



WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

December 1986
1986: The 60th Birthday of WSS

NEWSLETTER

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January 20&21	Tues./Wed.	SHORT COURSE: Analysis of Categorical Data From Complex Samples

WSS Employment Column--A Great Place to Start
by Rich Allen, WSS Secretary

One of the longest lasting and most popular features of the Washington Statistical Society Newsletter is the monthly Employment column. The column was begun in 1968 and was an immediate success. Some of the WSS members around the country have maintained their memberships largely just to keep in touch with job opportunities in the Washington, D.C. area.

Since many announcements have been for multiple possible openings it is impossible to enumerate the total number of openings in the 18 years of the program. However, a conservative estimate is that over 460 positions have been advertised. In addition, 240 advertisements have been placed on behalf of job applicants.

One of the unique features of the Employment Column is the fact that the feature has continued for 18 years through the efforts of only two people. Marie Eldridge was the original Chairperson of the Employment Committee and held that position until the spring of 1976. Evelyn R. Kay took over the task with the 1976-77 program year and has kept the position ever since. These two ladies are owed a big debt of gratitude by the entire membership of WSS.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM CHAIRS

Agriculture & Natural Resources		Public Health & Biostatistics		Short Courses	
Ron Bosecker	447-3895	Jai Choi	436-7047	Virginia deWolf	366-5361
Maurice Owens	734-4379	Mary Foulkes	496-6818	Terry Ireland	301-859-6104
Economics		Social & Demographic Statistics		Andrew A. White	436-7022
Lynda Carlson	252-1112	Lee-Ann C. Hayek	357-1587	Glenn White	763-5248
Physical Sciences & Engineering		John Czajka	484-9220	Methodology	
Donald Gantz	425-3931	Statistical Computing		Mary Mulry	763-7140
Employment		Harry Foxwell	872-8058	Bill Winkler	252-2140
Evelyn Kay	331-1153	Sally Howe	921-3395	Newsletter Editor	
				David Judkins	251-1500

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

TOPIC: The Role of a Statistician in a Major Trade Association
SPEAKER: Edward Murphy, American Petroleum Institute
DISCUSSANT: Nancy Kirkendall, Energy Information Administration (EIA)
CHAIR: Lynda Carlson, EIA
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, December 2, 1986; 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Rm. BE-069, Forrestal Bldg., 1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
ABSTRACT: Trade associations play a vital role in developing and analyzing statistics about their industry. A necessary balancing job is required between the statistical and policy roles of a trade association. Dr. Murphy heads one of the largest and most prestigious of the statistics departments in a trade association. He will discuss the work of his department, who their users are, the problems which they have in collecting data, and issues such as confidentiality of data between members.

TOPIC: Does Error in the Predictors Really Matter?
SPEAKER: Cliff Spiegelman, National Bureau of Standards
DISCUSSANT: Brad Schultz, Washington Consulting Group
CHAIR: Don Gantz, George Mason University
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, December 3, 1986; 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Rm. 315, Martin Luther King Library, 901 G Street, N.W.
ABSTRACT: Regression with errors in the predictors is an old problem with an extensive literature. There still are challenging issues such as modeling, plotting and optimizing. Recent results for these issues are discussed from a personal perspective.

TOPIC: The Use of Historical Controls in Carcinogenic Bioassay
SPEAKER: Robert Smythe, George Washington University
DISCUSSANT: Robert Tarone, National Cancer Institute (NCI)
CHAIR: Linda Pickle, NCI
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, December 10, 1986; 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Conference Room E, Landow Building, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD.
ABSTRACT: Several methods have been proposed for using formal statistical procedures to incorporate historical control information into testing for trends in rodent bioassay. Some modifications of Tarone's method (using a beta prior for the control group response probability) will be discussed and some difficulties with this method noted. A new method using a non-parametric estimator of the prior distribution will be presented and its performance examined on several data sets.

WSS Wine and Cheese Holiday Party

WHEN: Wednesday, December 10, 1986, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: George Washington University Club, 21st Street between H & I; Kayser, Parks and Doyle Rooms
COST: \$8.50 per person. See announcement enclosed in this Newsletter.

