



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE WSS PRESIDENT

2016 WSS PRESIDENT'S INVITED SEMINAR

Tailored Training for Employees of Federal Statistical Agencies: Looking Back and Looking Forward

April 13, 2016, 2:00 pm - 3:45 pm

The presentation, followed by discussion, is from 2:00-3:15; then, a reception with light refreshments.

Chair: Chris Moriarity, WSS President

Speaker: Frauke Kreuter, Director, Joint Program in Survey Methodology; Professor, University of Mannheim, Head of Statistical Methods Unit, Institute for Employment Research, Germany

Location: Offices of Mathematica-MPR 1100 1st Street NE, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20002. Once in the building, inform the receptionist at the first floor lobby that you are visiting Mathematica for a WSS seminar. Then, take the elevators to the 12th floor and tell the Mathematica receptionist that you are attending the WSS seminar. Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220), if you have trouble finding the building.

By Metro: Take the Red Line to either the NoMa-Gallaudet U. Station or Union Station. From the NoMa-Gallaudet U. Station, follow signs to exit at M Street. Then walk 1 block west on M street and 2 blocks south on 1st Street NE (the building will be on your right). From Union Station, walk north along 1st Street NE for about 4-5 blocks until you reach L Street (the building will be on your left after crossing L street).

By Car: Pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which is located 1 block east of North Capitol on L Street NE.

Guest List:

To be placed on the attendance list (in-person or webex), please RSVP to Ranjana Kohli at RKohli@mathematica-mpr.com or (202) 552-6456 at least 2 days in advance of the conference.

Provide your name, affiliation, and contact information (e-mail is preferred). Once on the attendance list with webex preference, you will be provided with information about the webinar.

Abstract:

A quarter century ago the idea of a Joint Educational Program emerged from the Federal Statistical agency heads, the then current head of the OMB Statistical Policy Office, and the chair of the Council of Economic Advisors. They recognized the mismatch between the disciplinary organizations of most universities and the technical staffing needs of the federal statistical system, and suggested that a new academic organization be formed. This led to the formation of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology as a center for graduate education and research in the DC area. The program started small, with noncredit short courses. Later, Masters and Ph.D degree programs, certificate and citation programs, and undergraduate offerings were added. With this presidential lecture the Washington Statistical Society recognizes and wants to highlight the enormous impact this program has had on the staffing within the Federal Statistical System, as well as the profession of survey methodology and survey statistics as a whole. As the federal statistical system faces changes in data collection and analysis needs, their requirements for staff training are changing as well. Many data sources are now available that are alternatives to surveys, and agencies are hoping that they will provide economical alternatives or supplements to sample surveys. Those changes are reflected in a significant shift in the educational offerings from the Joint Program, both in content and delivery mode. The presentation will introduce both, and we welcome a fruitful discussion about the way forward.

SEMINARS

Title: **Enhancing the understanding of the relationship between social integration and nonresponse**

Date/Time: **March 15, 2016
12:30 – 2:00 pm**

Speaker: Ashley Amaya, RTI International

Chair: Morgan Earp, BLS

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Section

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center #1 and #2

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.

POC e-mail: aamaya@rti.org

WebEx: Attendees should go to
https://dol.webex.com/mw0401sp13/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=dol&nomenu=true&main_url=%2Fmc0901sp13%2Ffe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddol%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D414638557%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAALaTu96n7ddTuzU5XrrEfZjOLS_qoxgWR4RloYpNZPkfVBKx9dlpAkMCos-8wCOqj3pjVCKm1Dlc67KY-3y-2ZU0%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dm29ea9f05625cee48e5099d881cf5d182

For audio: Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048
 (US) Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139
 (US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2

Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.

Abstract:

Nonresponse and nonresponse bias remain fundamental concerns for survey researchers as understanding them is critical to producing accurate statistics. One hypothesis of the cause of nonresponse is the social integration hypothesis; individuals who participate in more social relationships are more likely to respond than socially isolated individuals. If socially integrated individuals are more likely to respond, then it may also be the case that measures of social activities and social roles are upwardly biased. That is, survey data will consistently overestimate participation. Using the rich frame information available on the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) and the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave II, I will provide evidence of the relationship between social integration, nonresponse, and nonresponse bias.

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT
BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC**

- Title:** **Teaching Simulation-Based Inference**
- Date/Time:** **April 1, 2016**
4:00 – 5:30 pm
Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station.
- Speaker:** Kari Lock Morgan, Assistant Professor of Statistics, Penn State University
- Chair:** Paul Buckley, Gonzaga College High School
- Sponsors:** WSS Statistics Education Committee and Gonzaga College High School
- Location:** Gonzaga College High School - 19 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 – Ruesch Hall, Room 307. Please call (202) 336-7100 if you have trouble finding the building.
- By Metro:** Take the Red Line to Union Station. From Union Station, walk north along North Capitol Street for about 4-5 blocks until you reach St Aloysius Church (just after the football field). Go through the pedestrian entrance of the gate to the right of the church. To your right are the two academic buildings, Ruesch and Cantwell Halls. Enter through the center entrance of those buildings and proceed up the stairs to Room 307.
- By Car:** Free parking is available in the school parking garage, which is accessible after 3 p.m. Information about the parking garage can be found at <http://www.gonzaga.org/parking>. Coming out of the garage, the building in front of you is Dooley Hall. To the right of Dooley Hall is a pass-through to the other part of the campus. Go down those stairs, through the pass-through and then up the stairs after that. As you come up the stairs you will see the two main academic buildings, Ruesch and Cantwell Halls. Enter through the center entrance of those buildings and proceed up the stairs to Room 307.
- RSVP:** To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com by **March 29, 2016**.

