



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

**ALL ARE INVITED TO AN EXCITING
DC-AAPOR & WSS CO-SPONSORED EVENT!**

**Recap of ICES IV Invited Overview Talks on Nonresponse Prevention,
Evaluation and Adjustment in Establishment Data**

October 15, 2012/ 8:00 am to 12:30 pm

Event will take place at the Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC (Rooms 1-3).

Registration is free but must RSVP at <http://www.dc-aapor.org/upcomingevents.php>.

Presentations

Nonresponse Reduction

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McCarthy, Jaki (NASS)

As for all survey statistics, non-response has the potential to reduce the quality of establishment survey estimates. Therefore, US Federal agencies employ multiple strategies before, during, and after scheduled data collection to minimize non-response. This lecture will give an overview of current practices employed by US Federal statistical agencies including members of the Interagency Group on Establishment Non-response. The rationale for the effectiveness of these practices and specific examples from member agencies will be provided. In addition, several examples of empirical evaluation of the effectiveness of these strategies will be also presented. This is intended to provide audience members with a full palette of practical strategies to reduce non-response throughout all phases of data collection.

Nonresponse Bias Analysis for Establishment Surveys: Guidance from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Harris-Kojetin, Brian (OMB)

National Statistical Institutes have been facing declining response rates and increased costs of data collection for many surveys. In recent years, there has been an increased attention on nonresponse bias rather than response rates. In the U.S., the Office of Management and Budget issued guidance stipulating that Federal agencies conduct nonresponse bias analyses if survey response rates fall below 80 percent. This lecture will provide an introduction to issues of survey nonresponse and an overview of techniques for examining potential nonresponse bias in establishment surveys. The use of different analysis techniques will be illustrated with examples used by U.S. agencies on their establishment surveys.

Nonresponse Bias Analysis for Business Surveys: A Perspective from the U.S. Census Bureau

Thompson, K. Jenny (Census)

Although nonresponse bias is only one component of total survey error, mitigating it often poses substantive challenges for business surveys. For these programs, the statistics of interest are generally totals or percentage change in totals, and biases in either direction could lead to erroneous conclusions about the state of the economy. Business populations are highly skewed, with a large proportion of the estimated totals originating from a small set of cases. Moreover, viable response data can be obtained from different units than sampled: for example, a company may provide data for more than one sampled unit. High quality **administrative data may be available from alternative data sources. This lecture discusses these** challenges in detail and provides a broad overview of techniques used to conduct nonresponse bias analysis with business data.

Adjusting for Unit Nonresponse in an Establishment Survey Under a Logistic Response Model

Kott, Phil (RTI)

Many establishment surveys have a measure of size known for all units in the frame. Often, it is more reasonable to assume unit nonresponse is a logistic function of the log of this size measure (and other covariates) rather than the measure itself. We contrast several methods of estimating a total under that assumption with a simulated respondent sample of hospital emergency departments. It turns out the most efficient of these methods uses instrumental-variable calibration where the size measure is a calibration variable while its log is an instrumental variable. We then turn to the problem of estimating a total when unit nonresponse is a function of the survey variable itself by letting the log of the survey variable is the instrumental variable. SUDAAN 11 is employed to compute all estimates and large-sample standard errors.

SEMINARS

Title: 2012 Morris Hansen Lecture

Date/Time:

October 9, 2012

Lecture will begin at **3:30 pm**

Reception will follow at **5:30 pm**

Registration open at www.nass.usda.gov/morris-hansen/

Speaker:

Ken Prewitt, Columbia University

Ken Prewitt is known for his dynamic and provocative takes on the challenges and opportunities for the federal statistical system in the 21st century. He is vice president for Global Centers and Carnegie professor of public affairs at Columbia University, with appointments in the School of International and Public Affairs and the Department of Political Science. He is a former member of the Committee on National Statistics and current chair of the advisory committee to the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences. He served as director of the U.S. Census Bureau (1998-2001), director of the National Opinion Research Center, president of the Social Science Research Council, and senior vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He earned his B.A. from Southern Methodist University, his M.A. from Washington University, and his Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University. From 1965 to 1982 he was a professor at the University of Chicago.

