

WSS NEWS HINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

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 Research Conference

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**.

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Schedule of Activities:

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

Information:

*Please visit <u>http://www.fcsm.gov/events/</u> for information about conference registration, and <u>www.fcsm.gov</u> for information about FCSM.

To obtain additional conference information or to be included on the mailing list, contact: Anna Holaus, Conference Coordinator Email: <u>fcsm@census.gov</u> Phone: 301-763-2308

For questions about abstracts contact: Kevin Cecco, Program Chair Email: <u>Kevin.Cecco@irs.gov</u> Phone: 202-874-0464

Event: 2nd ACM \$IGHIT International Health Informatic; \$ympo;ium (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 computingoriented 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. http://www.sighit.org/ihi2012, http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/ihi2012/

Websites:

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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				
Ē	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			
	(email) ices4@amstat.org,.			

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

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

Description:

Cost:

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 <u>http://www.bhu.ac.in/isba/</u>. KEYWORDs: Statistics, statistical modeling, analysis

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CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Short Courses Sponsored by JPSM

Course and registration information for all JPSM-sponsored short courses listed below are available at <u>www.jpsm.org/shortcourses</u>.

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 HAND\$-ON APPROACH June 28-29, 2012 at Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington DC Registration and Payment Due by June 14, 2012

WORK\$HOP\$ \$ponsored by American University:

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-2012spring.cfm

SEEKING JOURNAL EDITORS

Searches are currently underway for editors of the ASA following journals. A link to the full announcement follows each. Also, if you know of anyone you might think would be a good fit as editor of any of the journals below, please consider nominating that person.

- Journal of the American Statistical Association, Applications and Case Studies Editor (http://pubs.amstat.org/page/JASA_Search)
- Journal of Business & Economic Statistics, Co-Editors (http://pubs.amstat.org/page/JBES_Search)
- Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics, Editor (<u>http://pubs.amstat.org/page/JCGS_Search</u>)
- Journal of Statistics Education, Editor (<u>http://pubs.amstat.org/page/JSE_Search</u>)
- Journal of Nonparametric Statistics, Editor (<u>http://pubs.amstat.org/page/JNPS_Search</u>)
- Statistical Analysis and Data Mining, Editor (http://pubs.amstat.org/page/SAM_Search)

If you have any questions please contact Eric Sampson, Journals Manager, American Statistical Association at <u>eric@amstat.org</u> or (703) 684-1221, Ext. 1860

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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, NCES, 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. **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. Mesenbourg 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.

For questions or more information, please contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at <u>paben.steven@bls.gov</u> or call 202-691-6147.

Completed nominations must be received by March 15, 2012.

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VOLUNTEER\$ NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed at different times between March and June 2012 -- to judge entries in the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project; to judge entries in the WSS Statistical Poster Competition; and to judge science fair projects at the regional science fairs in Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and the District of Columbia. The WSS needs **yeu** to volunteer now for any one – or all three!

The WSS has a longstanding and active program of reaching out to elementary and secondary school students to encourage them to gain an understanding and appreciation of Statistics. We do this in part by sponsoring two annual competitions – the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize and the WSS Statistical Poster Competition – and by awarding prizes at the annual regional high school science fairs.

Since 1986, WSS has provided special awards at the five **regional science fairs** to students whose projects demonstrate excellence in data analysis or the application of statistical methods. The fairs are held on Saturdays in March. They need volunteers willing to devote one Saturday morning to interact with students, judge their projects, and give them some guidance and encouragement. Those who have participated in these activities have very much enjoyed meeting the students, talking with them, and seeing the widely diverse projects they have presented. Last year 30 of your fellow WSS members judged and awarded prizes to projects in Mathematical Sciences, Behavioral & Social Science, Environmental Management, Animal Sciences, Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering, Earth and Planetary Science, Microbiology, Physics, and Astronomy. If you are interested in being a science fair judge, contact Gloria Gridley at gridleyg@aol.com or 301-762-2618.

The **Curtis Jacobs Award** program focuses on gathering information and analyzing data for making decisions. Entries are typically due in May; judges review and score the entries at their convenience and transmit their evaluations and scores by late May. If you are interested in volunteering to judge the entries, contact Tom Krenzke at <u>TomKrenzke@westat.com</u> or 301-251-4203.