Abstract: Teaching inference via simulation methods such as bootstrap confidence intervals and randomization tests is becoming more common, in part because they are intrinsically connected to the underlying concepts, more intuitive, require less background knowledge, and are more generalizable than the traditional approach of formulae and theoretical distributions. In addition to their use in college introductory statistics classes, the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics for high school recommend teaching statistical inference via simulation, stating that students should be able to “develop a margin of error through the use of simulation models for random sampling” and “use simulations to decide if differences between parameters are significant”. This talk will focus on the teaching of these two concepts, and will also demonstrate free online tools (www.lock5stat.com/statkey) designed for teaching these simulation methods, although the methods covered in this talk can also be implemented using many other software packages.

POC email: Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

Remote Access: If you want to attend the seminar remotely, using video and/or audio, contact cblumberg@gmail.com by March 29, 2016. Instructions will be provided to you around March 29, 2016.

Title: **Benefits and Challenges in Using Paradata**

Date/Time: **April 18, 2016**
12:30pm – 3:30pm

Moderator: Mike Fleming

Location: Offices of Mathematica-MPR **1100 1st Street NE, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20002.**

Once in the building, inform the receptionist at the first floor lobby that you are visiting Mathematica for a WSS seminar. Then, take the elevators to the 12th floor and tell the Mathematica receptionist that you are attending the WSS seminar. Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220), if you have trouble finding the building.

By Metro: Take the Red Line to either the NoMa-Gallaudet U (used to be called New York Ave) Station or Union Station. From the NoMa-Gallaudet U Station, follow signs to exit at M Street. Then walk 1 block west on M street and 2 blocks south on 1st Street NE (the building will be on your right). From Union Station, walk north along 1st Street NE for about 4-5 blocks until you reach L Street (the building will be on your left after crossing L street).

By Car: Pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which is located 1 block east of North Capitol on L Street NE.

Guest List: To be placed on the attendance list (in-person or webex), please RSVP to Alyssa Maccarone at AMaccarone@mathematica-mpr.com or (202) 250-3570 at least 2 days in advance of the conference. Provide your name, affiliation, and contact information (e-mail is preferred). Once on the attendance list with webex preference, you will be provided with information about webinar.

Lunch option: Attendees may arrive early to have lunch nearby. Local lunch options may be found through: http://www.nomabid.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/FINAL_NeighborhoodGuide.pdf. You may also bring your own lunches to the seminar.

Schedule:

Following the seminar, *snacks and refreshments will be served*, encouraging the *attendees* to continue questions and discussions on the talks.

Time	Speaker	Affiliation	Point of Contact
12:30	Mike Fleming		charles.fleming@bhox.com
12:40	Brady West	University of Michigan	bwest@umich.edu
1:05	Emilia Peytcheva	RTI International	epeytcheva@rti.org
1:30	Stephanie Coffey	US Census Bureau	Stephanie.Coffey@census.gov
1:55	Intermission		
2:10	Jason Markesich, Shawn Marsh	Mathematica Policy Research	JMarkesich@mathematica- mpr.com
2:35	James Wagner	University of Michigan	jameswag@umich.edu
3:00	Floor Discussion		

CONFERENCE

Title: **Big Data in Public Sector**

Date/Time: **March 10, 2016**
12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Section

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center 9 and 10

Guest List: “To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or to let us know that you will attend online, you need to pre-register (free) at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/big-data-in-public-sector-registration-21116863106> by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar.”

Schedule

TIME	Speaker	Affiliation	Point of Contact
12:30	Donsig Jang	Mathematica Policy Research	djang@mathematica-mpr.com
12:40	Frauke Kreuter	University of Maryland	fkreuter@umd.edu
1:05	David Banks	Duke University	banks@stat.duke.edu
1:30	Harlan Harris	The Education Advisory Board	harlan@harris.name
1:55	Intermission		
2:10	Ravi Goyal	Mathematica Policy Research	RGoyal@mathematica-mpr.com
2:35	John Eltinge	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Eltinge.John@bls.gov
3:00	Floor Discussion		

Data Generating Processes and Research Goals: How to think about coverage, measurement, and inference

The increased digitalization of our economy and society as a whole, spurred the interest of statistical agencies and other producers of statistics, to expand the set of data used to include alternative data sources. Collected through administrative or social processes, these alternative data sources can differ from more traditional ones in size or by the speed with which they can be obtained; however, the most important difference is the lack of research design prior to data collection. Instead, data rise organically, are found by researchers, and need to be retrofitted to match the research question. Also the seemingly lower costs compared to surveys add to that increased interest.

Despite the potential, many arguments have been made for why these alternative data sources are not sufficient to serve all research needs, neither in official statistics, nor in social science research. A few prominent ones are the lack of control over the measurement itself, issues with coverage, and instability of the data sources. One of the biggest sticking points for survey researchers and survey methodologists is the fact that these alternative data sources are not based on random samples from the population of interest, that elements in the data do not have known selection probabilities, and those cannot serve as a basis for inference. As a consequence, data that lack these two features: positive and known selection probabilities, are often dismissed as a basis for solid social science research.

