



## WSS NEWS

# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

## NOTE FROM THE WSS PRESIDENT

As the new WSS year begins we are looking forward to how we can continue to improve. Some of our conversations are related to internal processes (e.g., how can we most effectively disseminate information about our seminars and short courses and what is the best way for us to keep our membership information updated). Others are more outward facing—how can we expand our services to make them more relevant to the greater statistical community.

This year we plan to continue to expand our efforts to broaden the topics our seminars cover. We also are reaching out to the academic community—we would like to make WSS a valuable resource for students and staff from our area institutions. To that effect we invite you to contact us with your ideas and even better, we would like you to join WSS and join the cadre of volunteers that run this society.

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My email address is [jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov) and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Jonaki Bose

## LECTURES AND SEMINARS

**Title:**

**Likelihood-based Methods for Regression Analysis with Binary Exposure Status Assessed by Pooling**

**Speaker:**

Robert H. Lyles, PhD, Associate Professor  
Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics  
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

**Date/ Time: Friday, October 28, 2011 10:00-11:00 am**

**Location:**

Georgetown University  
Warwick Evans Conference Room, Building D  
4000 Reservoir Rd, Washington, DC 20057-1484

**Sponsor:**

Georgetown University Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Biomathematics

**Abstract:**

The need for resource-intensive laboratory assays to assess exposures in many epidemiologic studies provides ample motivation to consider study designs that incorporate pooled samples. In this talk, we consider the case in which specimens are combined for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a pool-wise exposure, in lieu of assessing the actual binary exposure status for each member of the pool. We presume a primary logistic regression model for an observed binary outcome, together with a secondary regression model for exposure. We facilitate maximum likelihood analysis by complete enumeration of the possible implications of a positive pool, and we discuss the applicability of this approach under both cross-sectional and case-control sampling. We also provide a maximum likelihood approach for longitudinal or repeated measures studies where the binary outcome and exposure are assessed on multiple occasions and within-subject pooling is conducted for exposure assessment. Simulation studies illustrate the performance of the proposed approaches along with their computational feasibility using widely available software. We apply the methods to investigate gene-disease association in a population-based case-control study of colorectal cancer.

**Title:** **Evaluation of Automated Edit and Imputation using BANFF on the USDA NASS Hogs and Pigs Survey**

**Organizer:** Charles Day, WSS Methodology Program Chair

**Chair:** Charles Day, WSS Methodology Program Chair

**Speaker:** James Johanson, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

**Date & Time:** **Tuesday, November 1, 12:30pm-2:00 pm**

**Sponsor:** WSS Methodology Program

**Location:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 10

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.

**Abstract:** The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts surveys within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Traditionally, editing and imputation is done manually via Blaise, which is labor intensive. To reduce costs NASS purchased Statistics Canada's Banff system for statistical editing and imputation. This system was applied to the hog survey in Minnesota and Nebraska for December 2010 and March 2011. After data collection and before any manual editing, the original data were processed through the Banff editing code, consisting of only commodity specific edits. Banff error localization and imputation reduced the error count by 90%. Records still in error were given the values derived from manual editing for calculating indications. The resulting indications were not significantly different from indications derived from the manually edited data in 85% of comparisons. Work is underway to improve the questionnaire regarding some findings. These favorable results motivate implementation into the operational program.

**Title: CDAC-WSS Seminar  
Overview of Data Confidentiality in the Federal Context**

**Date & Time: Thursday, November 3, 2011**

**Location:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center  
Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE.  
Use the Red Line to Union Station.

**Abstract:**

The Confidentiality and Data Access Committee (CDAC) and the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) will be presenting an overview on data confidentiality in the federal context on Thursday, November 3, 2011. The day-long seminar will be held at the Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center.

