WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE

WSS SHORT COURSE

Adaptive Design: Overview, Hurdles, and Examples

November 21, 2017
9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Coffey
Place: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Conference rooms 1-3, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

Course Content:
In recent years, there has been substantial interest in the use of adaptive or novel randomized trial designs. Adaptive clinical trial designs provide the flexibility to adjust aspects of the design of a clinical trial based on data reviewed at interim stages. Although there are a large number of proposed adaptations, all generally share the common characteristic that they allow for some design modifications during an ongoing trial. Unfortunately, the rapid proliferation of research on adaptive designs, and inconsistent use of terminology, has created confusion about the similarities, and more importantly, the differences among the techniques. Furthermore, the implementation of adaptive designs to date does not seem consistent with the increasing attention provided to these designs in the statistical literature. This course will attempt to clarify some of the confusion surrounding the use of these methods, as well as provide examples where they have been used in the past. The course will provide some clarification on the topic and describe some of the more commonly proposed adaptive designs. The course will also provide a more in-depth discussion of the theory and implementation of adaptive designs in real-world settings. The presenter will draw from several recent examples of studies implementing adaptive designs, and attempt to address the strengths and weakness of the approaches used. Finally, the course will focus on some specific barriers that impede the use of adaptive designs in the current environment, summarize the results of a couple of recently completed surveys to assess the interest and attitudes of the clinical trials community in general with respect to adaptive designs, and discuss future work that is needed in order to ensure that investigators can achieve the promised benefits of adaptive designs.

About the Instructor:
Dr. Coffey joined the faculty at the University of Iowa in fall 2009 as a Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and became the Director of the CTSDMC in August 2010. He received his PhD in biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999 and has nearly 20 years of experience providing data management and statistical support to clinical trials. Dr. Coffey serves as the PI of the DCC for several large clinical studies, including the NINDS-funded NeuroNEXT Network. Dr. Coffey also serves as the head of the Statistics Core for the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative, and is co-PI of the NINDS-funded Clinical Trials Methodology in Neurology short course. Dr. Coffey has served as the primary

statistician for multi-site trials in Huntington's disease, hypertension, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, obesity, pediatric migraine, spinal muscular atrophy, stroke, and traumatic brain injury. He is a past member of the NINDS NSD-K clinical trials study section, a Fellow of both the Society Clinical Trials and American Statistical Association, serves on a number of Data and Safety Monitoring Boards. Dr. Coffey has published extensively in the areas of adaptive designs, missing data, model validation, and general clinical trial design.

Course Schedule:

8:15 - 9:00 Coffee, breakfast, and check in

9:00 - 9:15 **Introduction & Welcome**

9:15 – 9:45 **Overview of Adaptive Designs**

9:45 – 10:30 **Types of Adaptive Designs – "Learning Stage" Adaptations**

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:00 **Types of Adaptive Designs – "Confirming Stage" Adaptations**

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 - 1:45 **Types of Adaptive Designs – "Confirming Stage" Adaptations (cont.)**

1:45 – 2:15 **Good Practices & Barriers for Use of Adaptive Desings**

2:15 - 2:30 Break

2:30 – 3:15 **Surveys on Use of Adaptive Designs**

3:15 – 3:30 **Course Summary & Open Discussion**

Advance registration: In addition to your RSVP here, please go to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-adaptive-design-overview-hurdles-and-examples-tickets-38586435066 to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on November 18, 2017; earlier if the course fills up.

Registration Fee:

Full-time students (at most 8): $62.49 advance, $80 at the door
WSS members: $185.49 advance, $200 at the door
All others: $216.24 advance, $240 at the door

Contact person: Yang Cheng, 301-763-3287, yang.cheng@census.gov

SEMINARS

PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC (ESPECIALLY EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS)

Title: **Some Statistical Applications in Cybersecurity**

Date/Time: **October 17, 2017 4:00–5:30 p.m.**
Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station.

Speaker: David J. Marchette, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division

Chair: Leanna Moron, NORC at the University of Chicago

Sponsors: WSS Statistics Education Committee, WSS Methodology Section and WSS Defense and National Security Program Committee

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center, Rooms 7/8 (Please check board in case of change of room)

BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

RSVP: To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, date of the seminar and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon on Friday, October 13. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar.