However, looking closely at the nature of the research problems social scientists tackle, this presentation will make three points. First, despite the novelty of the data sources, there is no new inferential issue. Instead we are still faced with the same challenges and responsibilities as we were before in the survey and small data collection environment. Second, given all the other data sources, there are now more opportunities than ever to put our theories out for falsification, which we should embrace. Third, survey methodologist and statisticians have something to offer, to a (data) world that is heavily looking at computer scientists to provide answers on how to deal with Big Data.

~ **Frauke Kreuter**

Text Mining a Blog Network

The last decade has seen substantial progress in topic modeling, and considerable progress in the study of dynamic networks. This research combines these threads, so that the network structure informs topic discovery and the identified topics predict network behavior. The data consist of text and links from all U.S. political blogs curated by Technorati during the calendar year 2012. A particular advantage of the model used in this research is that it naturally enforces cluster structure in the topics, through a block model for the bloggers.

~ **David Banks**

Big but Noisy Data in Higher Education Administration

Colleges and universities have a wide array of data sources, from admissions records to transcripts to web app logs to ID card swipes at the library -- and an even wider array of challenges in improving student success outcomes. In this talk, I'll review some of the problems that higher-ed struggles with outside the classroom, including helping advisors target and aid struggling students, helping admissions officers recruit and offer financial aid to best-fit candidates, and helping administrators and faculty design curricula and course schedules. All of these areas have been impacted by the availability of novel data sets and the ability to build analyses and predictive and prescriptive models on top of that data. However, data quality, variety, and sparsity are all major challenges, along with the perennial challenges with building decision-support tools used by nontechnical domain experts. I'll provide some thoughts about statistical techniques that can reduce those challenges and help institutions and vendors build useful tools that improve graduation rates and other outcomes.

~ **Harlan Harris**

Forecasting Network Evolve using Large Temporal Relational Data

The simultaneous advances in network research demonstrating the influence of social networks on our lives and technology, such as cellphones, the Internet, and RFID wireless sensors, to collect detailed information on temporal networks have led to an interest of going beyond passively analyzing to actively intervening on these networks in order to mediate epidemics, dismantle terrorist networks, and increase the effectiveness of marketing. However, current statistical network methods are overwhelmed by vast amounts of fine-scale temporal network data even on moderate populations. We present a statistical method to generate a series of predicted networks based on the historical evolution of social relations in a given population. The rationale for developing a new network generation method was to allow greater flexibility in capturing uncertainty in our estimates of dynamic network properties. The method, which is based on a novel and flexible procedure to sample dynamic networks given a probability distribution on evolving network properties, permits the use of a broad class of approaches in order to model trends, seasonal variability, uncertainty, and changes in population compositions.

We demonstrate the proposed method on two existing dynamic networks; the first represents the sponsor/co-sponsor relationships between senators indicated from bills introduced in the US Senate from 2003-2012. The second is temporal network data-sampled every 20 seconds-representing interactions between participants of the ACM Hypertext 2009 conference. The proposed method enables investigators to make rapid and informed decisions regarding network interventions such as mechanisms to either encourage information diffusion or minimize the impact of a contagion; we present a network-based intervention for the ACM conference for demonstration.

~ **Ravi Goyal**

Characterization and Management of Risk and Cost in the Integration of Surveys with Alternative Data Sources

Government statistical agencies have missions centered on providing the public with high-quality information on a sustainable and cost-effective basis. Historically, these agencies have addressed their goals through the use of sample surveys and some administrative record systems.

The increasing availability of alternative data sources (sometimes called “big data” or “organic data”) provides agencies with an opportunity to reconsider the ways in which they fulfill their missions. Productive responses to that opportunity will require thoroughgoing characterization and management of multiple dimensions of quality, risk and cost that are inherent in statistical production processes.

Following a brief review of recent literature on the quality of alternative data sources, this paper develops a framework for evaluation and management of risk and cost structures. The discussion of risk highlights tools for the timely detection and management of three issues: (1) interruption of standard publication schedules due to loss of a data source or disruption of processing systems; (2) “break in series” phenomena characterized by, e.g., changes in error mean and covariance structures or seasonality patterns; and (3) violation of respondent confidentiality, including both identity disclosure and attribute disclosure.

In addition, work with cost structure involves a wide range of fixed and variable cost components associated with: (a) acquisition of data through surveys or alternative sources; (b) data management, linkage, editing, imputation, curation and documentation; (c) computation, review and dissemination of estimates; and (d) development, testing, implementation and maintenance of systems for (a)-(c). Special challenges in cost assessment and management include the evaluation of approximate costs attributable to distinct parts of legacy processes and prospective alternative processes; amortization of investment costs over time and across product lines; and capture and re-investment of savings obtained through improvements in data sources, methodology or technology.

~ **John Eltinge**

WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

Introducing your fellow members and showcasing the diversity of the WSS membership

Meet WSS Member Gary Shapiro...

1. Where do you work and what do you do?

I work at Statistics Without Borders, an all-volunteer Outreach Group of the American Statistical Ass'n. I am currently the New Projects Committee Chair, where I do the coordination for the new projects that come in for the organization to work on.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

I wanted to do something that would be a real benefit for organizations that require statistical help but can't afford to pay for it, in areas such as international health.

3. Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to..."

I joined WSS to learn about statistical activities in the area, receive the WSS Newsletter, and because it seemed the right thing to do as a professional statistician.