**Agenda:**

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Welcome and Overview (Jonaki Bose, SAMHSA)
- 9:10 Governing Laws and Legal Issues (Chris Chapman, BLS)
- 10:00 Assessing Disclosure Risk (Ramona Rantala, BJS)
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Restricted Access Procedures (Jonaki Bose, SAMHSA)
- 12:00 Lunch (on your own)
- 1:15 Statistical Disclosure Limitation Methods for Tabular Data (Mike Buso, BLS)
- 2:00 Statistical Disclosure Limitation Methods for Microdata (J. Neil Russell, SAMHSA)
- 2:45 Examples of Disclosure Problems and Disclosure Limitation Strategies (Larry Cox, NISS)
- 3:15 Conclusion/Questions (Jonaki Bose, SAMHSA)

**Registration:**

Registration is free but there is limited space.

Persons interested in attending should register by sending an email with their name, affiliation, address, phone number and email address to Brian Meekins at [Meekins.Brian@bls.gov](mailto:Meekins.Brian@bls.gov) by **Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**.

Registrations will be accepted first come-first serve until there are no more spots available. If you have any questions about the seminar please contact Jonaki Bose at [jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov).



COMMITTEE ON  
APPLIED &  
THEORETICAL  
STATISTICS

Announcing a *Joint Seminar* of the **Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics** and the **Committee on National Statistics** of *The National Academies...*

## THE STORY OF THE Netflix Prize

**Friday, November 4, 2011 • 3:00–5:00 pm**

*Reception to Follow*



Keck Center of the National Academies, Room 100  
500 Fifth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001



**Robert Bell**  
*AT&T Labs Research*



**Lester Mackey**  
*University of California, Berkeley*



**Emmanuel Candes**  
*Stanford University*

Just over five years ago, Netflix released more than 100 million movie ratings as part of a data analysis contest to improve methods for recommending movies to customers based on ratings they had provided for previously rented movies. A prize of \$1 million was offered for a “recommender” algorithm that outperformed the existing Netflix system Cinematch<sup>SM</sup> by at least 10% in terms of root mean squared prediction error. In a textbook example of “crowdsourcing,” more than 20,000 teams from over 150 countries submitted algorithms. By August 2009, after almost three years of effort, two teams, BellKor’s Pragmatic Chaos and The Ensemble, had surpassed the 10% goal in a finish worthy of its own movie.

Bob Bell (*BellKor’s Pragmatic Chaos*) and Lester Mackey (*The Ensemble*) will describe the overall set-up of the competition, the challenges it posed, the main ideas underlying their recommender algorithms, and the interaction among the leading competitors. Emmanuel Candes will then discuss the research avenues stimulated by the various algorithms developed in this competition, some of the resulting advances, and some difficult problems that remain.

**— Open to the Public • Please RSVP! —**

For planning and building check-in purposes, please RSVP by **October 31** to Agnes Gaskin at [agaskin@nas.edu](mailto:agaskin@nas.edu) or (202) 334-3096.

## CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

**Event:** **International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA), the Indian Bayesian Society and the Indian Chapter of ISBA**

**Date:** **January 6-10, 2013**

**Location:** Varanasi, India

**Cost:** \$400 USD if registered on or before September 10, 2012; additional 10% if registered after September 10, 2012

**Description:**

The conference is expected to cover a lot of Bayesian applications and some theories relating to

- Agricultural and Social Statistics
- Business Statistics and Econometrics
- Decision Theory and Decision Analysis
- Environmental and Spatial Statistics
- Image Analysis
- Markov Chain Monte Carlo Methods and their Advancements
- Methods for High or Infinite Dimensional Data
- Objective Bayesian Methods
- Official Statistics and Survey Sampling
- Risk Analysis and Reliability
- Survival Analysis, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, etc.

**Deadlines:**

Abstracts: ***passed***

Final Text: ***passed***

Tutorials **January 6-7, 2013** (tutorial cost: \$50.00 USD)

**Information:**

There are plans to publish the conference proceedings after peer review of contributions by eminent Bayesians.

For more information and to submit abstracts or register, visit <http://www.bhu.ac.in/isba/> .