Abstract: There are many aspects of cybersecurity that lend themselves to statistical analysis. In this talk I will give an introduction to some of the data that is available, some of the questions that one is interested in, and some simple yet powerful tools for investigating the data. Simple plots will allow us to understand many of the characteristics of network flows and certain types of network attacks. Slightly more sophisticated probability density estimation methods (similar to histograms) will provide insight into the structure and the way the data changes in time. Finally, we'll look at some methods from pattern recognition to characterize malicious software.

Most of the talk will be at a level accessible to anyone who's taken a basic statistics course, and I will point out directions for further investigation for those with a stronger statistics background.

Remote Access: WebEx link:
https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m37b4926f6e1de10efcb3948fcda8c649
Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx

For audio: Call (866) 865-9536 (Toll Free) or (517) 966-0857
Attendee access code: 744 124 3

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

Public SEMINAR

Committee on National Statistics
The National Academies of SCIENCES · ENGINEERING · MEDICINE

New Directions for Federal Statistics from the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking and the CNSTAT "Innovations in Federal Statistics" Reports
—A Seminar in Honor of Constance Citro—

Friday, October 20, 2017, 2:15–4:30 pm

National Academy of Sciences Main Building

2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC – Auditorium

1:45	*Light refreshments for Seminar Guests (Great Hall)*
2:15	*Welcome* —**Brian Harris-Kojetin**, Director, CNSTAT
2:20	*Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office* —**Nancy Potok**, Chief Statistician, U.S. Office of Management and Budget
2:30	*New Directions for Federal Statistics from the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking and the CNSTAT "Innovations in Federal Statistics" Reports* —**Katharine Abraham,** University of Maryland and Co-chair, Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking —**Ron Haskins,** The Brookings Institution and Co-chair, Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking —**Robert M. Groves,** Georgetown University, and Chair, Panel on Improving Federal Statistics Using Multiple Data Sources
4:00	*Floor discussion*
4:20	*Presentation to Connie Citro* —**Brian Harris-Kojetin**, Director, CNSTAT
4:30-5:30	*Reception – Great Hall*

Register now!

Presentations will be available via WebEx—click here to register for the WebEx.

For any questions, contact Eileen LeFurgy, CNSTAT Program Coordinator
elefurgy@nas.edu ▪ (202) 334-1616

ABSTRACT: *The Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking recently released their final report,* ***The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking****, which provides a number of recommendations that will directly impact national statistics. At the center of their recommendations is the establishment of a National Secure Data Service in the Department of Commerce to facilitate access to data for evidence building while ensuring privacy and transparency in how those data are used. Other recommendations call for improved access to administrative data, modernizing privacy protections, and enhancing data access for external researchers. Similar themes were echoed in the CNSTAT report* ***Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy****, released in January 2017. The second report from this panel, due out in early October, will review in greater depth than the first report statistical methods for combining data sources, quality frameworks, and approaches for protecting privacy, as well as elaborate on considerations for creating the recommended new entity for improving access to administrative and private-sector data. Presentations by the leaders of the Commission and the CNSTAT panel will focus on the key recommendations and implications for federal government statistical activities.*

Title: **A Model-Assisted Regression Tree Estimator**

Date/Time: **November 13, 2017/12:30 – 2:00 PM (ET)**

Speakers: Kelly McConville, Swarthmore College

Chair: Daniell Toth, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Section

Abstract: Auxiliary information can increase the efficiency of survey estimators when the estimator accurately captures the relationship between the variable of interest and the auxiliary variables. Under a model-assisted framework, we present a regression tree estimator for a finite population mean. Regression trees can capture important interactive effects missed by linear regression and do not suffer from multicollinearity issues when the auxiliary variables are highly collinear. We establish consistency of the model-assisted regression tree estimator and compare its performance to other survey estimators using the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics data.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center, Room 8

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 two days in advance of the seminar. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

WebEx: WebEx event address:
https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m595cc11bc289bb563c3981dc5a53afff

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.

WSS MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

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

Meet WSS Member Yan Ma…

Where do you work and what do you do?
I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the George Washington University (GWU). I also serve as Associate Director of the Biostatistics and Epidemiology Consulting Service (BECS) at GWU. As an applied statistician, I provide a wide range of traditional and cutting-edge statistical consulting services to biomedical and public health investigators. My research focuses on developing innovative statistical methodologies for complex analytic problems arising. I am a Principal Investigator (PI) with an AHRQ grant for the development and application of statistical methods for missing data in nationally representative databases and health disparities research.