4. Where was your first job?

My first job other than being a paper boy was a summer job as a programmer at NASA. My first permanent job was as a mathematical statistician at the U S Census Bureau, working on sample design, weighting, and variance estimation for the Current Population Survey and other surveys.

5. Why did you join the statistics profession?

In retrospect, I know I was interested in probability and statistics from a very early age. For example, when I played with cars as a child, I was engaging in primitive queuing theory with cars lined up at traffic lights. As another example, I loved major league baseball as a child, not so much as a spectator as for baseball statistics. I also played a baseball board game for hours on end, enjoying managerial decisions based on presumed probabilities.

6. What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?

I worked for a year between getting my Bachelor's Degree and my Master's Degree. This served me very well, as I could see whether I really enjoyed working as a statistician, and I could get a sense of how the theory I later learned in college could be applied to real practical problems. It is now difficult to get a statistics job without a Master's Degree, so I would urge students to work for a year before getting their PhD D, unless they are very certain about what they want to do or/and are only interested in a statistical theory job. For young



statisticians interested or potentially interested in survey work, the Census Bureau is an excellent place for an early career job.

7. If you could have dinner with 3 people from history, who would they be?

Three people I would like to have dinner with are Leonardo DaVinci, Paul Farmer of Partners in Health, and Morris Hansen of Census Bureau and Westat fame.

8. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

A favorite meal of mine is "Caribbean vegetarian combo" at Banana Cafe in SE D C. I also very much like Moo Shu vegetables at many Chinese restaurants

9. What is your greatest accomplishment?

I think my greatest accomplishment has been the co-founding of Statistics Without Borders. Along with hundreds of other volunteers, we do work that would not otherwise get done. My second greatest accomplishment was to get each of the continuous Census Bureau household surveys individualized and optimized in 1980. Prior to that, all surveys had to pretty much use the sample design of the Current Population Survey.

10. Have you ever had any career mentors? If so, what made them great?

My biggest inspiration has been Joe Waksberg, who I modeled myself after. I had the privilege of working under him and learning from him at both the Census Bureau and Westat. Joe was a fantastic problem solver and highly creative. Even when I was a very inexperienced statistician, he made me comfortable to be able to disagree with him. He would patiently listen to my point of view and then usually explain carefully why he disagreed with me. At the time, I thought everyone was like Joe and every organization welcomed dissent and discussion like the Census Bureau

SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!

Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program

The WSS Board of Directors has established a 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 submit your nominations or direct any questions to, Tom Krenzke (tomkrenzke@westat.com), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

Nominations Sought for 2016 Julius Shiskin Award

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 can be in development of new statistical measures, statistical research, use of economic statistics to analyze and interpret economic activity, development of statistical tools, management of statistical programs, or application of data production techniques. 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 2015 award recipient was **Brent Moulton**, Associate Director for National Economic Accounts of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), for **his leadership in implementing major innovations into the U.S. national accounts, international standards for national accounts, and expanded integration of U.S. statistical programs**. He is also recognized for **his work at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in developing innovations that improved the reliability of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)**.

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 2016 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 Thomas Evans, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at evans.thomas@bls.gov or call (202) 691-6354.

Completed nominations must be received by **March 31, 2016**.

Roger Herriot Award Nominees

Roger Herriot was the Associate Commissioner of Statistical Standards and Methodology at the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) when he died in 1994. Prior to his service at NCES, he also held several positions at the U.S. Census Bureau, including Chief of the Population Division. Soon after his death, 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 or teams who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs.

Nominations are sought for the **2016 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 or teams 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. As innovation often requires or results from teamwork, team nominations are encouraged. Team innovations often are more lasting, resulting in real paradigm shifts, not just one-off improvements. For an example, see the 1998 Herriot (team) award.

The recipient of the 2016 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 2016. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past Award Recipients:

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)
2012 - Paul Biemer (RTI International)
2013 - Exact Match Team (Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, and Internal Revenue Service)
2014 - Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics study; Abowd, Haltiwanger, Lane
2015 - Jennifer Madans (National Center for Health Statistics)

Nominations for the 2016 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2016**. 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. For team nominations, the vitae of all team members should be included.

The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Dave Hubble, Chair of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-610-8814 or davidhubble@westat.com. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2016.** Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

Guidelines and Nomination Form

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was established to honor Dr. Griffith who died in August 2001 after working for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her latter senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's highest priorities was to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

The winning mentor(s) will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing, analysis, presentation and organizational skills and knowledge;
- Encouraging junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self-confidence through feedback on their efforts, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

The previous recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award are:

Rich Allen (National Agriculture Statistical Service), 2003;

Beth Kilss (Internal Revenue Service), 2004;

Renee Miller (Energy Information Administration), 2005;

Martin O'Connell (U.S. Census Bureau), 2006;

Stephanie Shipp (National Institute of Standards and Technology at time of the award), 2007;

Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008;

Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service) and Lillian S. Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 2009;

Deborah H. Griffin (U.S. Bureau of the Census), 2010;

Jenise L. Swall (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 2011;

William Mockovac (Bureau of Labor Statistics) 2012;

Brian Harris-Kojetin (Office of Management and Budget) 2013.

J. Gregory Robinson (U.S. Census Bureau) and Kenneth Schoendorf (National Center for Health Statistics) 2014.

Aldo "Skip" Vecchia (United States Geological Survey) 2015.

