation and climate mathematics, two of my favorite courses. Prior to the program, I was unsure of what I wanted to do with my career; however, as I am completing my last semester, I realize how much I enjoy computer programming and plan to seek jobs that incorporate these new technical skills."

Report compiled by Ben Petersen."
Parisa Meisami
 Student Representative

Interdisciplinary Research and Education through Consulting at UMBC

The mission of **Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Consulting** (CIRC) is to create learning opportunities for the graduate students of Department of Mathematics and Statistics at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).   While most statistics programs host consulting services, consulting centers are not very common among Applied Mathematics programs. Thus, CIRC, a joint venture between the Applied Mathematics and Statistics programs at UMBC, is unique in many respects. **Dr. Nagaraj Neerchal**, Professor of Statistics, and **Dr. Matthias Gobbert**, Professor of Mathematics, jointly established CIRC in 2003 to make the expertise of the department available to the growing needs of an increasingly interdisciplinary research focus of the campus, while providing extensive project experience for graduate students in both the Statistics and the Applied Mathematics programs. CIRC supports interdisciplinary research for both the UMBC campus community and the general public, providing a full range of consulting services from free initial consulting to long term support for research programs. **Dr. Elizabeth Stanwyck** is the CIRC Research Fellow, and **Kyle Stern** (Mathematics) and **Xiao-Song Zhong** (Statistics) are the Research Assistants for Spring 2011. Other students currently affiliated with CIRC include **Andrew Raim, David Trott, Paula Borrego**, and **Merve Gurlu**. CIRC website (www.umbc.edu/circ) provides a list of all past and present participants and the list of projects.

CIRC creates many opportunities for graduate students to apply their knowledge of statistical and mathematical methods and software to a wide variety of real-world problems and broaden their technical expertise. By participating in the consulting process, students also learn to communicate with researchers in other disciplines and improve their non-technical skills by observing experienced faculty members. There have been numerous CIRC projects that led to professional publications. One article, published in *The Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery* arose from a joint project with a long-time collaborator with CIRC: Dr. M. Didolkar of Sinai Hospital. CIRC-affiliated co-authors were **Airong Yu**, **Dr. Nagaraj Neerchal**, and **Dr. Liz Stanwyck**. Another article, published in *Biopolymers*, arose from collaboration with S. Ganguly (a student in the Chemistry and Biochemistry department at UMBC) and was co-authored by **Dr. Liz Stanwyck**.

CIRC offers hands-on workshops on mathematical and statistical software packages including MATLAB, COMSOL Multiphysics, Microsoft Access, SAS, S-Plus, R, and SPSS. These workshops are part of a collaboration with the UMBC Division of Information Technology and provide subject matter expertise for software which are widely used and paid for by institutional site licenses. CIRC designs introductory workshops for first-time users as well as advanced workshops on more specialized features of the software packages. CIRC also collaborates actively with the UMBC High Performance Computing Facility (HPCF, www.umbc.edu/hpcf) by coordinating its user support. Equipment in HPCF includes a state-of-the-art parallel computing cluster that is maintained institutionally. The CIRC consulting structure allows an extension of system administration to individual user support. CIRC also supports the NSF-funded REU Site: Interdisciplinary Program in High Performance Computing (www.umbc.edu/hpcreu). This REU Site, unique nationally in its combination of mathematics, statistics, and parallel computing, combines the availability of the hardware in HPCF with the philosophy of consulting of CIRC to help several teams of undergraduate students experience interdisciplinary research.

CIRC provides a weekly social hour where students and faculty can come together to network while enjoying free coffee, tea, and snacks. Weekly colloquium speakers also attend the event which gives the students and the faculty an opportunity to speak with well-known researchers and scientists. Dr. Garikai Campbell, Associate Vice President for Strategic Planning, Associate Professor of Mathematics, and Dr. Rafael Angel Zapata, Assistant Dean and Director, Intercultural Center, from Swathmore College, were among many speakers who attended the social hour.

CIRC at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UMBC has been valuable for students, faculty, and researchers across a broad range of disciplines. The researchers benefit from the thorough and careful application of statistical and mathematical methods, whereas students affiliated with CIRC benefit from being exposed to tangible problems. CIRC creates an environment where interdisciplinary cooperation between mathematicians/statisticians and scientists improves quality in scientific research.

Merve Gurlu
Statistics Graduate Student
CIRC Consultant of the year 2011
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Web Volunteers Needed

To communicate more effectively with our members, the Washington Statistical Society is developing a new web site. The design, major functions, and main pages of the new site will be created by our vendor using a content management system. We are looking for volunteers to help with other tasks. These include:

1. Use the new content management system to create additional web pages.

2. Help convert email functions to operate with Constant Contact®.

No special skills are needed — just good attention to detail and familiarity with web browsers.

If you would like to help, or if you would like more information, please write to Phil Kalina at *wssvolunteer@philkalina.com*.

Thank you.

EMPLOYMENT

University of Maryland-Joint Program in Survey Methodology

JPSM is in search of an Open Rank Professor and we would like to post the position with WSS. Can you please send the announcement out to your listserve right away as well as post in your newsletter?

