



## WSS NEWS

# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

## FROM THE WSS PRESIDENT

### Lots going on!

As my term comes to an end I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the remaining activities we have in store for our members and the greater statistical community. Our annual dinner is fast approaching—it is on June 5th. Registration for dinner closes on June 1st. Please see the flyer on the dinner included within this newsletter. The annual dinner evening includes a presentation by the Cox award winner Amy Herring on, “Beyond Age at First Sex: Modeling Patterns of Emerging Sexual Behavior in Adolescents and Young Adults.” The dinner is also a wonderful way to catch up with old friends and support young talent such as the Curtis Jacobs award and poster competition winners.

On June 11th we also have a seminar on “Evaluating the Environmental Protection Agency's Leadership Development Workshops” presented by Eduardo S. Rodela, EPA. And it is not too late to register for the 2012 DC\_AAPOR/WSS Summer Conference Preview/Review which brings a sample of talks from the 2012 AAPOR and JSM to us on June 21-22. This conference is particularly valuable since many of us have not been able to attend these conferences. Information on the agenda and registration can be found at [http://www.dc-aapor.org/Summer\\_Conference\\_2012.htm](http://www.dc-aapor.org/Summer_Conference_2012.htm).

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And finally congratulations to the WSS members who were elected ASA Fellows. They are: Nicholas Horton, Michael Larsen, Nancy Mathiowetz, Anna Nevius and Colin Wu. Information on their accomplishments is available at <http://www.amstat.org/about/pressreleases/ASANames2012Fellows.pdf>.

As always I welcome feedback. I can be reached at [jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov).

Jonaki, WSS President (2011-2012)

## SEMINARS

**Title:** **Evaluating the Environmental Protection Agency's Leadership Development Workshop**

**Speaker:** Eduardo S. Rodela, Ph.D., Program Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Office of Human Resources/Leadership Development Institute

**Chair:** Mel Kollander

**Date & Time:** **Monday, June 11, 2012 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Location:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center.

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

**Sponsor:** WSS Agriculture and Natural Resources Section

**Abstract:**

Eduardo will discuss the training evaluation strategy for the Environmental Protection Agency's Leadership Development, Excellent in Supervision Module One workshops. He will describe how he uses Kirkpatrick's four levels of evaluation as the foundation for training evaluation. While he will describe Kirkpatrick's four levels, Eduardo will emphasize Level Three evaluations that focus on "critical behaviors" learned by Module One participants during the workshops. The four levels are: (1) customer satisfaction, (2) learning, (3) critical behaviors, and (4) outcomes. Eduardo also drew on the work of Robert Brinkerhoff to generate the questionnaire portion of the evaluation protocol.

The evaluation protocol is a multi-method approach to collect program data; the protocol specifies the use of questionnaires, focus groups, and individual interviews with workshop participants. In addition, plans are currently being drawn to involve participant supervisors' feedback to generate data regarding training participants' behavioral changes.

**Point of contact:** [esrodela@cox.net](mailto:esrodela@cox.net)



**Title:** **Nonresponse Modeling in Repeated Independent Surveys in a Closed Stable Population**

**Speaker:** Eric Falk, Defense Manpower Data Center, and Fritz Scheuren, NORC

**Chair:** Paul Drugan, Federal Voting Assistance Program

**Date & Time:** **Tuesday, June 19 12:30 to 2:00pm**

**Location:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center, Room 3 To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov) (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

**Sponsor:** Washington Statistical Society

**Abstract:**

Models of survey unit nonresponse in times past were, typically, implicit (e.g., Oh and Scheuren 1983). If nonresponse was sizable, then adjustments were made. These generally employed some form of a missing-at-random mode (e.g. Rubin 1983). One such model (Zhang and Scheuren 2011), explicit this time, is discussed in our presentation. The application is to large repeated independent cross-section samples from a closed population. The units are voting commissions, which are required to report on the details of each national election within a reasonable period afterwards. Typically, despite the force law there is a sizable amount of nonreporting in this application. The talks discuss how this problem might be handled statistically. Naturally, covered also are some model limitations and areas for future research that might be instrumented for the upcoming Presidential and Congressional Elections this fall.

## CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

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

**Date:** **June 11–14, 2012**

**Hosts:** 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).



**DC-AAPOR/WSS Summer Conference Preview/Review 2012**  
 Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center Rooms 1-3, Washington DC  
**June 21-22, 2012**

*Hosted by DC-AAPOR*  
*(the Washington-Baltimore Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research)*  
 &  
*WSS (the Washington Statistical Society, a chapter of the American Statistical Association)*

DC-AAPOR and WSS are teaming up to bring you a sample of the many amazing talks taking place this year at national conferences. We know that you cannot travel to every conference, so we want to give you the opportunity to join your local colleagues and hear what they are presenting in far-off locales.

We are previewing/reviewing presentations from the following 2012 conferences: AAPOR, JSM, ICES, APSA, MAPOR, FCSM, and GWU Research Days.

BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Bring a photo ID to the seminar.

Registration Fees:

Non DC-AAPOR/WSS Member	\$150
DC-AAPOR/WSS Member	\$125
Student	\$65
Presenter	\$65
Student Presenter	<b>FREE</b>

**Information about the conference and registration (space is limited) are available at [http://www.dc-aapor.org/Summer\\_Conference\\_2012.htm](http://www.dc-aapor.org/Summer_Conference_2012.htm).**

**Event:** **32<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW)**

**Date:** **August 5-11, 2012**

**Host:** Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Location:** Royal Sonesta Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts

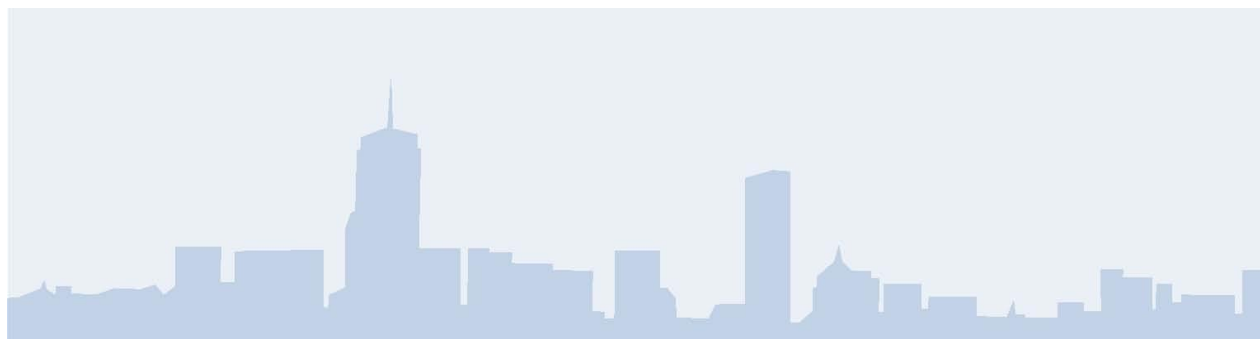
**Description:** See next page

**Registration:** Is now open

**Information:**

(website) [www.iariw2012.com](http://www.iariw2012.com),

(email) [IARIW2012@bea.gov](mailto:IARIW2012@bea.gov)



# SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for the 32nd General Conference of the IARIW

**WHEN  
WHERE**

**AUG. 5-11, 2012**

**Royal Sonesta Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts**

- Improved measures of economic welfare •
- Lessons learned from the financial crisis •

The conference provides a forum for statistical officials and experts from around the world to share information and ideas on how to develop new economic indicators that will help address some of the most important challenges confronting the global economy.

For more conference information and access to the program please visit [www.IARIW2012.com](http://www.IARIW2012.com)



Hosted by



**Event:** International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating 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.

<p><b>Just Announced! Short Courses</b>                  Social Media Research Methods                  Respondent-Driven Sampling                  Designing and Developing Instruments Across Cultures and Languages</p>	<p><b>Identifying, Defining, and Measuring the Hard-to-Reach (H2R)</b>                  Defining H2R populations                  Measuring undercounts for H2R groups                  Improving measurement with administrative records                  Sampling H2R populations</p>
<p><b>Techniques and Methodologies</b>                  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</p>	<p><b>H2R Subpopulations</b>                  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                  Linguistic and cultural minorities</p>

Additional information is available on conference website or by email.