Discussants:

Margo Anderson, professor of history and urban studies at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and noted historian of the U.S. census

Dan Gaylin, executive vice president of NORC at the University of Chicago and formerly senior advisor for research and planning at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Location:

Jefferson Auditorium of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's South Building;
Independence Avenue, SW, between 12th and 14th Streets); Smithsonian Metro Stop (Blue/Orange Lines);
A photo ID is required.

Abstract:

The production of social knowledge is never independent of its institutional base (think monasteries and religious knowledge). In this talk, I discuss the role of the "Westats" (Westat, NORC, RTI, Abt, Mathematica, etc.) in partnering the expansion of government support for (and influence over) policy and research-relevant survey databases and in facilitating the 1960s arrival of "big social science." How have—and why it is important that—the contract houses avoid the partisanship now prevalent among think tanks? The answer instructs us in whether social science can engage sites where power roams and yet not compromise the praised principle—"speak truth to power."

Title: **Statistics and Audit Sampling with Application to the Eloise Cobell Indian Trust Case**

Date/Time: **October 11, 2012/12:30 - 2:00 pm**

Speakers: Mary Batchter and Fritz Scheuren

Chair/Organizer: Daniel Lee

Location:

New Offices of Mathematica-MPR, 1101 First Street NE, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20002, near L Street, north of Union Station

Mathematica is located at 1100 1st Street, NE, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20002. If traveling by Metro, take the Red Line to either the New York Ave Station or Union Station. From the New York Ave Station, follow signs to exit at M Street out of the station and walk 1 block west on M street and 2 blocks south on 1st Street (the building will be on your right). From Union Station, walk north along 1st Street for about 4-5 blocks until you reach L Street (the building will be on your left after crossing L street).

If traveling by car, pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which is located 1 block east of North Capitol on L Street NE. Once in the building, take the elevators to the 12th floor 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.

Remote Viewing:

To be placed on the attendance list for webinar and phone viewing, please RSVP to Alyssa Maccarone at amaccarone@mathematica-mpr.com or (202) 250-3570 at least 1 day in advance of the seminar (in-person attendees do not need to RSVP). Provide your name, affiliation, contact information (email is preferred) and the seminar date. Once on the list, you will be provided with information about webinar and phone viewing.

Sponsor:

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

Abstract:

Probability and judgment samples are extensively used in financial audits. Probability samples need no discussion in this audience. Judgment sampling, even though much maligned, can have a useful role in a discovery context when conducting a compliance audit. Still, probability samples are required if attribute error rates are sought. Seemingly forgotten in recent years is that when problems are found through a discovery judgment sample, there is no direct way to accurately estimate the impact of a control failure. Without a probability sample follow up, conclusions, even if based on multiple judgment samples, can be misleading. The use of now standard meta-

analysis tools for multiple judgment samples simply does not work. The nonstatistical intuition is that multiple judgment samples can, somehow, be combined and a stronger inference made. That is simply untrue and has caused much harm in some important cases. The just settled Cobell Indian Trust Case will be used as an example.

Papers: *Background on Audit Sampling*- Mary Batchter,
mary.batchter@ey.com, (202) 327-6773

Application of Audit Sampling in the Elouise Cobell Case- Fritz Scheuren
-Scheuren@aol.com, (202) 320-3446

Point of Contact: Michael P. Cohen, mpcohen@juno.com, 202-403-6453

Title: **Weight calibration and the survey bootstrap**

Date/Time: **October 22, 2012/12:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

Speaker: Stas Kolenikov

Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center

To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 3 business 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 Methodology Program

Chair: Charles Day, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Abstract:

In this talk, Dr. Kolenikov will discuss the interplay between weight calibration, aimed at increasing precision of the survey estimates, and resampling variance estimation procedures, namely the jackknife and the family of bootstrap methods. He will introduce weight calibration using the pseudo-empirical likelihood objective function. In a simulation study based on a 5 percent sample from the 2000 U. S. Census, the various variance estimators will be compared in terms of bias, stability, and accuracy of the confidence interval coverage.



