



DECEMBER 1989

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

December 7	Thursday	A Statistical Edit Using Tukey's Biweight
December 7	Thursday	Evaluating the Predictive Performance of Trade-Account Models
December 12	Tuesday	Model-Based Sample Design and Estimation Procedures (Tutorial)
December 13	Wednesday	<i>Washington Statistical Society Holiday Party</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics

Nominations are invited for the eleventh annual Julius Shiskin Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of economic statistics.

The Award is designed to honor an unusually original and important contribution in the development of economic statistics or in the use of economic statistics in interpreting the economy. The contribution could be in statistical research, in the development of statistical tools, in the application of computer techniques, in the use of economic statistical programs, or in developing public understanding of measurement issues, to all of which Mr. Shiskin contributed. Either individuals or groups can be nominated.

The Award will be presented with an honorarium of \$500 at the Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner in June 1990. A nomination form may be obtained by writing to the Julius Shiskin Award Committee, c/o American Statistical Association, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3402. Completed nomination forms must be received by April 1, 1990.

Previous winners of the Award have been Estella Dagum of Statistics Canada for her work in seasonal adjustment, James Bonnen for his performance chairing the President's Reorganization Project for the Federal Statistical System, Edward Denison for his work at the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Brookings Institution, Beatrice Vaccara for her contributions at the Bureau of Industrial Economics, Geoffrey Moore for his research in measurement and analysis of business cycles, David A. Pierce for his use of modern statistical techniques at the Federal Reserve Board, Janet Norwood for her direction of the statistical program of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Irving Kravis for his work in comparative studies of national income and prices, Roger Herriot for his work in improving income statistics in the United States, Charles Waite for his contributions to the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Census Bureau, and Frank de Leeuw of the Bureau of Economic Analysis for his wide range of contributions to economic statistics characterized by the efficient use of statistical techniques and a practical analytical focus.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM CHAIRS

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Cynthia Clark 763-8558
Paul Gargiullo 586-1137

Social & Demographic Statistics

Harvey Schwartz 443-6990
John Czajka 484-9220

Short Courses

Glenn White 763-7524
Donald Gantz 764-6565
Brad Pafford 447-3623
Sid Schwartz 268-3490

Economics

John Ruser 523-1347
Neil Ericsson 452-3709

Methodology

Myron Katzoff 436-7047
Andrew White 436-7904

Public Health & Biostatistics

Ed Lakatos 496-5905
Jai Choi 436-7047

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Patricia Abel 883-6490
Refik Soyer 994-6794

Statistical Computing

Khalid Aboura 994-6794
Sylvia Leaver 272-2350

Quality Assurance

Stanley R. Freedman 586-2038
John Galvin 272-5066

Newsletter Editor

Michael Cohen 454-6193

Employment

Bill Arends 447-6812

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

TOPIC: A STATISTICAL EDIT USING TUKEY'S BIWEIGHT

SPEAKER: Catherine Mazur, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

CHAIR: Jack Galvin, Bureau of Labor Statistics

DISCUSSANT: Michael Welch, Energy Information Administration

DATE & TIME: Thursday, December 7, 1989; 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Room 4302, USDA South Building, Metro: Smithsonian exit (Independence Ave.)

SPONSOR: Quality Assurance Section and Agriculture Section, WSS

ABSTRACT: A microcomputer-based statistical edit and imputation procedure is being developed for livestock slaughter data. A weekly census of plants is conducted which allows the statistical edit to be based on individual plant historical data. In addition to determining edit limits, Tukey's biweight will be used to impute missing values. A strata biweight will be used to edit and impute data for plants with insufficient data.

TOPIC: EVALUATING THE PREDICTIVE PERFORMANCE OF TRADE-ACCOUNT MODELS

SPEAKERS: Jaime R. Marquez, Federal Reserve Board
Neil R. Ericsson, Federal Research Board

CHAIR: Charles Thomas, Federal Reserve Board

DATE & TIME: Thursday, December 7, 1989; 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. (Note special time.)