**Website:** [www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012)  
**Email:** H2R2012@amstat.org.



## **CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS**

### **Forthcoming Info-Metrics Institute Training/Tutorial Workshop (Classes)**

July 9-10 (Monday-Tuesday), 2012

#### **A Special Two-Day Tutorial on the Foundations of Info-Metrics**

*(Amos Golan)*

Registration is now open. Space is limited. To register or for more information on these courses and how to register, please visit our Info-Metrics Summer Program web page:

<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/econometrics.cfm>

or contact Aisha Malik at [info-metrics@american.edu](mailto:info-metrics@american.edu)

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

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

#### **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**

# PLEASE JOIN US!

## **2012 Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Cox Award Presentation at RTI International 4:30PM-5:30PM  
Dinner and Student Awards at Fogo de Chao 6:00-8:30PM

**Guest Speaker: Amy Herring, Recipient of the 2012 Cox Award  
(University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)**

**Title: Beyond Age at First Sex: Modeling Patterns of Emerging Sexual  
Behavior in Adolescents and Young Adults**



The 2012 WSS annual dinner format has changed. This year the Cox Award presentation will be held at RTI International's DC office prior to the dinner. Immediately following the presentation, we will walk 3 blocks to Fogo de Chao for the annual dinner and the student awards. All are encouraged to attend both events. Please make the appropriate payment to attend the annual dinner. Please RSVP if you also plan to attend the presentation. See below for details

**Presentation Details:** 4:30-5:30 pm, RTI International. 701 13<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Suite 705. Washington DC, 20005

**RSVP:** If you plan to attend the Cox Presentation, please e-mail Van Parsons, [vparsons@cdc.gov](mailto:vparsons@cdc.gov).

**Dinner Details:** 6:00 – 8:30 pm, Fogo de Chao: 1101 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20004

Fogo de Chao is an all-you-can-eat Brazilian barbeque. Soft drinks are included; cash bar for other drinks.

### THEY OFFER TWO OPTIONS

- A. Salad Bar Only\***: Over 30 different items at the Salad Bar (salads, vegetables, cheeses, fish, cured meats, and more). For more information: <http://www.fogodechao.com/menu/salad-bar/>
- B. Full Buffet\*\***: Salad bar as well as 12 different types of meats, 10 different side items and 6 different desserts. For more information. <http://www.fogodechao.com/menu/dining-experience/>

**Payment Details: Deadline for payment is 11:59PM, Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>. No payments at the door.**

\* Salad Bar Only .....\$37 (\$42 for nonmembers) (\$25 for students<sup>1</sup>)

\*\* Full Buffet..... \$62 (\$67 for nonmembers)

**Note: The student price is available for the Salad Bar Only option.**

**Pay by check:** Payable to: "Washington Statistical Society".

Include full names of all individuals paid by the check. Indicate Salad Bar Only or Full BBQ option.

<sup>1</sup> NOTE: Full-time students must have 12+ credit hours. Send check for \$25 or pay \$47 online and receive a \$20 reimbursement after dinner.

**Send checks or direct questions to:** Van L. Parsons, National Center for Health Statistics. 3311 Toledo Rd, Rm 3110 Hyattsville, MD 20782 ([vparkers@cdc.gov](mailto:vparkers@cdc.gov))

**Pay Online**    WSS Member - Full Buffet \$62: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=smpnn>  
WSS Member - Salad Bar Only \$37: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=smpnt>  
Non WSS Member - Full Buffet: \$67    <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=smpnk>  
Non WSS Member - Salad Bar Only \$42: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=smpnm>  
Student - Salad Bar Only \$25: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=smpnf>

## CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNERS!

William Nordhaus to Receive 2012 Julius Shiskin Award



William D. Nordhaus, Sterling Professor of Economics at Yale University, has been selected to receive the 2012 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. This award recognizes unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics interpreting the economy. The award recognized Professor Nordhaus **for his contributions to the measurement of environmental-economic accounts and economic welfare and his active participation with the U.S. statistical system.** Professor Nordhaus becomes the 39<sup>th</sup> recipient of the award and will be honored at events hosted by the three sponsors of the award: The Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association.