DC-AAPOR and WSS Proudly Present the 2012 Herriot Award Winner:

Paul Biemer

Title: Issues in the Evaluation of Data Quality for Business Surveys
Date/Time: October 23, 2012/12:30 - 2:00pm
Chair: Jill Dever, RTI International
Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center, Rooms 1 and 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 (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:

This presentation focuses on a number of key issues in the evaluation of data quality for business surveys. Business surveys have many of the same error sources as household surveys: errors due to nonresponse, measurement, data processing, and the frame. But there are additional sources as well; for example, errors due to company profiling, estimates revision, and combining data from multiple sources to produce national accounts statistics. Moreover, some error sources – such as editing error and specification error – have even greater importance in business surveys than in household surveys. Evaluating the data quality can be particularly challenging yet there is scant literature on the topic for business surveys. This overview lecture will consider some of the main techniques for evaluating business survey data quality and will describe some recent developments in the field.

The Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA) along with the Washington Statistical Society (a chapter of ASA) established the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to recognize individuals who develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs.

Title: **Privacy-Utility Paradigm using Synthetic Data**

Date/Time: **November 8, 2012 / 12:30 - 1:30 pm**

Speaker:

Anand N. Vidyashankar, Ph.D.
Department of Statistics, Volgeneau School of Engineering
George Mason University

Chair:

Mike Fleming

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.

Sponsors:

WSS Agriculture and Natural Resources

Abstract

Data confidentiality is an important issue that arises in several applications involving privacy and security encompassing areas such as healthcare, social networks, and financial applications. Synthetic data is one of the tools used to address data privacy concerns and differential privacy is a metric to evaluate the quality of privacy determined by a perturbation mechanism. In this talk, we first describe a class of methods for generating synthetic data in high-dimensions and the role of copulas and mixed-effects models. Second, we describe the properties of data generated using the proposed methodology and methods for determining the parameters of the perturbation process accounting for privacy and utility. Third, we describe a robust methodology for inference concerning the parameters of the process and study the properties of these estimators. Finally, we apply our methodology to several data sets and evaluate the trade-off between privacy and utility. Applications to network data will also be presented.

Point of contact:

avidyash@gmu.edu

Title: **Adjusting for Nonresponse in the Occupational Employment Statistics Survey**

Date/Time: **November 14, 2012 / 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm**

Speaker: Nicholas Horton, Smith College

Organizer: Dan Liao, WSS Methodology Program Chair

Chair: Dan Liao, WSS Methodology Program Chair

Discussant: Nathaniel Schenker, National Center for Health Statistics

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 (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 Methodology Program

Abstract:

Past research indicates that employment size, industry sector, multi-establishment status, and metropolitan area size, along with important interactions, have a significant impact on an establishment's propensity to respond to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics survey (OES). Using administrative wage data linked to the sample, we find that these establishment characteristics are related to wages; wage estimates are a major OES outcome variable. In this paper, we investigate the use of the administrative data for imputing missing data due to nonresponse. The multiple imputation method focuses on adjusting the OES wage estimates with this auxiliary data to reduce potential bias.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS



You are invited to attend the panel discussion **The Era of Big Data is Here: Case Studies**, hosted by the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics (CATS) of the National Research Council of the National Academies.

Thursday, October 11, 2012
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Room 125
National Academy of Sciences Building
2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20418

Speakers and topics include:

Dan Crichton

Program Manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory on the roles of massive data in science and engineering

Deepak Agarwal

Director of Relevance Science at LinkedIn on the applications of massive data in business

Gaddy Getz

Director of Cancer Genome Computational Analysis at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University on massive data exploration in genomics

This event is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP to Michelle Schwalbe at mschwalbe@nas.edu by **Tuesday, October 9.**

*The National Research Council established the **Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics (CATS)** in 1978 to provide a locus of activity and concern for the statistical sciences, statistical education, use of statistics, and issues affecting the field. CATS occupies a pivotal position in the statistical community, providing expertise in methodology and policy format.*

