

WSS



The Washington Statistical Society

SINCE 1926

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 3 RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS
- 7 CONGRATULATIONS!
- 9 PLEASE HELP!
- 10 WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS,
COMMITTEES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



A Message from WSS's President Jeff Gonzalez

To the Washington, DC Statistical and Data Science Community,

Having served in different capacities and roles for various Chapters and Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA), it is with great pride that I begin my tenure as President of the Washington Statistical Society (WSS), the oldest chapter of the ASA, and express my sincerest gratitude for having the honor of stepping into this role. In

reflecting upon our journey as an organization over the past years, the WSS, like many organizations, has adapted to the world of online meetings and has become a more diverse and dispersed community; yet there is a greater need for community and connection with all statistical and data science professionals across the Washington DC area. Although we have achieved a lot over the past few years and as we move forward from the pandemic, there is so much more to achieve.

Looking ahead, we stand at the threshold of new and exciting possibilities, and we want to build off the initiatives of past Boards with the goal of broadening WSS outreach efforts, making information more accessible through a redesigned website, and having a robust and active methodology program with opportunities for folks to learn through seminars, workshops, and short courses. To accomplish these goals, we will need to rely on you and the tireless efforts and unwavering commitment from our Board, Committees, and volunteers. So, I encourage each and every one of you to actively participate in our upcoming events – whether they be short courses, seminars, networking or social events, or mentorship activities – or volunteer for us and engage in this vibrant community.

In closing, I look forward to working with everyone over the next year. As members of the WSS, recognize that we are part of something special and unique – a vibrant community of statistical professionals, aimed at promoting statistical research and unity and collaboration among all groups concerned with statistical matters.

Sincerely,
Jeff Gonzalez
WSS President, 2023-2024

RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 WSS Annual Dinner Recap

The Social Arrangements Committee thanks all WSS members and friends who attended the annual dinner on June 13, 2023. The dinner took place at Carmine's Italian Restaurant in Washington, DC and a great time was had by all—particularly after several years of virtual gatherings.

Erin Tanenbaum (WSS President) and Ron Wasserstein (Executive Director of the American Statistical Association) delivered opening remarks to kick off the event.

Erin was the presider at the awards ceremony. She was joined by Jeff Gonzalez (WSS President-Elect) and Mark Otto (WSS Past President) in recognizing the winners of the following awards:

- K-12 Data Visualization Poster Competition
- Regional Science Fair Poster Competition
- Student Travel Award
- Julius Shiskin Award
- Curtis Jacobs Award
- Hansen Lecture
- President's Award
- Outstanding Graduate Student Awards

Congratulations to the winners!

The incoming board members for 2023 - 2024 were also formally welcomed and Jeff delivered closing remarks.

We hope to see everyone at future social events!

WSS Social Arrangements Committee
Maura Bardos (Energy Information Administration)
Leanna Moron (Westat)



Singpurwalla Symposium

The Department of Statistics at George Washington University is organizing a symposium entitled “New Frontiers in Reliability and Risk Analysis: A Tribute to Nozer D. Singpurwalla” in honor of late professor Nozer Singpurwalla. This two-day symposium will be held **October 13-14 at the George Washington University campus in Washington, DC**. The Washington Statistical Society is co-sponsoring this event featuring speakers Barry Nussbaum, Jim Berger, Sallie Keller, Way Kuo, and Jayaram Sethuraman. Registration is now open with student registration and regular registration pricing available (prices increase on September 16). Additional information on the event and registration is available at: <https://statistics.columbian.gwu.edu/nds2023>

31st Annual Morris Hansen Lecture

The Morris Hansen Lecture, hosted by the Washington Statistical Society since 1990, will be given by Dr. Jiming Jiang from University of California, Davis on **November 14, 2023 at 3:30 PM in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA)** Jefferson Auditorium. Dr. Jiang will give a talk on "Model Selection and Its Important Roles in Surveys" followed by discussion by Dr. Jane Meza from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Dr. Andreea Erciulescu from Westat. A catered reception will follow at the USDA Whitten Building Patio.