Professor Nordhaus is best known for his work in measuring economic welfare and the impact of the environment on Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which challenged the statistical systems in the United States and other countries to think more broadly about measurement issues. His research has had a major impact on economic statistics throughout the world by providing a conceptual and empirical basis for his measures and working cooperatively with the statistical community to implement new work. His 1972 monograph with the late James Tobin, *Is Growth Obsolete?* was among the first efforts to provide measures of economic welfare that differ from traditional measures of production, such as the GDP. That effort inspired substantial work to expand GDP and economic measurement to better record the effect of growth on economic welfare. In the United Nation's (UN) 1993 *System of National Accounts*, satellite accounts were added to accommodate such extensions to the national accounts, and the UN published a handbook on developing integrated economic and environmental accounts. In 1994, in "*Integrated Economic and Environmental Satellite Accounts*," the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) published a U.S. version of these accounts, and in 2009 the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report on better measuring economic welfare was published, igniting another round of national and international efforts to provide measures of economic welfare. In contrast to the recommendations from some of these efforts, Professor Nordhaus has expressed skepticism about incorporating "happiness" measures into economic accounting systems.

Building on his own work, Professor Nordhaus chaired the 1999 National Academy of Sciences panel and co-edited its report *Nature's Numbers: Expanding the National Accounts to Include the Environment*, which recommended an empirical framework to integrate environmental and other non-market activity into GDP. He played a key role in a subsequent National Academies panel whose report, *Beyond the Market*, extended his study of environmental statistics to areas, such as education and health. For a 2004 National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) volume, *A New Architecture for the U.S. National Accounts*, he contributed an essay on applying a non-market account in the "new architecture" proposed in the volume, an essay that has already had a major impact on statistical practice on national accounting in the U.S. and many other countries. Most recently, in the May 2011 issue of the *American Economic Review*, he and his coauthors, published "Environmental Accounting for Pollution: Methods with an Application to the United States Economy."

Professor Nordhaus has coupled his research with extensive involvement in and leadership of the statistical system. He currently serves as a member of the BEA Advisory Committee and served as its first Chairman. As Chairman, he was extremely active in working with BEA on innovations including better integrated, more accurate and more timely industry accounts, more comprehensive measures of stock options and pensions, the expansion of services data by BEA and the Census Bureau, and a wide range of new price indexes.

Professor Nordhaus also has had a significant influence on the statistical system through his work at the National Academies of Science. In addition to his work on environmental and nonmarket accounts, he was instrumental in the preparation of major studies on price and cost of living indices and on the measurement of time use, both of which led to significant changes in federal statistical programs. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) developed new ways to measure expenditures and prices for the medical sector and, in part because of his involvement in the time-use workshop, then launched the American Time Use Survey. Professor Nordhaus's other work for the Academy included improving environmental statistics and increasing our understanding of the economics of climate change.

Professor Nordhaus has served on Academy oversight committees, such as the Committee on National Statistics and the Advisory Board for the Division on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, where he has worked to advance the relevance of U.S. economic statistics. In addition, he was the founder and chair of the American Economic Association's Committee on Economic Statistics, which focuses the attention of professional economists on data issues. For example, he has been a member and senior advisor of the Brookings Panel on Economic Activity, Washington, D.C. since 1972, is on the research staff of the NBER, and served on the Congressional Budget Office's Panel of Economic Experts. Although his research has focused on economic growth and environmental accounting, he has worked on the economics of climate change. He has developed economic approaches to global warming, including the construction of integrated economic and scientific models to determine an efficient path for coping with climate change. Professor Nordhaus has received numerous honors for his research work and public service, including membership in the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Swedish Academy of Engineering. In 2004, the American Economic Association named him a "Distinguished Fellow."

**WILLIAM MOCKOVAK RECEIVES THE JEANNE GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD!**

*Submitted by Clyde Tucker, 2012 Chair, Griffith Award Selection Committee*

William Mockovak, a statistician with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), was selected to receive the 2012 Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award. The purpose of the award is to encourage mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community in the federal, state, and local government. The award is sponsored by the Government Statistics Section, the National Opinion Research Center, Westat, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, the American Institutes for Research, the American Educational Research Association, and the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy. Dr. Mockovak serves as the Director of the Behavioral Science Research Center in the Office of Survey Methods Research. In this position, he has been an outstanding mentor to research staff for well over a decade. Dr. Mockovak will be presented the award at a ceremony scheduled for **4 pm on Wednesday, June 20th**, at the **Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center** located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20212. If you would like to attend, please email your first and last name to Clyde Tucker, [nctucker@cox.net](mailto:nctucker@cox.net). He will add your name to the list at the guard station. Please bring a picture ID.

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## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

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