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Public SEMINAR

Reflections on Election Polling and Forecasting from Inside the Boiler Room

Friday, October 19, 2012 • National Academy of Sciences Main Building

2101 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC • Auditorium

1:30 pm Light Refreshments for Seminar Guests – Great Hall

2:00 Welcome

—Lawrence Brown, CNSTAT Chair and University of Pennsylvania

2:05 Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office

—Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician

2:20 Reflections on Election Polling and Forecasting from Inside the Boiler Room

Scott Keeter, director of survey research, Pew Research Center

Statistical Science and the Art of Election Polling

Joseph Lenski, executive vice president of Edison Research

Methodological Issues in Conducting Exit Polls

(Edison Research conducts exit polls and collects returns from sample precincts that are used with county returns from AP for the National Election Pool [NEP] of the AP, ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX, and NBC)

Clyde Tucker, head, CNN Decision Desk

Election Projections: Estimating Election Outcomes

(With input from Murray Edelman, who with the late Warren Mitofsky developed the forecasting methods that underlie the methods used today)

3:30 Discussion

Robert Groves, provost, Georgetown University

(In an earlier incarnation at the Survey Research Center, University of Michigan, Bob participated in election night forecasting)

This seminar is open to the public. Please help us plan by registering [here](#).

For assistance, please contact Jacqui Sovde at (202) 334-1616 or jsovde@nas.edu.

3:45 Floor Discussion

4:15–5:30 Reception – Great Hall

Note: We are very grateful to Clyde Tucker, former senior survey methodologist at the

Bureau of Labor Statistics and past president of the Washington Statistical Society, for organizing our seminar.

– 2012 –

Launching a **FIFTH DECADE**
of Improving **FEDERAL STATISTICS**



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:

H2R|2012

Survey Methods for Hard-to-Reach Populations

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>Just Announced! Short Courses Social Media Research Methods Respondent-Driven Sampling Designing and Developing Instruments Across Cultures and Languages</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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 Linguistic and cultural minorities</p>

Additional information is available on conference website or by email.

Website: www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012
Email: H2R2012@amstat.org.

Event: **NIH Biostatistics Symposium**
Date/Time: **November 10, 2012/8:15 am - 5:00 pm**
Location: Natcher Conference Center at the National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Description: Please register soon and consider submitting a poster abstract.

Poster abstract submission deadline is closes on **October 19th**.
Registration closes on **November 5th**.

Please visit conference website to register and/or submit poster abstract.

Invited speakers include:

- Paul Albert, Ph.D. (National Institute of Child Health Development - NICHD)
- Norman Breslow, Ph.D. (University of Washington)
- Ronald Brookmeyer, Ph.D. (UCLA School of Public Health)
- Raymond Carroll, Ph.D. (Texas A&M University)
- Joseph Costantino, DrPH (University of Pittsburgh)
- Kathy Cronin, Ph.D. (Division of Cancer Control & Population Sciences - DCCPS)
- Victor De Gruttola, Sc.D. (Harvard University, School of Public Health)
- Ruth Etzioni, Ph.D. (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center - FHCR)
- Nancy Geller, Ph.D. (National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute - NHLBI)
- Lisa McShane, Ph.D. (NCI, Division of Cancer Treatment & Diagnosis)
- Ross Prentice, Ph.D. (University of Washington)
- Lee-Jen Wei, Ph.D. (Harvard University, School of Public Health)
- Clarice Weinberg, Ph.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences - NIEHS)

Website: <http://ncifrederick.cancer.gov/events/BiomedicalResearch/>

SHORT COURSE

Short Course Sponsored by JPSM

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

Introduction to Project Management for Surveys

November 8-9, 2012 at Marriott Inn and Conference Center, Adelphi, MD

Payment and Registration Due by **October 25, 2012**

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=110812

NOMINATE YOUR FELLOW WSS MEMBER

Requesting Nominations for the Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program

The WSS Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new program to highlight members who have made or are making notable contributions to the work of their organization or their professional field of expertise. We know that WSS members are doing interesting work in the fields of statistics, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

This is our first request for nominations, to be featured in an upcoming issue of WSS News. We are interested in featuring members at all levels of the employment spectrum including recent graduates, mid-career employees, and those seasoned veterans.