What attracted you to your current position?
Research, teaching, and Washington, DC! As a collaborating biostatistician in the School of Public Health at GWU, I have opportunities to work with many brilliant researchers on a broad range of studies in public health and medicine. I am passionate about teaching future public health and medical professionals and helping them develop statistical understanding and competence. I am also attracted to working in Washington, DC, the heart of national initiatives, global resources, and the decision-making process that brings unparalleled opportunities for statisticians.

Finish the sentence: "I joined WSS to…"
connect with other statisticians in the Washington, DC area.

What was your first job?
I was an Assistant Professor at Weill Cornell Medical College and Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS). At HSS, I collaborated with investigators across the departments (e.g., anesthesiology, biomechanics, radiology, orthopedics, pediatrics, and sports medicine), providing statistical consulting assistance in study design, grant proposal, and data analysis, and utilizing rigorous statistical methods.

Why did you join the statistics profession?
I like statistics as it is integral to the advancement of knowledge in a broad range of disciplines. What I am so proud of our profession is that we improve the lives of people through quantitative research.

What is the most interesting statistical project you have worked on recently?
Large-scale health surveys, such as The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) State Inpatient Databases (SID), have become increasingly popular in epidemiological and medical research. For HCUP-SID, I provided information on comparative effectiveness of treatments and costs of health care. A significant limitation of SID and other large databases is the quantity of missing data. In particular, "patient race," a key indicator for health disparities research, has a high proportion of missingness. Due to the lack of knowledge or tools to address missing data issues in public use databases, researchers often conduct inappropriate statistical analyses leading to invalid inferences. The goal of my AHRQ R01 grant is to make the SID a more useful resource for the study of racial disparities in health and health care. We have developed novel imputation methods and generated imputed datasets that account for missing information including race in the SID, and used the datasets to measure racial disparity in musculoskeletal healthcare.

What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?
Statistics is a collaborative science, and it does not make its contributions in isolation. Good communication skills are essential to career success.

What is your favorite daily ritual?
Listening to classical music is the most enjoyable thing I do every morning after waking up from sleep.

What is the last book you read?
'How to win friends & influence people' by Dale Carnegie. Written decades ago, this book is still able to teach practical lessons for everyday use.

What is your greatest accomplishment?
I left my home country in my early 20s to study in the United States. Living independently in a culture that is dramatically different from my own is a challenging process. My greatest accomplishment is being resilient and never giving up when facing difficulty.

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 great be greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to, Wendy Barboza (Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

DEGREE PROGRAM/INTERNSHIP

University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology

The University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology (MPSM) seeks to train future generations of survey methodologists. The program offers doctorate and master of science degrees and a certificate through the University of Michigan. The program's home is the Institute for Social Research, the world's largest academically-based social science research institute.

MPSM is a program where students learn the science of surveys. Our students study with some of the world's leading survey methodologists while pursuing their Master's or PhD degree. The Program provides a rich intellectual environment for study and work at one of the premier public universities in the world.

MPSM brings together faculty and scientists from the social and behavioral sciences in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; the School of Public Health; and the Institute for Social Research. Moreover, the quantitative strengths of disciplines such as communication studies, economics, education, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics are integral to the empirical underpinnings of the program. With its depth and breadth of curriculum; faculty who are outstanding researchers, teachers, and mentors; exceptional research opportunities at the Institute of Social Research; and the extraordinary range of course offerings at the University of Michigan, the program offers qualified students superb educational opportunities.

Students in the program receive theoretical grounding in all aspects of survey methodology, from sample design and measurement, to modes of data collection, statistical estimation, and probability and distribution theory. Students have the opportunity to explore novel ways to develop applications of survey methodology in a wide variety of fields. Survey methodology principles can be applied to professions such as market research, nursing, public health, natural resources, information sciences, and operations engineering, through courses taken in cognate areas within the rich, diverse academic environment of the University.

The master of science degree offers three areas of academic concentration:

The statistical science area of concentration is designed for students who wish to specialize in areas such as sample design, estimation in complex samples, variance estimation, statistical measurement error models, and statistical adjustments for missing data.

The social and psychological science area of concentration is designed for students who wish to specialize in areas such as questionnaire design, design of interviewing systems, computer assistance in data collection, effects of mode of data collection, cognitive psychological insights into survey measurement, and efforts to reduce various nonsampling errors in data collection.

The data science area of concentration is designed for students who wish to specialize in the more computational aspects of survey methodology and research involving "big data," including data visualization, management and analysis of large and messy data sets, human-computer interaction in survey research, and machine learning algorithms.