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee:

- The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior statistical staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers.
- **Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.**
- The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice...counsels with long-term goals in mind...thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts...encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor and the nominator than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach...a teacher.
- Photocopies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

Nominations for 2016 will be accepted beginning in **January 2016**. The last date for submission of nominations is **April 4, 2016** and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **May 13, 2016**. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium (for each award winner if there is more than one awardee), a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in **June 2016**.

The nomination package must be mailed or emailed **no later than April 4, 2016**, to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee
c/o The American Statistical Association
732 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
rick@amstat.org

Sponsors of the Award: The Government Statistics Section (GSS) of the American Statistical Association manages the award. GSS would like to thank our co-sponsors:

- National Opinion Research Center (NORC),
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS),
- American Institutes for Research (AIR),
- American Educational Research Association (AERA),
- Social Statistics Section, American Statistical Association,
- Westat,
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP), and
- Washington Statistical Society.

Please contact Kevin Cecco at kxcecco00@gmail.com, if you would like to contribute to the award.

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org or (703) 684-1221, or **Anna Nevius** at nevius@comcast.net or (301)-258-0565.

**JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD
Nomination Form**

Please type or print. Use your tab key to move from cell to cell and your arrow key to move from table to table. Nominations must be submitted no later than April 3, 2015.

Date: _____

MENTOR NOMINATED

Name: _____
Last Name First Middle

Title of current position and agency : _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____
(Number and Street)
_____ Phone: _____
(City, State/Province, Zip/Postal)

CONTACT INFORMATION OF NOMINATOR

Name: _____
Last Name First Middle

Title of current position and agency : _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____
(Number and Street)
_____ Phone: _____
(City, State/Province, Zip/Postal)

Purpose and Eligibility:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring award is intended to encourage the mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community in the Federal, State, or Local government. It is awarded annually to a supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of the Federal, State, or Local government statistical staff who is nominated by a supervisor and co-workers for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff.

Guidelines:

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee. The identifying and contact information at the top and bottom of this cover sheet and guidelines page should be attached. The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee’s actions that support and encourage junior statistical staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers. Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.

The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice...counsels with long-term goals in mind...thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts...encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor and the nominator than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach...a teacher.

Photocopies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

Name of letter writer supporting the nomination	Affiliation/Email Address
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize For Outstanding Statistics Project

==> Deadline is Friday, May 27, 2016 <==

OPPORTUNITY

The Curtis Jacobs Award for outstanding statistics project is an opportunity for fun, experience, and recognition – great for college applications and teacher development. It aims to encourage middle school and high school students to gain an understanding of the design of statistical studies and their uses. One of the intents of the award is to bring awareness and reward to school teachers.



AWARDS



1st Place Awards (Middle School and High School Divisions)

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cash prize of \$100 per entry; ■ Complimentary invitation to Washington Statistical Society's annual dinner usually held in late June. |
| Teacher or Advisor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Invitation to American Statistical Association's (ASA) special Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM) with registration, commute, and meal expenses paid (up to a pre-set limit). Likely held in August 2016 in Chicago, Illinois; ■ Complimentary invitation to the WSS annual dinner usually held in late June; ■ A plaque; |
| School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ One-year free school membership to the American Statistical Association (ASA). |

HELP AVAILABLE

To assist interested teachers, Washington area statisticians are available to visit interested classes to discuss types of projects and survey sampling. For more information on the Curtis Jacobs Award, teachers may contact Brian W, Sloboda at bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu or Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov. An available source of information on surveys is the series of pamphlets: *What is a Survey?* (<http://www.whatisasurvey.info/>) published by the American Statistical Association.

Submitting a Project

Eligibility: The competition is open to students who attend a high school or middle school in the Washington, D.C. area who have not previously won the award. For students enrolled at a school, a school teacher or a school advisor needs to oversee the project. For students enrolled in home based learning, the instructor (parent or tutor) needs to oversee the project.

Rules: Students may work individually or in teams of up to four students. Subject matter is the choice of the participants. The students must collect original data and submit an approximately five-page typed report that includes an introduction, research questions or hypotheses, data collection and analysis methods, and conclusions. A copy of the data and questionnaire (or data collection form) must be enclosed with the project report. Individual schools are responsible for implementing informed consent policies involving data collection on persons younger than 18 years old. Entries become the property of the Washington Statistical Society and cannot be returned.

Types of Projects: The project should involve the design of a statistical study (preferably a survey) as a way of gathering information for making decisions, as a way to make comparisons among groups, or as a way of analyzing trends over time. **Note that science fair projects involving data collection and statistical analysis are often eligible for this competition; students are strongly encouraged to simply submit the associated report for a science fair project as an entry.** Two examples of data that students might collect are expenses associated with automobiles and money earned in part-time jobs held by classmates.

Steps: The steps involved in a typical project will include those found in many surveys or other statistical studies: define the objectives and the population of interest; determine an appropriate method of random sample selection and/or data collection approach; develop a questionnaire or data collection instrument; select a random sample and collect data; process completed questionnaires or data collection forms; analyze data and interpret results; and finally write a report.

Judging: Each entry will be judged according to the following criteria: creativity in the choice of topic and objectives; understanding of the steps needed to conduct a statistical analysis and how well those steps are executed; definition of the population; utilization of an appropriate sample selection methodology; thoughtfulness of the data collection (i.e., survey questions); analysis of the data and interpretation of study results; and the overall quality of the written report. Entries will be judged by members of the Washington Statistical Society.