LOCATION: Room B-1215, International Finance Division, Federal Reserve Board, 20th & C Sts., N.W. (entrance on South side of C Street). Please call Linda Matthews at 452-3775 by 2:00 p.m. on December 6. On arrival, please sign in at guard desk and state purpose and room number of visit.

SPONSOR: Federal Reserve Board and Economics Section, WSS

ABSTRACT: This paper evaluates the distributional properties of forecasts from six econometric models of the U.S. trade account. Using stochastic (Monte Carlo) simulation, we derive confidence intervals and forecast-based test statistics which account for uncertainty from future disturbances and from coefficient estimation. Empirically, the confidence intervals of the trade-account forecasts are very wide, and are generally (but not necessarily) increasing with the forecast horizon. Even with such a large degree of uncertainty, each model fails certain of the forecast-based tests, i.e., the data are highly informative. Both the calculated uncertainty and the test failures temper the role of these models in formulating policy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

JOS Call for Papers

The 1990 Special Issue on Quality in Official Statistics

In recent years, statistical process quality control and other quality improvements have attracted much attention in industry. Juran and Deming, among others, have noted that these techniques also apply to service and government organizations, and so to official statistics. For this special issue, JOS is looking for manuscripts on a broad range of quality related topics relevant to the production of official statistics and covering the areas of policy, management, methodology, and applications. Of most interest is how the concepts of statistical process quality control can be applied to the total process of producing official statistics from survey, census, or administrative data sources.

- Quality control and enhancement procedures used in surveys and other data collection activities.
- Developing and maintaining standards for computer software for processing data.
- Methodological development for quality assurance related to data collection and processing.
- Official policies and standards for data collection, processing, and presentation.
- Methods to improve quality awareness in statistical organizations and among users of statistics.
- The trade-offs inherent in meeting different quality goals.
- Experimental and other studies of the effect of quality control or enhancement procedures on the resulting official statistics.
- Analysis and discussion of components of error in data collection and processing systems, considering their relative importance, relationship, and combined effect on the resulting statistics.
- Applications of industrial process control procedures to data processing and analysis.
- Case studies of quality assurance projects in official statistics.

Manuscripts for the special issue should be sent in five copies to the Chief Editor, Lars Lyberg, preferably by February 15, 1990.

The Journal of Official Statistics is a refereed scholarly journal published quarterly. All enquiries should be directed to the Chief Editor at: Journal of Official Statistics, Statistics Sweden, S-11581 Stockholm, Sweden.

AAAS to Meet in New Orleans, February 15-20, 1990

Washington, D.C. ... Today's headlines—global change, fraud and misconduct in science, substance abuse, perestroika, AIDS, scientific literacy, computer viruses—will be featured subjects at the 1990 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The meeting will take place at the New Orleans Hilton Hotel and the Rivergate Exhibition Center February 15-20, 1990. Several thousand scientists, engineers, science policymakers, educators, science journalists, and others interested in science will attend.

Among some 250 meeting symposia will be those on oil contamination in Prudhoe Bay; recent developments in high temperature superconductors; effects of substance abuse on women; perestroika and scientific freedom in the Soviet Union; scientific and public perceptions of global change; the use of animals in biomedical research; verification of threshold test ban limits; assessing scientific literacy; the law and misconduct in science; progress in AIDS treatment; chlorofluorocarbons and atmospheric chemistry; ethics and politics in the cold fusion case; scientific competition; emotions and the developing brain; and the threat of computer viruses.

Further information about the meeting is available from the AAAS Meetings Office, 1333 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, telephone (202) 326-6448. The preliminary program for the Meeting will appear in the November 10 issue of *Science*, the weekly journal of the AAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Tentative Schedule of SIGSTAT Meetings

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics in the Capital PC User Group. The tentative schedule of events through next May is as follows:

12/13/89	Advanced features in SOLO - Nonlinear Regression, Time Series Models
1/17/90	Introductory demo of Rats 3.0 - complete time series analysis package
2/14/90	Advanced features in Rats 3.0
3/14/90	Introductory demo of Systat - powerful, general stat package
4/18/90	Advanced features in Systat
5/9/90	Demo of BASS - BASS programs "look like" SAS programs. A comparison with the much more comprehensive SAS system will be made.

All meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Room B-14, 1301 New York Avenue, N.W. The building is located midway between the Metro Center and McPherson Square Metro stops. If this is your first SIGSTAT meeting, call Charlie Hallahan, 786-1507, and leave your name in order to gain entry into the building.

ZUMA Newsletter on Cognition and Survey Research

No. 3/4, August 1989

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the ZUMA Newsletter is to further the recently initiated dialogue between survey researchers and cognitive psychologists. At present, this dialogue is hampered by a mutual lack of awareness of the work done in the respective "other" field. Due to different research traditions and social networks, survey researchers and cognitive psychologists rarely read the same journals or attend the same conferences, despite the frequent similarity of the issues they address.

To improve the flow of information between both disciplines, the ZUMA Newsletter on Cognition and Survey Research distributes information about available manuscripts, recent convention papers, working papers, and forthcoming publications. In addition, occasional bibliographies and course syllables will be featured, and upcoming conferences and conventions will be announced.

While the ZUMA Newsletter will not publish regular length articles, readers are invited to use it as a marketplace for ideas related to cognition and survey research, and short discussion pieces are welcome. Moreover, readers may use the ZUMA Newsletter to search for information.

Procedures for Submitting Information

Information of mutual interest to cognitive psychology and survey research can be submitted any time. Please keep your contribution as short as feasible.

To announce the availability of a paper, please use the form included in an issue and provide an abstract of 50 to 100 words. In addition, the editors would appreciate receiving a copy of the full paper with your abstract submission.

Address all correspondence to: Dr. Norbert Schwarz, ZUMA, P. O. Box 12 21 55, D-6800 Mannheim, Federal Republic of Germany.

Census Bureau's 1990 Annual Research Conference Announced

The Census Bureau's 1990 Annual Research Conference (ARC 1990) will be held March 18-21, 1990, at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Arlington, Virginia, only 1/2 mile from National Airport and three blocks from Metro. ARC 1990 will comprise a mix of topics such as reconciling foreign trade estimates between countries, disclosure avoidance, imputation methodology, behavioral research on the census undercount and more. For further information contact Ms. Maxine Anderson-Brown, ARC Conference Coordinator, Office of the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233, 301/763-1150.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Fellowship Announcement

American Statistical Association/National Science Foundation/Census Bureau Research Fellowships and Associateships will again be offered to conduct research at the Census Bureau. These fellowships provide a unique opportunity to make major advances in methodological or subject matter research related to Census Bureau operations or data. General areas for research include statistical methodology and computing, social and demographic studies, and economic measurement and analysis. Requirements are: for Fellows, recognized research record in relevant field (e.g., Statistics, Demography, Sociology, Economics, Geography); for Associates, at least two years of graduate study (or equivalent) in relevant field plus computer experience. Salaries are commensurate with qualifications and experience; also, fringe benefits and a travel allowance are provided. Length of term and starting date are flexible—usually six months to a year beginning

September 1. Fellows and Associates can start as early as June 1, 1990, and terms can be split into two or more parts. Please apply by January 5, 1990 for Fellows and February 15, 1990 for Associates. For information on specific research topics and on how to apply, contact Dr. William Bell, Room 3000-4, Statistical Research Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233 (301/763-3957).

Science Fairs 1990

Volunteers are still needed to serve as WSS judges for local area science fairs. If you would like to be a WSS science fair judge, or if you would like additional information about this activity, please contact Susan Ellenberg at (301) 496-0694; or send a note with your name, address, and daytime telephone number to: Susan Ellenberg, AIDS Program, NIAID, 6003 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20892.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

The Washington Statistical Society Newsletter provides a service of notification of employment opportunities and descriptions of those seeking employment here in Washington. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. Deadline for inserting notices is 5 (five) weeks before the publication date. If you have a job opening or are available for a new position, please call Bill Arends at 447-6812.