Please feel free to nominate more than one person or a team working together. You may also nominate yourself as well. The nominees must be members of the WSS and not currently affiliated with the Board.

Please provide us with the following information about your nominee or nominees.

1. *Your* name, email address, and telephone number
2. Name or names of nominee(s)
3. Organizational affiliation
4. Job title
5. Their contact information including email address and telephone number
6. A brief narrative describing the reasons for your nomination
7. A photo of the nominee, although not required, would be greatly appreciated

Please send this information to Mel Kollander, member of the WSS Board. His email address is mellk@erols.com. If you have any questions please contact Mel.

We look forward to hearing from you.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF STATISTICS

Washington Statistical Society Is Participating in the International Year of Statistics 2013

Donsig Jang, WSS Liaison for the International Year of Statistics

Washington Statistical Society is proud to announce it is participating in the International Year of Statistics 2013, a worldwide celebration of the contributions of statistical science to the advancement of our global society.

More than 700 organizations—universities, research institutes, high schools, professional societies, government agencies and businesses—in nearly 100 countries are joining to celebrate and promote the importance of statistical science to the science community, businesses, governments, the news media, policymakers, employers, students and the public. As a participant, WSS website (<http://washstat.org>) now has the International Year of Statistics logo next to WSS's.

During this yearlong celebration, Washington Statistical Society and the hundreds of other participating organizations around the world will be:

- Increasing public awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of our society
- Nurturing statistics as a profession, especially among high-school and college students
- Promoting creativity and development in the sciences of probability and statistics

Here are a few highlights of recent activities of the IYS:

Follow Us! Like Us!

If you want to receive up-to-date information on the International Year of Statistics through Twitter or Facebook, simply go to <http://statistics2013.org> and click on the appropriate icon at the top of the page.

Statistics2013 Poster

We need your ideas! We are developing posters that you can use throughout 2013 to promote the International Year of Statistics . Once created, these posters will be available for download at the Statistics2013 website for everyone to use. At <http://www.amstat.org/misc/IYSTATPoster.pdf> you will see a concept for a poster. We need your help to complete this poster! Please send me a note with at least one example of an important contribution statistics has made in your part of the world. We'll select examples from around the world and highlight them in the "bubbles" on the poster. (Please note the placement of the bubbles in the poster concept are for illustration purposes and will be moved to accommodate text length and number of examples.)

Video Contest

Please help us to spread the word about the international video contest that will help launch the worldwide celebration of the positive impact of statistical science around the world. We encourage your organization to submit a video of four minutes in length or less that illustrates:

- how statistics positively impacts the lives of your country's citizens, improves society, or in general makes the world a better place
- how statistical thinking can be brought to bear on important issues of our day
- interesting careers in statistics (tell the world why your job in statistics is so great, or why it is interesting and fun to be a statistician)

Cash prizes of \$250 to \$1000 (U.S. dollar) will be awarded for the best videos, with special prizes for the best videos by a person or a group of people 18 years of age or less and the best non-English language video. Entries will be judged on statistical content and entertainment value. All submissions must be the original design and creation of the entrants and must not infringe on copyrighted materials or productions. Submissions must be posted on YouTube. Send a link to the video to Tom Short, chair of the Statistics2013 Video Contest review committee at tshort@jcu.edu, by October 31, 2012.

Winning and honorable-mention videos will be posted on the International Year of Statistics website throughout 2013.