**KEYWORDS:** Statistics, statistical modeling, analysis

**Event:** **Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research Conference**

**Date:** **January 10-12, 2012**

**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**.

**Schedule of Activities:**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Abstracts due	<i>passed</i>
Papers selected/Authors notified	<i>passed</i>
Advance program ready	<i>passed</i>
Draft paper due to Organizers/Chairs	November 16, 2011
Final program ready	December 2011
*Conference registration IS OPEN	thru January, 2012
Conference dates	January 10-12, 2012
Final paper due (FCSM Web site)	March 16, 2012
Conference Proceedings Posted	April, 2012

**Information:**

\*Please visit <http://www.fcsm.gov/events/> for information about conference registration, and [www.fcsm.gov](http://www.fcsm.gov) for information about FCSM.

To obtain additional conference information or to be included on the mailing list, contact:

Anna Holaus, Conference Coordinator

Email: [fcsm@census.gov](mailto:fcsm@census.gov)

Phone: 301-763-2308

For questions about abstracts contact:

Kevin Cecco, Program Chair

Email: [Kevin.Cecco@irs.gov](mailto:Kevin.Cecco@irs.gov)

Phone: 202-874-0464

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

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

**Location:** Miami, Florida

**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.

**Websites:** <http://www.sighit.org/ihi2012> , <http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/ihi2012/>

**Early Registration Deadline: November 18, 2011**

**Event:** **Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys**

**Date:** **June 11–14, 2012**

**Host:** Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions

**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 survey
- Measuring nonresponse bias
- Variance estimation
- Advances in disclosure protection
- Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
- New directions in establishment surveys

**Information:**

(website) [www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012)

(email) [ices4@amstat.org](mailto:ices4@amstat.org).

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

**Date:** **October 31–November 3, 2012**

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

**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

**Information:**

(website) [www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012)

(email) [H2R2012@amstat.org](mailto:H2R2012@amstat.org).

## **CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS**

### **Short Courses Sponsored by JPSM**

Course and registration information for all JPSM-sponsored short courses listed below are available at [www.jpsm.org/shortcourses](http://www.jpsm.org/shortcourses).

#### **DESIGNING MIXED-MODE SURVEYS**

**NOVEMBER 10-11, 2011** at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA

Registration and Payment Due by **October 27, 2011**

#### **Introduction to Survey Sampling**

**DECEMBER 19-20, 2011** at the Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center

Registration and Payment Due by **December 5, 2011**

#### **Experimental Design for Surveys**

**January 9-10, 2010** at L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington DC

Registration and Payment Due by **December 19, 2011**

#### **Introduction to Survey Estimation**

**FEBRUARY 29 – MARCH 1, 2012** at the Inn and Conference Center, Adelphi, Maryland

Registration and Payment Due by **February 15, 2012**

#### **Writing Questions for Surveys**

**April 2-3, 2012** at Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington DC

Registration and Payment Due by **March 19, 2012**

#### **Total Survey Error**

**April 16-17, 2012** at L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington DC

Registration and Payment Due by **April 2, 2012**

#### **COGNITIVE INTERVIEWING: A HANDS-ON APPROACH**

**June 28-29, 2012** at Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington DC

Registration and Payment Due by **June 14, 2012**

**WORKSHOPS Sponsored by American University:**

**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>

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## **Kauffman Firm Survey Data Extension and Matching**

Deadline: **January 15, 2012**

As the Kauffman Foundation nears the completion of its eight-year panel study on new firms in the United States, the Kauffman Firm Survey (KFS) <[www.kauffman.org/kfs](http://www.kauffman.org/kfs)>, we are seeking interested scholars who would like to extend the core survey data in ways that do not increase the burden on survey respondents. While more than 6,000 variables are included in the confidential version of the KFS microdata, we recognize that there are additional opportunities for research that become available by incorporating new sources of data to leverage the existing KFS survey information. Through this grant program we hope to accomplish the following:

- Expand the community of experts involved with the KFS to include scholars with expertise in natural language processing, web scraping, and related approaches;
- Create reusable infrastructure; and
- Use the prototype/demo infrastructure to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach—missingness, accuracy, utility—to expand our understanding of different approaches for matching to existing data sets.