Abstract: The practice of statistics often engages challenges of conflicting interests. A classic example is the type I and type II errors in hypothesis testing. In the context of surveys, an important issue that one often must deal with is trying to obtain accurate information from the surveys and, at the same time, keep the cost within the budget. In modern data science, one often faces the dilemma between privacy protection and providing useful information. Such a challenge is set straight in the basic principle of model selection, that is, striking a (good) balance between model fitting and model complexity. Furthermore, criteria in model selection need to

incorporate consideration of practical interest. We discuss the important roles of model selection in surveys. Next, we introduce a flexible class of model selection strategies, known as the fence methods. Features of the fence methods include a data-driven procedure of choosing a cut-off or tuning parameter, known as the adaptive fence, and the ability of incorporating practical considerations in the model selection criterion. Some examples in small area estimation are used to illustrate the methods.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Washington Statistical Society Student Travel Award 2023 Winner

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) is pleased to announce that **Claire Heffernan** is the winner of the 2023 WSS Student Travel Award. Claire is a PhD student at the Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University with outstanding academic, research, internship, and extracurricular experience. **Congratulations, Claire!**

Every year, the WSS is offering one student travel award to a student attending a statistics or related disciplines program at a school local to the DC-MD-VA-area. As part of the application, students submit an essay describing their interest in statistics, including projects, internships and/or assistantships, and other activities to help improve the field of statistics, such as teaching, mentoring, advising, collaborating, and service, and interest in attending and presenting at an American Statistical Association (ASA) meeting or conference. The award includes \$800 plus early-bird student conference registration to one ASA meeting or conference during the year of the award and a one-year student membership to the WSS.

This year, Claire's application was among a number of strong applications and it was a close decision. Her main research interest is in spatial statistics and was developed because of her PhD work on environmental applications driven air pollution and its health impact. She developed a spatial filtering method to predict air pollution and is working on extensions to this work. In addition, she is working on estimating the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on air pollution using machine learning in a causal inference interrupted time series framework. Claire had a summer internship with AstraZeneca where she worked on mixture cure (survival analysis) models, and works as a teaching assistant for measure theoretic probability, real analysis biostatistics courses, and problem-solving lab sessions. She served as peer mentor for the past 3 years, helping students navigate classes and finding an advisor, and as the PhD student representative to the departmental faculty meetings, advocating for an increase in stipend for the students which resulted in positive impact. Claire plans to attend both the 2023 Joint Statistical Meetings and the 2023 Women in Statistics and Data Science conference.

All of WSS congratulate Claire Heffernan on her hard work and dedication to the profession. We look forward to meeting her at future professional events and to reading her essay about her experience at the meeting/conference supported by the WSS student travel award to be published in the **WSS 2024 Spring Newsletter**.

Stay tuned for the 2024 WSS student travel award announcement to be published on the WSS webpage in the fall of 2023!

Congratulations to the 2023 winner, best wishes in the academic endeavors to the 2023 applicants, and good luck to the future applicants!

Andreea L. Erciulescu, PhD
Senior Statistician, Westat
Student Travel Award Committee Chair, ASA Washington Statistical Society

PLEASE HELP!

Seeking Old WSS Newsletters

The project to create PDF scans of the WSS newsletter paper archive began in March 2023. PDF scans of WSS newsletters from 1990 to 1995 are now available in the WSS newsletter archive <https://washstat.org/newsletters>. Unfortunately, we have discovered that the paper archive is incomplete. We have discovered both missing issues, and issues with missing pages. As a result, the 1990-1994 PDF scans currently do not include September 1990, October 1992, November 1993, and December 1994. We anticipate discovering more missing items as we work backward. We would like to hear from you if you have an archive of WSS newsletters from 1994 and earlier years. Please contact either John Czajka (johnlczajka@gmail.com) or Chris Moriarity (cdm7@cdc.gov).

WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, COMMITTEES

Last updated on 7/13/2023.