How Your Organization Can Celebrate the International Year of Statistics

- Have a special conference or add a component about the International Year of Statistics to your annual convention or meeting
- Hold special workshops or symposia on important topics in statistics in your area
- Have a "Day of Data" celebration (see examples at <http://brown.edu/research/projects/digital-society/news/2012-05/may-18-day-data> and <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/page116754.html>)
- Host events or develop materials that promote statistics careers to young people in your area or country
- Develop new educational materials that help improve some aspect of statistics instruction in your area or country.
- Spread the word in your area about the positive impact of statistics (get in your local news, write blogs on the web, distribute brochures – whatever works best for your organization)
- Publish special editions of your newsletters, journals or magazines related to Statistics2013
- Use the opportunity to create new partnerships and make new friends

BE CHALLENGED!

Join the Census Challenge!

The Census Bureau invites you to participate in a prize competition.

- Create the best statistical model predicting census mail return rates at block group level geographies based on their demographic characteristics.
- Use information from the new Census Planning Database, a file of selected variables from the 2010 Census and 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates.

Census Bureau planners will use the winning model to develop appropriate strategies for respondent outreach and cooperation for timely and efficient data collection.

Dates

Competition begins August 31, 2012 and ends November 1, 2012.

Prizes

1st prize: \$14,000 / Data Visualization 1st place: \$1,000

2nd prize: \$7,500

3rd prize: \$2,500

Rules and Information

Contest details, rules, and eligibility guidelines are available at <https://www.kaggle.com/c/us-census-challenge>.

Federal employees can participate as long as this analysis is not within the scope of their work, and they participate on their own time, using their own resources. Anyone whose job duties or official work capacity are closely related to the statistical model that is the subject of the challenge cannot enter the competition.

Please note also that as described in the rules, only US citizens and residents are eligible for prizes.

A NEW JOURNAL FOR WSS MEMBERS

Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology (JSSAM)

The American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) and the American Statistical Association (ASA) announce the launching of a new interdisciplinary journal, the Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology (JSSAM).

The purpose of JSSAM is to publish cutting-edge articles on statistical and methodological issues for surveys and censuses. It also will publish empirical and theoretical papers as well as applied papers and review papers. The journal will feature three sections. The Survey Statistics section will include papers on sampling procedures, imputation, weighting, measures of uncertainty, small area estimation, new methods of analysis, and other statistical issues related to surveys. The Survey Methodology section will include papers presenting methodological research, such as methodological experiments, comparisons of modes of data collection, and new uses of paradata. The Applications section will include papers that report innovative applications of methods, provide guidance on some practical problem, or present significant new findings. The first issue is scheduled to be issued in July 2013 and the journal will be published quarterly thereafter.

The founding co-editors of the new journal are well-known researchers. Joseph Sedransk will be the editor for statistical papers, and Roger Tourangeau will be the editor for the methodological papers. Dr. Sedransk is Professor Emeritus of Statistics at Case Western Reserve University; he received his Ph.D. in Statistics from Harvard University. Dr. Sedransk has also taught at Iowa State, Wisconsin, SUNY-Buffalo, University at Albany, and Iowa. Dr. Tourangeau is a Vice President at Westat. His Ph.D. is from Yale University in Psychology. Before going to Westat, he headed the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland for nearly 10 years; during this time, he was also a Research Professor in the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center.

Oxford University Press (OUP) will be the publisher of JSSAM. OUP already publishes Public Opinion Quarterly (POQ), AAPOR's highly regarded journal that recently celebrated its 75th anniversary. AAPOR anticipates that JSSAM eventually will gain the stature that POQ has rightly earned in providing cutting-edge scholarship for the survey and opinion research communities and that the two journals will complement each other.

More information is available at the journal's website (<http://jssam.oxfordjournals.org>). Prospective authors can submit manuscripts online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jssam>.

FELLOWSHIP/EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASA/NSF/BLS 2012 Fellowship opportunities

Are you interested in conducting research at BLS? If so, consider applying for our Senior Research Fellow Program. Proposals are due January 20, 2013.

The fellowship program is a great opportunity to extend your research to a new domain. The program's main objective is to facilitate collaboration between academic scholars and government researchers in fields such as statistics, economics, survey methodology, and social science. Research Fellows have an opportunity to expand their work to address some of the methodological problems and analytic challenges BLS faces. Fellows are funded to conduct research at the BLS headquarters in Washington, DC, use BLS data and facilities, and work closely with BLS staff.