Submitting a Project: The deadline for entry is Friday, May 27, 2016. To compete for the award, submit a pdf copy of the entry form (see next page) and an approximately five-page typed report (with the questionnaire, if applicable, and the data attached) to: bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu or Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov.

Alternatively, submit a hard copy to:

Brian W Sloboda
Curtis Jacobs Entry
8710 Cameron Street, 409
Silver Spring, MD 20910

After the submission deadline, an email will be sent confirming your receipt of your submission.

Background on the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize was established in 1991 to honor the memory of a former statistician of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mr. Jacobs served as the chief statistician on many major Federal economic statistics programs, including the Consumer Price Index, which measures the rate of inflation in the American economy. The innovations he introduced are good examples of the practical uses of statistics and mathematics in improving the collection of data needed to inform public policy.



**Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project
2015-2016**

Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society
and the American Statistical Association

Entry Form

Please print clearly or type

Title of Project: _____

Student name(s) on team: _____

Grade(s): _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Student/Parent email address: _____

School Teacher's name overseeing project: _____

Teacher's phone: _____

Teacher's email address: _____

Email completed form to bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu or Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov or mail to the address shown below.

Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: **Friday, May 27, 2016.**

Brian W Sloboda
Curtis Jacobs Entry
8710 Cameron Street, 409
Silver Spring, MD 20910

GET INVOLVED!

Second Annual Practice Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics Exam

Last year over 160 high school students in Northern Virginia took a practice AP Statistics exam, sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, at George Mason University (GMU) to prepare them for the national exam. Assistant Professor Elizabeth Johnson, Department of Statistics, George Mason University brought the “mock” AP Exam to the DC area having previously conducted similar events in SC, NJ and PA. Students who take the “mock” exam receive feedback on their performance one or two weeks prior to the national exam so they have time to review needed content and potentially improve their scores. If a student scores highly on the national exam, they may receive college credit.

Due to the success of last year’s exam, students from 13 high schools in Northern Virginia have already registered for the April 23rd “mock” exam at GMU. A second site has also been added for April 30th at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD.

The Washington Statistical Society is providing funds to both sites to help defray the costs of printing the exams and snacks for the students. George Mason University and Montgomery Blair High School provide use of the facilities and recruit exam proctors and graders. To have students participate in these “mock” exams or to volunteer to help (both students and adults can volunteer), please contact Kathy Robens at Kathleen_c_robens@mcpsmd.org for the Silver Spring venue or Elizabeth Johnson at ejohns40@gmu.edu for the George Mason University venue.

Volunteers Needed for the ASA Booth at the USA Science and Engineering Festival

Volunteers are needed to assist with the staffing of the American Statistical Association booth at the 4th USA Science and Engineering Festival on **Friday, April 15 (from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)**, **Saturday, April 16 (from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)** and **Sunday, April 17 (from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)** at the Washington Convention Center.

The basic duties are to help with several hands-on activities that emphasize important statistical ideas in an informal setting and to answer questions from the public. An ASA staff member will also be at the booth most of the time. However, having 2 to 3 additional volunteers there will help immensely since the organizers estimate that around 10,000 people will visit each booth over the three days. Plus, it's fun!!!!

If you can volunteer for two or more hours on any of these days, please contact Carol Joyce Blumberg by April 5 at cblumberg@gmail.com. Please specify which hours you can volunteer.

The festival itself will have more than 3,000 exhibits, stage shows, a book fair with author presentations, a career pavilion and much more. Friday is a sneak peek day (attendance by invitation only). Saturday and Sunday are open to the public and the entire festival is free of charge. Even if you cannot volunteer, bring your family and friends and give your future and current scientists the experience of a lifetime. For more information, the festival website is at <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>. The ASA Booth is Booth 3034 in Hall ABC.

Call for Volunteers

The coordinators for the WSS K-12 Student Poster competition are looking for volunteers for judging the poster competition this year.

The Washington Statistical Society, in collaboration with The American Statistical Association runs a Statistical Poster Competition for school children in grades K-12 in the Washington DC metro area. This is part of the Poster competition run by ASA with the WSS judging and awarding prizes to local children. There are four age groups and children may work singly or in small groups under the supervision of a teacher or guide. Winning entries of the WSS competition are automatically advanced to the second round of the national competition where they may win addition prizes and recognition. Local area winners and their guides/teachers are invited to attend the WSS annual dinner as guests to receive their prizes. Our aim is to encourage a new generation of children to explore the exciting world of math and statistics.

Please let me know if you are interested in serving as a judge. The judging will be held at the Westat conference center in Rockville. It usually involves a 3-4 hour commitment in the afternoon. Last year, the judging was held from 1-5pm on a Saturday afternoon for example. **This year, the judging will be held on either 4/25 or 4/26 (Saturday or Sunday).** If you are interested, email Barnali Das at barnalidas@westat.com and please indicate which of those dates will work for you. For questions or more information please contact Barnali Das at barnalidas@westat.com.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTED TALKS/POSTERS

Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk May 16-20, 2016 SAMS I, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA

We invite, especially Ph.D. students and young researchers, to register and submit a contributed talk/poster by March, 28th, 2016. Please note that only 60 participants will be allowed and SAMS I (Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute) might offer limited financial support to U.S. based students and young researchers. Abstracts for contributed talks/posters can be uploaded when registering online at <http://www.samsi.info/games>.