Multiple projects are likely to be funded with individual project budgets up to \$50,000 being preferred.

Full details available at [www.kauffman.org/KFSProposals](http://www.kauffman.org/KFSProposals).

# SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

## HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are sought for the 2012 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

- Dedication to the issues of measurement;
- Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
- Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals at all levels within Federal statistical agencies, other government organizations, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2012 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with, and strongly supportive of, these organizations during his career. The award consists of a \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2012. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

### Past recipients of the Roger Herriot Award:

- 1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
- 1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)
- 1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- 1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)
- 2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)
- 2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCE, NSF)
- 2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)
- 2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
- 2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)
- 2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)
- 2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
- 2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Nominations for the 2012 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2012**. Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that includes references to specific examples of the nominee's contributions to innovation in Federal statistics. These contributions can be to methodology, procedure, organization, administration, or other areas of Federal statistics, and need not have been made by or while a Federal employee.
- Up to six additional letters in support that demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
- A current vita for the nominee with current contact information.

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Jill A. Dever, Chair of the 2012 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202.974.7846 or [jdever@rti.org](mailto:jdever@rti.org). **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2012.** Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

## 2012 Julius Shiskin Award Nominations Sought

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics.

The Award is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of information technology techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. The Award was established in 1980 by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and is now cosponsored by the WSS, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The 2011 award recipient was **Thomas L. Meisenbourg Jr.**, the Deputy Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, received the 2011 Shiskin Award for his contributions to developing and advancing economic statistics programs that meet the needs of a rapidly changing economy.

The award is in memory of Julius Shiskin, who had a varied and remarkable public service career. At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and earlier served as the Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Chief Economic Statistician and Assistant Director of the Census Bureau. Throughout his career, he was known as an innovator. At Census he was instrumental in developing an electronic computer method for seasonal adjustment. In 1961, he published *Signals of Recession and Recovery*, which laid the groundwork for the calculation of monthly economic indicators, and he developed the monthly Census report *Business Conditions Digest* to disseminate them to the public. In 1969, he was appointed Chief Statistician at OMB where he developed the policies and procedures that govern the release of key economic indicators (Statistical Policy Directive Number 3), and originated a *Social Indicators* report. In 1973, he was selected to head BLS where he was instrumental in preserving the integrity and independence of the BLS labor force data and directed the most comprehensive revision in the history of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which included a new CPI for all urban consumers.

Nominations for the 2012 award are now being accepted. Individuals and groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated. The award will be presented with an honorarium of \$1000 plus additional recognition from the sponsors. A nomination form and a list of all previous recipients are available on the ASA Website at [www.amstat.org/sections/bus\\_econ/shiskin.html](http://www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html).

For questions or more information, please contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at [paben.steven@bls.gov](mailto:paben.steven@bls.gov) or call 202-691-6147.

Completed nominations must be received by **March 15, 2012**.

## **STUDENT COLUMN**

### **Note from WSS Student Representative**

I am honored to serve as the student representative to the WSS board for the 2011-2012 academic year. The student representative rotates between 11 statistics programs at area universities; this year it is my program's turn. I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Maryland in the Measurement, Statistics, and Evaluation program, which is now part of the Human Development and Quantitative Methodology Department. I work full time, and go to school part time. At times, I have taught, pursued independent or group research, or focused solely on classes. The only thing that is perhaps out of the ordinary about my situation is that my employer is not a statistics shop, and one of my roles is to be the stats expert for my department; I don't have more experienced statisticians to mentor me at work.