WSS Board of Directors / Officers¹

Office	Name	Term	E-mail
President	Jeff Gonzalez	7/1/23-6/30/24	Gonzalez.Jeffrey (bls.gov)
President-Elect	Jonathan Auerbach	7/1/23-6/30/24	Jauerba (gmu.edu)
Secretary	Dan Liao	7/1/23-6/30/25	DLiao (rti.org)
Treasurer	Amy Lin	7/1/20-6/30/24	AmyLin (westat.com)
Communications Chair (interim)	Cha-Chi Fan	2/1/23-6/30/24	Chachi.fan (dot.gov)
Methodology Section Chair	Qing Pan	7/1/23-6/30/24	Qpan (gwu.edu)
Representative-at-Large	Bev Pratt	7/1/22-6/30/24	Beverly.M.Pratt2 (omb.eop.gov)
Representative-at-Large	Sabrina Zhang	7/1/22-6/30/24	sabrinazhang (westat.com)
Representative-at-Large	Maura Bardos	7/1/23-6/30/25	Maura.bardos (gmail.com)
Representative-at-Large	Aaron Gilary	7/1/23-6/30/25	aaron.j.gilary (census.gov)

Additional Voting Members

Office	Name	Term	E-mail
Past President	Erin Tanenbaum	7/1/23-6/30/24	Tanenbaum-Erin (norc.org)
Council of Chapters Representative	Taylor Lewis	1/1/22-12/31/24	thlewis (rti.org)

¹ Note: all WSS Board of Directors/Officers are also voting members

Programs (non-voting members)

Program	Chair		E-mail
Methodology Program, Chair ²	Katherine Irimata	7/1/23-6/30/24	Oui4 (cdc.gov)
Program Coordinators			
Short Courses	Danny Yang	7/1/23-6/30/24	Yang.Daniel (bls.gov)
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Open		
Data Collection Methods	Open		
Defense and National Security	Wendy Martinez	7/1/23-6/30/24	martinezw (verizon.net)
Economics	Michael Jadoo	7/1/23-6/30/24	Jadoo.Michael (bls.gov)
Human Rights	Michael P. Cohen	7/1/23-6/30/24	mpcohen (juno.com)
Public Health and Biostatistics (Co-Chairs)	Grant Izmirlian	7/1/23-6/30/24	izmirlian (nih.gov)
	Carolyn Carroll	7/1/23-6/30/24	carolyn (stattech.com)
Public Policy	Walter Hill	7/1/23-6/30/24	WWHill (smcm.edu)
Data Science	Chris Marokov	7/1/23-6/30/24	Chris.Marokov (uspto.gov)
Quality Assurance	Open		
Social and Demographic Statistics	Open		

² Methodology Section Chair-Elect

Committees (non-voting members)

Committee	Member		E-mail
Communications Committee, Chair	see Board of Directors		
Web Master	Chris Moriarity	7/1/23-6/30/24	cdm7 (cdc.gov)
WSS Newsletter Editor	Colleen Choi	7/1/23-6/30/24	wss.editor (gmail.com)
Spotlight	Open		
Employment Column Coordinator	Open		
Electronic Mail Committee	Vince Massimini	7/1/23-6/30/24	vince (massimini.us)
Social Media Manager	Phil Kalina	7/1/23-6/30/24	phil (philkalina.com)
Meetup Communications	Mike Jadoo	7/1/23-6/30/24	datamike8 (gmail.com)
Social Arrangements Committee	Leanna Moron	7/1/23-6/30/24	leannaxmoron (gmail.com)
	Maura Bardos	7/1/23-6/30/24	maura.bardos (gmail.com)
	Jessica Hoehner	7/1/23-6/30/24	Jessmhoehner (gmail.com)
Student Representative Chair	Open		
Student Representative	Open		
Quantitative Literacy Committee, Chair	Sabrina Zhang	7/1/23-6/30/24	SabrinaZhang (westat.com)
QL Poster Competition	Open		
QL Volunteer Coordinator	Dan Sherman	7/1/23-6/30/24	ratitekeeper (yahoo.com)
QL Science Fair Coordinator	Jiashen You	7/1/23-6/30/24	Jiashen.You (gmail.com)
Statistics Education Committee (inactive), Chair	Open		
Mentoring Committee, Chair	Amy Lin	7/1/23-6/30/24	Amylin (westat.com)
Committee Members	Benmei Liu	7/1/23-6/30/24	liub2 (mail.nih.gov)
	Mark Otto	7/1/23-6/30/24	Mark.Ot2o (gmail.com)
	Jaki McCarthy	7/1/23-6/30/24	Jaki.don (gmail.com)
	Michael Messner	7/1/23-6/30/24	mjaymessner (gmail.com)
	Amanda Koepke	7/1/23-6/30/24	amanda.koepke (nist.gov)