Workshop Organizers

Fabrizio Ruggeri, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy
Refik Soyer, George Washington University, USA

Sujit Ghosh (SAMS I Liason), North Carolina State University, USA

The objective of the workshop is to present novel use of Game and Decision Theory in Reliability and Risk Analysis and to bring together researchers from diverse disciplines such as Economics, Engineering, Finance, Mathematics, Medical Sciences, Probability and Statistics who find themselves working with, and contributing to, this theme.

The first two days will be devoted to courses:

- Introduction to Decision Analysis
Rene van Dorp, George Washington University, USA
- Reliability
Fabrizio Ruggeri, CNR-IMATI, Italy
- Introduction to Game Theory
David Rios Insua, ICMAT-CSIC, Spain
- Decision Analysis in Reliability
Refik Soyer, George Washington University, USA
- Adversarial Risk Analysis
David Banks, Duke University, USA
- Risk in Engineering, Finance, Health, and Environmental Sciences
Thomas A. Mazzuchi, George Washington University, USA
Jason Merrick, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

The following 3 days will be devoted to invited and contributed talks, posters and discussions aimed to foster cooperation among participants.

Confirmed speakers include: Melike Baykal-Gursoy, Philippe Delquie, Kathy Ensor, Seth Guikema, Joseph Halpern, Aparna Huzurbazar, Lurdes Inoue, Suleyman Ozekici, Tao Pang, Nicholas Polson, Nalini Ravishanker, Kimberley Sellers, Ehsan Soofi, Canan Ulu, Mike West, Simon Wilson, Emmanuel Yashchin.

Become a Member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)!

DC-AAPOR,

Have you never been a national AAPOR member before? Do you want to help DC-AAPOR make money?

Join AAPOR **until May 11, 2016** using the chapter-specific link below. Two great things will happen:

1. If you have never been an AAPOR member before, you will get \$50 refunded to you after your eligibility has been confirmed.
2. Half of the dues you pay to National AAPOR will come back to the chapter.

This will help us have more money for chapter events and support programming and other needs at the chapter, and you will be able to take advantage of all the great benefits of being a full AAPOR member!

Sign up today! To do so, use the chapter-specific link here:

<https://www.aapor.org/Special-pages/Store-Login.aspx?RETURNURL=https://register.aapor.org/dues.aspx?PROMO=DCAAPOR>

Sincerely,

Ashley Amaya
DC-AAPOR Membership Chair

Volunteer Judges Needed

Dear colleagues,

As you may know, the spring season brings science fairs to the region, which showcase the talent and aspirations of the remarkable students in our schools. The Washington Statistical Society has traditionally provided invaluable community support to these important events by nominating and sending delegations of official judges, who serve as representatives of our profession.

WSS is issuing a call for volunteer judges for the five regional sciences fairs of 2016. Our judges work as a team at each fair to identify science projects that demonstrate excellence in investigation or use of statistical methods. Every year, our junior high and high school students eagerly look forward to the opportunity to share their understanding of statistics, and our judges have always valued this rewarding experience.

Please take a moment to consider this important community service on behalf of the profession! We greatly appreciate your consideration and support of this important WSS community service.

If you are interested in serving as a WSS judge at one or more of the science fairs below, please contact Frank Yoon by email or phone.

Sincerely,
Frank Yoon
FYoon@Mathematica-MPR.com
609-945-6616

All fairs take place on Saturday

[Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Fair](#)
March 12, Wakefield High School, Arlington, VA

[Montgomery County Science Fair](#)
March 12, Food and Drug Administration White Oak Campus, Silver Spring

[Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair](#)
March 19, Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax, VA

[Prince George's Area Science Fair](#)
March 19, Charles Herbert Flowers High School, Springdale, MD

[DC STEM Fair](#)
March 19, Dunbar High School, Washington, DC

SHORT COURSES

JPSM Online Course: Data Confidentiality and Statistical Disclosure Control

Instructor: Jörg Drechsler, IAB Germany
Date: **Mondays, 11 am – 11:50pm (EST) / 5pm – 5:50pm (CET)**
Begins: **April 4, 2016**
Duration: 8 weeks (2 credits)
Language: English
Software: R

Want to learn something new?

How about an introduction to statistical disclosure control with a focus on generating synthetic data for maintaining the confidentiality of the survey respondents?

The course material is entirely online but requires weekly online discussions about the material with the instructor. You don't have to be part of a degree program at the University of Maryland to enroll.

By the end of the course, students will learn the following:

- Know which measures are typically taken by statistical agencies to guarantee confidentiality for the survey respondents if data are disseminated to the public.
- Be aware of potential limitations of these measures.
- Have a practical understanding of the concept of synthetic data.
- Be able to judge in which situations the approach could be useful.
- Know how to generate synthetic data from their own data.
- Have a number of tools available to evaluate the analytical validity of the synthetic datasets.
- Know how to assess the disclosure risk of the generated data.

Visit <http://jointprogram.umd.edu/programs/online> for instructions on how to enroll as an Advanced Special Student.

Let us know at jpsm-contact@umd.edu that you are interested so that we can get you into the class even if your enrollment is still in process.