Fellowship applicants should have a recognized research record and considerable expertise in their area of proposed research. Applicants must submit a detailed research proposal, which will be evaluated on the applicability of the research to BLS programs, the value of the proposed research to science, and the quality of the applicant's research record. Applicants do not need to be US Citizens, but they must be affiliated with a US institution (such as a university). US Government employees are not eligible.

We encourage interested researchers to contact us before submitting a proposal for assistance in tailoring the proposed topic to best utilize your skills and interests in addressing BLS issues.

There is more information available on our website at http://www.bls.gov/osmr/asa_nsf_bls_fellowship_info.htm or in our brochure at <http://www.amstat.org/careers/pdfs/ASANSFBLSFellowshipProgram.pdf>.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) coordinates our Senior Research Fellow Program in cooperation with the American Statistical Association <<http://www.amstat.org/>> (ASA), under a grant from the National Science Foundation <<http://www.nsf.gov/>> (NSF).

Please contact Jean Fox (Fox.jean@bls.gov) if you have any questions.

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2013 NCHS/Academy Health Health Policy Fellowship Application Cycle Now Open

We are pleased to announce that the 2013 NCHS/Academy Health Health Policy Fellowship application cycle is now open!

Now in its twelfth year, the NCHS/Academy Health Health Policy Fellowship program brings visiting scholars in health services research-related disciplines to NCHS in Hyattsville, MD for a period of 13 months to use NCHS data systems and collaborate on studies of interest to policymakers and the health services research community. Fellows are also provided opportunities to present their work at NCHS seminars and Academy Health conferences, including the Annual Research Meeting.

The application deadline is Monday, January 7, 2013. The 'statement of interest' and application form links have been posted and may be accessed using the following link: <http://www.academyhealth.org/Training/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1435&navItemNumber=2332>.

For quick questions about the application process please contact [Beth Johnson](mailto:beth.johnson@academyhealth.org) (beth.johnson@academyhealth.org) or email nchs@academyhealth.org. Questions regarding NCHS data systems and resources should be directed to [Alyson Essex](mailto:AlysonEssex@cdc.gov) (AlysonEssex@cdc.gov).

Alyson L. F. Essex, PhD, MHS | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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3311 Toledo Road, Hyattsville MD 20782
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ABT, SRBI**Analyst Level III Position – Silver Spring Office**

Abt SRBI's Transportation Research Group is looking for a qualified analyst to work with senior staff in the design, execution, and presentation of various survey research projects. The position is located in the Silver Spring, MD office and will be focused on transportation safety research. Clients include federal, state, and local governments as well as NGOs and industry.

Duties/Responsibilities will include:

- Manage short-and long-term survey research projects in conjunction with senior project staff
- Maintain databases, prepare and quality check data sets, compile and produce reports, design presentations for clients based on survey data, and play a customer service role when needed
- Implement the operational aspects of data collection in cooperation with internal and external clients
- Work closely with IT, Operations, and other research staff to troubleshoot and resolve issues and questions using sound judgment and knowledge of best practices
- Conduct user testing of web and telephone surveys and prepare/print mailing survey materials
- Develop and implement survey questionnaires, whether phone, web, or mail
- Assist senior staff with proposal preparation

Qualifications needed:

- Masters degree and a minimum of 3 years survey research industry experience or equivalent combination of education and work experience
- Detail orientated and able to multi-task
- Excellent quantitative and logical thinking skills
- Excellent written & verbal communications skills
- Knowledge and understanding of statistics
- Advanced computer skills in MS Word, Excel and proficient in PowerPoint and Access
- Must have experience working with databases and have statistical software knowledge (SPSS or SAS)
- Must be able to pass/obtain a government security clearance
- Should have an interest in Transportation Safety Research
- Experience working at or with Federal Transportation Agencies is a plus

Please visit www.srbi.com/careers.html to apply.

Abt SRBI is an equal opportunity employer, actively seeking diversity. Veterans are encouraged to apply.

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

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Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

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