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PROGRAM ABSTRACTS (CONTINUED)

TOPIC: Statistical Techniques for Disclosure Avoidance
SPEAKERS: Jay Kim, Bureau of the Census, and Michael Strudler, Internal Revenue Service
DISCUSSANT: Nancy Spruill, Department of Defense
CHAIR: Larry Cox, Bureau of the Census
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, December 11, 1986; 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: IRS Auditorium (7th Floor), 1111 Constitution Ave., N.W.
ABSTRACT: In recent years there has been increasing concern that standard steps for removing personal identifiers may no longer be adequate to protect the confidentiality of individuals on public-use micordata files. There is a growing possiblity that the combination of data from these fields with other publicly available information could lead to re-identification of specific individuals. This session focuses on two recent studies in which additional disclosure avoidance techniques have been introduced to further ensure confidentiality--one with Census survey data and the other with IRS administrative records. In both cases, the techniques described also attempt to minimize the impact of these manipulations on the subsequent usefulness of the data.

TOPIC: Applications of Efficiency Robustness in Combining Contingency Tables and Survival Analysis
SPEAKER: Joseph Gastwirth, George Washington University
DISCUSSANT: Robert Tarone, NCI
CHAIR: Robert O'Neill, Food and Drug Administration
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, December 16, 1986; 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Conference Room A, Landow Building, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD.
ABSTRACT: A test is the maximum efficiency robust test for a family of possible models underlying the data if no other test has higher minimum efficiency relative to the asymptotically optimum test for each model. Methods used to examine the efficiency robustness of rank tests for the two-sample problem are adapted to obtain maximum efficiency robust procedures for testing the quality of proportions across several 2 x 2 tables, for combining the results of the tests for trends in several 2 x J tables in which the dose-response function is one of a set of possible monotone functions, and to analyze censored survival data when either the Wilcoxon or log-rank may be appropriate.

TOPIC: On Randomness, Determinism, and Computability
SPEAKER: Edward Wegman, George Mason University
DISCUSSANT: Nozer Singpurwalla, George Washington University
CHAIR: Lyle Broemeling, Office of Naval Research
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, January 8, 1987; 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Room 2736, GAO Building, 441 G Street, N.W. Call 523-1760 if you plan to attend in order to assure building entrance.
ABSTRACT: This talk will discuss the meaning and relationship of randomness and determinism. Randomness is discussed in its intuitive understanding as lack of repeatability, lack of predictability, and lack of pattern. Related to this, a fundamental exposition of chaotic dynamical systems is given with some examples. These can be used to generate time series which are both deterministic and still exhibit all the above-mentioned characteristics of randomness. The formal definition of randomness in terms of algorithmic incompressibility and the role of recursion in computability and randomness are also discussed.

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PROGRAM ABSTRACTS (CONTINUED)

TOPIC: Short Course: Analysis of Categorical Data From Complex Samples
INSTRUCTOR: Robert Fay, Bureau of the Census
DATE AND TIME: Tues./Wed., January 20 & 21, 1987; 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.
FEES: WSS & ASA Members \$90; Nonmembers \$110.
INFORMATION: See announcement enclosed in this Newsletter.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Judkins is New WSS Newsletter Editor

Notices should be received by him at Westat, Inc., 1650 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD., 20850, no later than the first of the preceding month (i.e., by December 1 for inclusion in the January Newsletter). His phone number at Westat is (301) 294-2066. Note that employment notices should still be sent to Evelyn Kay.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Statistical Seminar

On Tuesday, December 9, Elizabeth Loftus from the University of Washington and Georgetown Law School will speak on "Cognitive Psychology and Surveys" as part of the BLS statistical seminar series. The seminar will be held in Room 2736 in the GAO Building, 441 G Street, N.W., from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. If you plan to attend, you must call 523-1760 in advance to arrange building entry. For additional information about this presentation, contact Clyde Tucker on 272-2280.

Census Bureau's Third Annual Research Conference (ARC III)

The program for the Census Bureau's Third Annual Research Conference has been set. Response to the Bureau's first "Call for Papers" was overwhelming. More than 115 abstracts were received from which only 30 could be selected. The choices were very difficult; many fine papers and ideas had to be turned away.

ARC III is scheduled to begin Sunday evening, March 29, 1987, and run through 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 1987, at the Omni International Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

The overall theme is "Improving the Quality of Survey Results." The program will devote one session to each of 14 topics within the overall theme, and also include the Shirley Kallek Memorial Lecture. Session topics include historical perspectives on quality, quality issues in economic data, questionnaire design for automated interviewing, automating the survey process, designing automated data editing systems, effects of confidentiality protection methods on data use, issues in response error, quality improvements in statistical programs in Mexico, modeling survey estimates, quality of housing statistics, evaluation of imputation procedures, designing quality into censuses and surveys, management issues in surveys and censuses, and quality issues in income statistics.