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System**MARCH 24, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC**

Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann

Registration and Payment Due by March 10, 2016https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=032416**Using Paradata in a Responsive Design****APRIL 6-7, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC**

Presented by James Wagner and Brady T. West

Registration and Payment Due by March 23, 2016https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=040616**Introduction to Survey Estimation****MAY 2-3, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee

Registration and Payment Due by April 18, 2016<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/htmlcontent.cfm?CourseID=0506>**Creating and Updating Prices Indexes: Theory and Practice****May 23-24, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by Dennis Fixler and Richard Valliant

Registration and Payment Due by May 9, 2016https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=052316**Synthetic Data: Balancing Confidentiality and Quality in Public Use Files****JUNE 13-14, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by Joerg Drechsler and Jerry Reiter

Registration and Payment Due by May 30, 2016https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061316

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Research Professor at Survey Research Center, University of Michigan

The Survey Research Center in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan has conducted investigator initiated, survey-based research on theoretical and applied problems of both social and scientific importance for almost 70 years (please see our website: <http://www.src.isr.umich.edu>). It has over 250 research and support staff and research volumes of about \$70 million per year.

The center is the site of a large group of PhD level survey methodologists that includes Fred Conrad, Mick Couper, Michael Elliott, Steve Heeringa, Sunghee Lee, James Lepkowski, Roderick Little, Trivellore Raghunathan, Richard Valliant, James Wagner, Zeina Mneimneh, Andrey Peytchev, and Brady West. Together they form the Survey Methodology Research Program, pursuing cutting-edge statistical and methodological research with investigator-initiated research grants. The center also contains the Survey Research Operations unit, which has over 150 technical staff working on applied design and implementation of large complex sample surveys with advanced data collection technologies. These include large scale ongoing longitudinal surveys, one-time complex mixed mode designs (face-to-face, web, mail, telephone, bodily fluid samples, administrative records), and development of large scale survey software capabilities.

The center invites applications from and nominations of outstanding candidates for positions in the Research Professor ranks. Appointments at the Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor, or Research Professor level with ISR tenure are possible, depending on level of experience and qualifications. Suitable candidates will pursue their own research interests through external funding and collaborate with other scientists in ongoing research programs at the University of Michigan and beyond. It is anticipated that the candidate will also teach courses and mentor students in Michigan Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Michigan and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (University of Michigan, University of Maryland, and Westat).

The successful candidate is expected to demonstrate knowledge and interest in sample design and missing data issues, variance estimation, statistical models of measurement error, adaptive designs, and analysis of data from complex designs. Candidates with interest in machine learning, data visualization, human/computer interaction, disclosure risk, or related topics are also encouraged to apply. We are interested in researchers who would thrive in our entrepreneurial, interdisciplinary, collegial, yet highly independent culture.

Requirements: Applicants must have a doctoral degree in statistics, biostatistics or survey methodology with a concentration in statistics or advanced quantitative methods in the social sciences or data science. Applicants may initiate the process by submitting a letter describing their scholarly activities, funded research program and plans, and interest in SRC. Please include a CV, names (not letters) of references, and one or two recent publications. Start dates are flexible. Salary is highly competitive.

Please send applications, nominations and inquiries electronically to srcsearches@umich.edu.

Reference position #121178. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the positions are filled. This position will be located in Ann Arbor, Michigan USA, although exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The University of Michigan is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and is responsive to the needs of dual career couples. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

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	Erin Tanenbaum	7/2015-6/2017	(301) 634-9405	Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org
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Economics	VACANT			
Human Rights	Michael P. Cohen		(202) 232-4651	mpcohen@juno.com
Public Health and Biostatistics	Grant Izmirlan		(301) 496-7519	izmirlian@nih.gov
	Carolyn Carroll		(202) 320-8709	carolyn@stattech.com
Public Policy	Jennifer Park		(202) 395-9046	Jennifer_E_Park@omb.eop.gov
Quality Assurance	Michael Yang		(301) 634-9492	Yang-Michael@norc.org
Social and Demographic Statistics	Promod Chandhok		(202) 366-2158	promod.chandhok@dot.gov
Statistical Computing	Xin He		(301) 405-2551	xinhe@umd.edu
Student Representative	Scott Marchese	7/2015-6/2016	(540) 313-0258	smarches@masonlive.gmu.edu

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Committee	Member	Telephone	E-mail
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Electronic Mail Committee	S.V. (Vince) Massimini	(703) 983-5893	svm@mitre.org
Employment Column Coordinator	Lisa Faustlin	(303) 396-5164	faustlin@yahoo.com
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	J. Michael Brick	(301) 294-2004	mikebrick@westat.com
Historian	Dwight Brock	(301) 517-4026	dwightbrock@westat.com
Social Arrangements Committee	Ranjana Kohli	(202) 552-6456	RKohli@mathematica-mpr.com
Video Conferencing	Dan Gillman	(202) 691-7523	gillman.daniel@bls.gov
Communications	Phil Kalina	(703) 725-6600	phil@philkalina.com
Web Master	Jonathan Lisic	(202) 720-0034	jonathan.lisic@nass.usda.gov
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	(202) 693-5904	Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov
Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition	Barnali Das	(301) 279-4593	barnalidas@westat.com
Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT		
Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coordinator	Mark Otto	(301) 497-5872	mark_otto@fws.gov
Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coordinator	Frank Yoon	(609) 945-6616	FYoon@Mathematica-Mpr.com

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Committee	Member	Role	Telephone	E-mail
Membership Committee	John Czajka		(202) 484-4685	jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com
	John Dixon		(202) 691-7516	dixon_j@bls.gov
	Timothy Kennel		(301) 763-6795	timothy.l.kennel@census.gov
	Adam Safir		(202) 691-5175	safir.adam@bls.gov
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