The **poster competition** is open to students in grades K-12 and entries may be in any area of statistics. Judging is typically in May or June. If you are interested in judging, contact Barnali Das at <u>BarnaliDas@westat.com</u> or 301-279-4593.

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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)<<u>www.kauffman.org/kfs</u>>, 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.

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STUDENT COLUMN

Note from W\$\$ Student Representative

Today I was thinking about what we learn about statistics in school, both in and outside of our classes.

Until this year, I've thought that what I've learned in my classes has been an important and necessary knowledge base for understanding the fields of measurement and statistics, but that what I've learned outside of class has perhaps been more valuable. Running tests, comparing models, and making estimates from clean and well-behaved data (which occupies most of class time and effort) is rare at my job, dwarfed by the tasks of cleaning and making sense of messy real-world data.

Additionally, in my graduate program I've had the opportunity to teach – fully teach, not just TA – undergraduate courses in the department. As part of the planning process, creating assignments, assessments, and other materials, I needed to organize my knowledge, decide what concepts are most important, and figure out how to best present the material. As a result, I am now comfortable walking into any university classroom in the country and teaching basic stats.

But recently, I'm finding that my class work (as a student) may be just as valuable. One example: consulting on a research project on hearing loss at NIH this spring, I was able to dig into the tool bag of advanced longitudinal models (put together in a class that I took several years ago) to uncover interesting and important patterns.

In the coming years, I'm sure I'll be adding more examples to both sides of the ledger.

Ari Houser Student Representative ahouser@umd.edu

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PLEASE JOIN US!





Washington Statistical Society Holiday Party

Wednesday December 14th, 2011 5:30pm- 8:00pm At the Clyde's of Chevy Chase

> www.clydes.com 5441 Wisconsin Avenue Chevy Chase, MD 20815 Phone: 301.951.9600

In the Spirit of the Holidays:

We invite all WSS members to encourage any family, friends, and colleagues to attend the Holiday Party regardless of their WSS membership.

Cash Bar

Some dishes to be served (all inclusive):

Mini BBQ Pork Loin Sandwiches	Crab and Artichoke Dip
Cheese and Fruit Platter	Hummus and Pita

Price in Advance	\$20
Price at the Door	\$25
Student (in Advance or at	the Door)\$10

Pay by check:

- 1. Make check payable to: "Washington Statistical Society" —Include the full names of all individuals paid for by the check.
- 2. Send to: Chris Cummiskey 701 13th Street, NW Suite 750, Washington, DC 20005

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Pay by 123 Signup:

Follow the link and pay online: <u>https://www.123signup.com/register?id=cbfvm</u> Note: You will not be able to pay online after Monday December 12th.

Pay at the door:

Checks and cash will be accepted at the party.

Note: If you plan to pay at the door, please email Chris Cummiskey to let him know you plan to come and if you plan to bring others. Emailing Chris is not required but is greatly appreciated.

Questions? Please Contact: Chris Cummiskey ccummiskey@rti.org / (202) 728-2064

Metro Directions (Map):

(Red Line Stop: Friendship Heights) Take Western Avenue exit of the Metro tunnel. At the top of the escalator, take the tunnel to Western Avenue/Military Road. Take escalator and cross Wisconsin Circle. Clyde's is located on the other side of Sun Trust Bank.

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Dan Gillman	(202) 691-7523	gillman.daniel@bk.gov			
Video Librarian	()	<u></u>			
Phil Kalina	(703) 725-6600	phil@philkalina.com			
Web Master	(100) 120 0000				
Dan Jacobs	(301) 405-6383	jacobs@mdsg.umd.edu			
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Com		Jucobseniaig.unia.edu			
Tom Krenzke	(301) 251-4203	tomkrenzke@westat.com			
Quantitative Literacy Post	• •	tomkrenzkee westut.com			
Barnali Das	(301) 279-4593	barnalidas@westat.com			
Science Fair Coordinator	(501) 279-4595	barnandasewestat.com			
Gloria Gridley	(301) 762-2618	gridleyg@aol.com			
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Herriot Award Committee	(301) 103 0133	unoury			
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Jill Montaquila	(301) 517-4046	montagil@westat.com		(202) 051 7510	dixon.jonneois.gov
W\$\$ Committee on A\$A Fell	• •	montaque wortateon			
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FROM THE W\$\$ NEW\$ EDITOR

Items for publication in the **January**, **2012** issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15th** of the preceding month.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

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

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ITEMS IN PDF.



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