JOB OPENINGS

COMPUTER-ASSISTED PERSONAL INTERVIEWING STATISTICIANS/SYSTEMS ANALYSTS/PROGRAMMERS GS-11/12 AND GS-13/14

The Office of Vital and Health Statistics of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has two positions for the development and implementation of computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). One is at the GS-11/12 level (\$29,891-\$46,571) and one is at the GS-13/14 level (\$42,601-\$65,444). Responsibilities include: developing CAPI systems for NCHS population- and institution-based surveys; working with the organizations responsible for collecting the data to implement the CAPI programs; providing technical advice and assistance; and presenting and publishing research on CAPI. Responsibilities for the GS-13/14 position also include management of the CAPI project and supervision of NCHS and contract programmers. Both positions require the ability to develop system requirements and to evaluate languages and software for the implementation of CAPI on microcomputers. Knowledge of or experience with large national surveys, survey research, and public health are helpful and will be used in evaluating candidates. Interested candidates can call **Dr. Mary Grace Kovar (301) 436-7104** for information about the project or **Ms. Sally Hinkel (301) 436-6052** for information about the positions and how to apply for them. Applications (which must include Form SF-171) should be sent to Ms. Sally Hinkel, Room 2-11, NCHS, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782. **The NCHS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

JOB OPENINGS (continued)

BIostatisticians, Clinical Information Specialists

Experienced Biostatisticians are in demand for positions in clinical research for the pharmaceutical industry. To inquire about opportunities which may be of interest to you in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area or across the U.S., please send a resume of your background to: Henry Keller, Merlin International, Inc., P.O. Box 313, Ramsey, NJ 07446 or call directly 1-800-525-7483 (FAX 201-825-1043).

BIostatistician

Children's National Medical Center announces an opening for a Biostatistician in the Office of the Research Director. This person will provide statistical consultation on a variety of research projects for clinical faculty and staff.

Responsibilities include:

- Review of protocols
- Design of clinical trials and laboratory experiments
- Analysis of data
- Preparation of reports
- Conducting seminars

The position requires a Ph.D. in biostatistics, statistics, or epidemiology, with at least two years of consulting experience in an academic or medical environment. Experience using statistical software (e.g., BMDP, SAS, SPSS) is essential. Knowledge of a scientific programming language (e.g., FORTRAN) is preferred.

The position offers opportunities for an academic appointment to the George Washington University School of Medicine and for pursuing an individual course of research. For information contact P. Getson at 202-745-3323 or send resume to: Nick Piazza, Human Resources, C.N.M.C., 111 Michigan Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010.

JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below is a brief description of the qualifications of an applicant seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing this applicant should notify Mr. Arends of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The request should be by mail and should include the employer's name, organization, and telephone number. The applicant will be notified of the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential.

CODE #90-03

Objective:	Position in the area of Statistics and Demography.
Research Experience:	Population research involving the study of pattern, causes and consequences of rural-to-urban migration in a large city in India. Important aspects of migration were studied using probabilistic models tested empirically with data collected from a multi-stage stratified random sample.
Teaching Experience:	More than six years experience teaching Statistics to undergraduate and post-graduate students. Supervising the statistical analysis and interpretation of a number of dissertations.
Interests:	In addition to population studies, other interests include: statistical methods, statistical inference, probability distributions, sample surveys, design of experiments, time series analysis, statistical quality control, theory of attributes, operations research, and econometrics.
Computers:	Training in and applications of computer programming in FORTRAN.
Education:	M.S. and Ph.D. in Statistics, and B.S. in Statistics, Mathematics, and Physics from Kanpur University

JOB APPLICANTS (continued)

CODE #90-04

Objective:	Position as Applied Mathematician, specializing in Statistical Analysis Preference: Private Industry in Northern Virginia or D.C. Metropolitan area
Professional Experience:	Seasonal Adjustment of Time Series data (2 years) Econometric Forecasting (2 years) Mathematical Optimization Techniques (3 years) Reliability of Computer Systems (1 year)
Computer Skills:	TSO, JCL, and WYLBUR on IBM mainframe Micro computer communication packages Crosstalk and PcLink SAS (5 years) on mainframe and micro computer
Education:	B.A. in Mathematics With Specialization In Statistics Connecticut State University



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