Serving as the student representative is my first experience with WSS. Even though I am just beginning my term, I can already see the value of the Society – especially for full-time students and those like me, who do not work directly with other statisticians. Until now, my exposure to the world of statistics has been entirely through my professors, who have been generous in pointing me to consulting gigs, in bringing me on board their research projects, and in helping me to define my own research (and I have only pursued a fraction of the opportunities that have been offered to me). But the WSS offers something beyond what is available through our academic programs. The skills we learn as statistics students are broadly applicable, and through this group we can gain exposure to professional statisticians and their work across a wide spectrum of fields, and get a sense of the possibilities that are available to us when we graduate. My goal for the next year is to take advantage of this opportunity for myself, and to help encourage and enable others to do the same. I welcome any input – from students and from others – on how to make that happen.

Ari Houser  
Student Representative  
[ahouser@umd.edu](mailto:ahouser@umd.edu)

# EMPLOYMENT

## University of Maryland, Joint Program in Survey Methodology

**Position/Title:** Open Rank Professor  
**Level:** Assistant / Associate / Full Professor  
**Position Number:** 117101  
**Unit:** BSOS – The Joint Program in Survey Methodology  
**Position Summary/Purpose of Position:**

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) seeks applications for an open rank faculty appointment from persons with research interests in survey statistics or survey methodology. The JPSM is a graduate degree program teaching state-of-the-art principles and practices in the design, conduct, analysis and evaluation of sample surveys. The JPSM is a consortium of the University of Maryland, University of Michigan, Westat and federal statistical agencies. Responsibilities include graduate teaching, research, and supervising graduate students. Research interests could include areas such as sample design, variance estimation with complex sample designs, weighting and imputation, confidentiality protection, model-based vs. design based inference, measurement error in surveys, small area estimation, mode effects, interviewer-respondent interaction, cognitive aspects of survey methodology, use of paradata, and question wording or context effects. Doctorate in statistics, biostatistics, psychology, sociology, or a related field is required. Applicants for a tenured appointment should have a strong public record in sampling, survey statistics, or survey methodology commensurate with rank sought. A strong record in funded research is also desirable.

**To Apply:**

Apply online via the University of Maryland job website: [https://jobs.umd.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails\\_css.jsp](https://jobs.umd.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp) and include a cover letter, CV and names of three references. Applications are now being considered and will continue to be until the position is filled. For more information email Dr. Richard Valliant at [rvalliant@survey.umd.edu](mailto:rvalliant@survey.umd.edu). The University of Maryland is an EEO/AA Employer. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. Detailed information concerning JPSM and its programs can be found on the web at [www.jpasm.org](http://www.jpasm.org).

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Ph.D. in Statistics, Survey Methodology, or related field.

**Preferences:**

Highest level of productivity.

## Washington Statistical Society Board of Directors, Programs, and Committees

### President

Jonaki Bose (240) 276-1257 [jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov)

### Past President

J. Michael Brick (301) 294-2004 [mikebrick@westat.com](mailto:mikebrick@westat.com)

### President-Elect

Keith Rust (301) 251-8278 [rustk1@westat.com](mailto:rustk1@westat.com)

### Secretary

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### Treasurer

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Carol Blumberg (202) 586-6565 [carol.blumberg@eia.gov](mailto:carol.blumberg@eia.gov)

Michael Costello (202) 246-1627 [michaelavcostello@gmail.com](mailto:michaelavcostello@gmail.com)

Mel Kollander (703) 642-8079 [mellk@erols.com](mailto:mellk@erols.com)

Van Parsons (301) 458-4421 [vparsons@cdc.gov](mailto:vparsons@cdc.gov)

### District Vice Chair on Council of Chapters

Glenn White (202) 327-6414 [glenn.white@ey.com](mailto:glenn.white@ey.com)

### Council of Chapters Representative

Nancy Clusen (202) 484-5263 [nclusen@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:nclusen@mathematica-mpr.com)

### Methodology Section Chair

Adam Safir (202) 691-5175 [safir.adam@bls.gov](mailto:safir.adam@bls.gov)

### WSS Program Chairs

#### Methodology

Charles Day (240) 276-2306 [charles.day@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:charles.day@samhsa.hhs.gov)

#### Agriculture and Natural Resources

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