Diversity Committee, Chair	Michael Jadoo	7/1/23-6/30/24	Jadoo.Michael (bls.gov)
Committee Member	Darryl Creel	7/1/23-6/30/24	dcreel (rti.org)
Membership Committee, Chair	John Czajka	7/1/23-6/30/24	JohnLCzajka (gmail.com)
WSS/SRMS Committee on ASA Fellows, Chair	Daniell Toth	7/1/23-6/30/24	toth.daniell (bls.gov)
Committee Members	Sallie Ann Keller	7/1/23-6/30/24	sak9tr (virginia.edu)
	Tom Krenzke	7/1/23-6/30/24	tomkrenzke (westat.com)
	Jennifer Parker	7/1/23-6/30/24	jdp3 (cdc.gov)
	Stephanie Shipp	7/1/23-6/30/24	sss5sc (virginia.edu)
Committee Member (President-Elect)	See Board of Directors	See Board of Directors	
Financial Audit Committee	Chris Moriarity	7/1/23-6/30/24	cdm7 (cdc.gov)
	Michael P. Cohen	7/1/23-6/30/24	mpcohen (juno.com)
Historical Committee, Chair	Open		

Award Committees (non-voting members)

Award Committee	Member		E-mail
Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee	Raji Sundaram	7/1/23-6/30/24	sundaramr2 (mail.nih.gov)
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	7/1/23-6/30/24	Sloboda.brian.w (dol.gov)
WSS' Gertrude Cox Award Committee, Chair (RTI)	Marcus Berzofsky	7/1/23-6/30/24	berzofsky (rti.org)
RTI Committee Members	Darryl Creel	7/1/23-6/30/24	dcreel (rti.org)
	Phillip Kott	7/1/23-6/30/24	pkott (rti.org)
Committee Members	President		See Board of Directors
	Past President		See Board of Directors
	President-Elect		See Board of Directors
Hansen Lecture Committee, Chair	Jenny Thompson	2023	katherine.j.thompson (census.gov)
Past Chair	Partha Lahiri	2023	plahiri (umd.edu)
Committee Member, Chair Elect	Carolina Franco	2023	Franco-Carolina (norc.org)
Committee Member, Chair Elect On-Deck	William Bell	2023	William.r.bell (census.gov)
NASS Committee Member	Linda Young	2023	Linda.Young (nass.usda.gov)
Westat Committee Member	Jeri Mulrow	2023	JeriMulrow (westat.com)
Herriot Award Committee (GSS)	a committee comprising representatives of the ASA Social Statistics and Government Statistics sections and the Washington Statistical Society		
WSS Representative	Devi Chelluri	1/1/23-12/31/25	Chelluri-Devi (norc.org)
Shiskin Award Committee	See the ASA website for a full list of committee members and terms		
Committee Members	President	2023	See Board of Directors
	Past-President	2023	See Board of Directors
Student Travel Award	Andreea Erciulescu	7/1/23-6/30/24	AndreeaErciulescu (westat.com)

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

The authors are responsible for verifying the contents of their submissions. Submissions requiring extensive revisions on length and/or contents will be returned. Announcements with track changes will not be accepted.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format will be returned.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ITEMS IN PDF OR IN THE BODY OF AN EMAIL.