For additional information contact Carolee Bush, Office of the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233; (301) 763-4900.

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OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Workshop on the Design and Use of the National Crime Survey

The Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Committee on Law and Justice Statistics of the American Statistical Association announce a 1987 summer workshop on the Design and Use of the National Crime Survey (NCS).

To be held July 6-17, 1987, at the University of Maryland in College Park, the workshop will feature:

- lectures by a distinguished faculty of fourteen statisticians and social scientists;
- the latest technical information on the design, collection and analysis of the NCS;
- hands-on instruction in the analysis of NCS data;
- a stipend of \$1,000 plus travel and subsistence expenses.

The program for the workshop will introduce participants to both the methodology of the NCS and its substantive use. Topics to be covered include conceptual issues in measuring victimization, the design of the NCS (past, present and future), data collection procedures, file structure and software, estimation procedures, error properties, risk-assessment, longitudinal analysis, multi-level analysis and typology construction.

The workshop is designed to stimulate the use of the NCS by providing the necessary technical information and an opportunity for the exchange of ideas among users of the survey. Computing facilities and instruction will be available so that participants can use the data during the workshop.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. or comparable degree in statistics or one of the social sciences, and offer a professional commitment to examine the NCS data in future research. An intensive small group environment is planned so that the number of openings is limited. To insure consideration, resumes and a letter describing interest in the survey should be sent as soon as possible to Colin Loftin, Institute of Criminal Justice and Criminology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742; (301) 454-5129. Deadline for applications is March 1, 1987.

1987 ASA Winter Conference

The first annual ASA Winter Conference will be held January 7-9, 1987, at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The Peabody is a new hotel located in close proximity to the tourist attractions southwest of Orlando.

The theme of the 1987 Winter Conference is "Statistics in the Information Age." Three participating ASA Sections will sponsor sessions: Statistical Computing, Statistical Education, and Statistical Graphics. Papers will be generally more expository and applied in orientation than at the Annual Meetings, with the goal of appealing to a broad spectrum of persons practicing statistics. Some objectives are to provide an opportunity to learn from experts on current topics in statistical computing, education, and graphics; to provide a forum for discussion of topics of general interest in these areas; and to provide a medium for practicing statisticians to relate useful experiences in computing, education, and graphics.

Registration, housing and employment forms appear in the September-October issue of Amstat News. Nonmembers may request this material by contacting the American Statistical Association, 806 15th Street, N.W., Suite 640, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 393-3253.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices
is 5 weeks before the publication
date

Send notices and requests to:
Evelyn R. Kay
520 - 22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037 (202) 331-1153

JOB OPENINGS

If interested in any of the following positions, identify the position and send letter and resume to WESTAT, Inc. 1650 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850:

*Ph.D. and Master's level statisticians needed to work on environmental applications such as the analysis of ground water for contamination. Interaction with physical and biological scientists. Modeling, sampling, survey operations, and project management skills also desirable. Personnel Department-JRM.

*Sample survey statisticians with graduate degrees in statistics or biostatistics. Experience in survey operations, design, frames development, weighting, and variance estimation. Interest in teaching helpful. Personnel Department-JW.

*Consultant in statistical methods to clients in industry. Must have formal statistical training, teaching, and consulting experience, willingness to travel. Growth opportunity. Personnel Department-DM.

JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below are brief descriptions of the qualifications of applicants seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing these applicants should contact them directly as indicated.

CODE NUMBER: 87-02

TELEPHONE: (703) 534-1749

Position wanted: Research/statistical analyst in social science/public policy area in DC area. GS-13/14 or \$40,000/year.

Education: BA, Smith; MAT, Harvard School of Education; Ph.D, Brandeis.

Skills: Statistical analysis, data interpretation, questionnaire design, knowledge of SPSS, SAS, etc. Written and oral communication.

Specialties: Retirement income systems and employee benefits. Economics and sociology of aging. Labor force behavior. Women's economic issues.

Experience: 11 years as research/statistical analyst, 1-1/2 years as policy analyst, 1 year as associate professor of social science research.

CODE NUMBER: 87-03

TELEPHONE: Home: (516) 821-1311 Office: (212) 571-2088

Position wanted: Applied statistician in DC area. GS-13 or \$40,000/year.

Education: BA and MA in mathematics (UCLA); Ph.D in behavioral sciences-quantitative methods (Chicago).

Experience: Social science and biomedical research.

Related skills: Strong computer application background.



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