For more information please visit our website at, http://psm.isr.umich.edu/ or email us at, michpsm.isr@umich.edu.

Free Statistics Internship Listing Opportunity in Amstat News and on ASA Website

The American Statistical Association is inviting organizations to submit a 2018 internship listing to be included in the December 2017 issue of *Amstat News* and posted on the ASA website (at no charge). You are welcome to submit statistics related internship information all year for the ASA website, but only submissions received by October 20, 2017 will be included the December 2017 issue of *Amstat News*.

If interested, please visit *http://www.amstat.org/ASA/Education/Internships-and-Fellowships.aspx* where you will find instructions and the internship listing form under the Internship Opportunities Listing Form for Organizations link (or direct link of *http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/Internship-Opportunities-Listing-Form.aspx*).

We offer this complimentary service for the organizations who offer statistics related internships for students and to assist statistics students to find internship opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Nichols at rebecca@amstat.org.

STUDENT CORNER

The 2016 Joint Statistical Meetings at Chicago was the first conference that I attended. As a first-time-attendee of one of the largest statistical conferences, everything was so exciting to me. I still remember picked up my tags in the registration area and the poster presentation that I gave. I really enjoyed the conference. When I was back at Maryland, I began to wonder whether there would be a chance for me to attend the 2017 JSM at Baltimore and present a paper. When my advisor, Dr. Partha Lahiri, forwarded the Washington Statistical Society JSM student travel award application to me, I knew that was my chance. I submitted my application form as soon as I could. In early of 2017 January, Miss. Erin Tanenbaum emailed me on behalf of World Statistic Society and told me that I was the winner of the travel award.

I noticed something different from last year right when I received the JSM bag. The bag was so light. In 2016 JSM, every participant was given a thick program book with information of all the paper presentations, poster presentations and social events. There was no book in the JSM bag this year. Later, I learned that in 2017, the JSM organizers encouraged participants to use their app on smartphones to search for interested program. I am glad that JSM took this step to benefit the environment.

The 2017 JSM was special to me since it was the first time for me to give a paper presentation at a conference. My presentation, titled "Statistical Analysis with Linked Data", was based on a joint work with my advisor Dr. Partha Lahiri. It was about a new approach to provide a reliable estimate of parameter of interest in presence of linkage errors in a combined data set. The presentation was scheduled at July 30th under a session of Survey Research Methods Section, named "Combining Data and Use of Administrative Lists". I had been preparing slides for days before the presentation. I was trying to convey all the important ideas, methods and results of our research but I felt it was difficult to keep the presentation time within 15 minutes. After timing my rehearsals and revising my slides many times, I finally managed to meet the time limit. All these efforts made me well prepared and helped me to stay calm during my presentation. I also got some positive feedback from the audience. Mr. Vipin Arora, who was former student of my advisor, recommended me to apply our method to a real data set other than simulated data. It was also nice to meet the other speakers in my session, who were working in the same area as mine, such as Mary Mulry from Census Bureau, Rachel Harter from RTI, and Ned English from NORC.

JSM always provides a great opportunity to make connections since numerous statisticians gather there. Back in 2016 when I first attended JSM, I couldn't recognize many statisticians and I was also kind of shy. This was different at the 2017 JSM though. I recognized Dr. J.N.K. Rao, author of the book "Small Area Estimation". I have been using his book for a course that I took and for my research project. I actually met him at the 2017 Small Area Estimation conference at Paris several weeks before JSM, but I didn't really get a chance to talk to him. I introduced myself to him at JSM, and I really enjoyed our conversation. At that time, I was reading a paper written by him about dual frame sampling for my internship at Gallup, and he kindly recommended other related papers to me and asked me to email him if I have any questions.

On August 3rd evening, I attended the Survey Research Methods Business Meetings. Food and drinks were served. During the meeting, I was recognized as the winner of the Washington Statistical Society Student Travel Award. It was such an honor for me. I am so grateful for the travel award given by Washington Statistical Society. If not for the travel award, I probably would not be able to attend the 2017 JSM and have such a unique experience.

Ms. Ying Han is a Ph.D. student in Mathematical Statistics at University of Maryland (UMD), College Park. She is expecting to graduate in the summer of 2018. Her area of interest includes Record Linkage, Survey Methodology, Small Area Estimation, and Big Data. She has been working under the supervision of her advisor, Dr. Partha Lahiri, professor at Joint Program of Survey Methodology at UMD.

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

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