Quicklink for Posting: jobs.umd.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=54115

Arbitron Inc.

Arbitron Inc. is a media and marketing research firm serving radio broadcasters, cable companies, advertisers, advertising agencies and outdoor advertising companies. Arbitron's core businesses are measuring network and local market radio audiences across the United States; surveying the retail, media and product patterns of local market consumers; and providing application software used for analyzing media audience and marketing information data. The Company has developed the Portable People Meter, a new technology for media and marketing research.

We are looking for a **Statistician** to join our Research team in Columbia, MD.

Duties/Responsibilities:
- Apply statistical theory and techniques to the analysis of survey data on media audience measurements and the effectiveness of advertising campaigns.
- Conduct general statistical analyses.
  Develop and refine sample design and estimation methods, including weighting, variance estimation, and modeling.
- Prepare statistical research reports.
- Communicate and document statistical analyses and methods in a logical and understandable manner for internal and external customers.
- Use SAS or related statistical package for data analyses.
- Serve on interdepartmental teams seeking to implement new initiatives that have statistical implications.

Qualifications:
- MS or PhD degree in Statistics or related field with emphasis on survey applications and statistical modeling required.
- Knowledge of statistical theory in the context of the survey research field and complex sample design methods.

- Background in general statistical inference, including regression analysis, logistic regression modeling, analysis of variance, and hypothesis testing.
- Three or more years of relevant work experience preferable
- Proficiency in SAS in a UNIX/LINUX environment, including SAS/BASE and SAS/STAT, or similar modules in related statistical software.
- Background in demography and geospatial information systems a plus
- Proficiency with MS Word and Excel.
- Ability to communicate complex technical ideas to non-statisticians.
- Ability to function independently and as part of a team.
- Outstanding organizational and communication (verbal and written) skills.
- Aptitude to detect, trouble-shoot, and foresee data and analysis issues and to implement creative solutions.

Send your resume to: **opsjobs@arbitron.com** or Fax: 410-312-8607 or

Arbitron Inc., Attn: OE Recruiter, 9705 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD. 21046.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International are pleased to announce that Nilanjan Chatterjee, Senior Investigator, Chief of the Biostatistics Branch, National Cancer Institute, has been chosen as this year's recipient of the Gertrude M. Cox Award. Since receiving his PhD in Statistics from the University of Washington, Seattle in 1999, Dr. Chatterjee has made noteworthy contributions in developing study designs and statistical methods for modern epidemiologic studies, in high-impact studies, and in gene-environment interactions and genome-wide association studies. He will receive the Award at the WSS Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2011 and will give the Keynote Address, "*Estimating the "known-unknowns" from "known-knowns" in the search of missing heritability of complex traits*".

The Award was established in 2003 through a joint agreement between WSS and RTI to recognize statisticians in early to mid-career who have made significant contributions to statistical practice.
The award is in memory of Gertrude M. Cox (1900-1978), who in the 1950s, when Head of the Department of Experimental Statistics at North Carolina State College, played a key role in establishing Mathematical Statistics and Biostatistics Departments at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Statistical Division at the then newly founded not-for-profit RTI. She served as president of the ASA in 1957.

This award is made possible by funding from RTI, and the recipient is chosen by a six person committee - three each from RTI and WSS. This year's committee from RTI consists of Marcus Berzofsky, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (Chair), and from WSS Jonaki Bose, Michael Brick, and John Eltinge. The award consists of a $1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS dinner, and a commemorating plaque containing the WSS logo. Past recipients have been Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, and Michael Elliott.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner
Thursday June 16th, 2011 at 5:30 PM
China Garden, Rosslyn VA

Guest Speaker: Nilanjan Chatterjee, National Cancer Institute, NIH
Recipient of the 2011 Cox Award

Schedule:
5:00PM- Bar Opens
5:30PM- Presentation: Estimating the "known-unknowns" from "known-knowns" in the search of missing heritability of complex traits
6:30PM- Awards
7:00- 9:00 PM- Dinner

Dinner Details:
China Garden, *1100 Wilson Blvd # M76, Arlington, VA 22209*
Phone: (703) 525-5317 (Metro: Rosslyn- Orange/Blue)
http://superpageshosting.com/chinagardenvacom/door/

Cash Bar
Dishes to be served (all inclusive):

- Veggie Spring roll
- Shrimp Wonton
- Beef Chocho
- Flounder Filet
- Young Chow & Fried
- Crispy Sesame balls

- Asparagus Soup
- Prawns in House Salad Sauce
- Filet Mignon
- Rice
- Fresh Fruit

- Meat Dumplings
- Roasted Chicken Cantonese style
- Braised Mixed Veggies Buddhist Delight

Price: .... $47.00 by online register
.... $45.00 by check
.... $25.00 full-time student*

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT: FRIDAY, JUNE 10th

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

Send to: Chris Cummiskey
          701 13th Street, NW Suite 750, Washington, DC 20005
Questions? Please Contact: Chris Cummiskey, ccummiskey@rti.org

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

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **June 2011** issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15**[th] of the preceding month.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format (e.g., in an email) will be returned.

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Washington
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