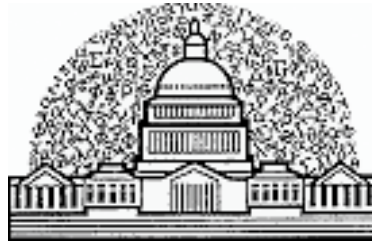


## 32nd Annual Morris Hansen Lecture



Washington Statistical Society

### Registration

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/32nd-annual-morris-hansen-lecture-and-reception-tickets-954184661007?aff=oddtcreator>

Challenges in Measuring Income and Poverty:  
Why Is It So Hard? Why Is It So Important?

Speaker: ***Dr. Constance F. Citro***

Committee on National Statistics

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Thursday, September 26, 2024

3:30-5:30 PM

Jefferson Auditorium  
USDA South Building

1400 Independence Ave. (between 12th and 14th Streets)  
Smithsonian Metro Station (Blue, Orange and Silver Lines)



**Constance F. (“Connie”) Citro** is a senior scholar with the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT). She was previously CNSTAT director from 2004–2017 and senior study director from 1986–2003. She began her career with CNSTAT in 1984 as study director for the panel that produced *The Bicentennial Census: New Directions for Methodology in 1990*. Prior to joining CNSTAT, she held positions as vice president of Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., and Data Use and Access Laboratories, Inc. Her first job in Washington, DC, was as a social science analyst with the U.S. Census Bureau in the late 1960s, where she met Morris Hansen.

Citro was an American Statistical Association/National Science Foundation/Census Bureau research fellow and is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. She served as president of the Association of Public Data Users and as its representative to the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, edited the Window on Washington column for *Chance* magazine, and served on the Advisory Committee of the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*. She received her B.A. in political science from the University of Rochester, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Yale University.

For CNSTAT, she directed evaluations of numerous federal censuses and surveys, with a focus on methodology for the decennial census and the measurement of poverty, income, and program participation. She served as study director for the panel that produced *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*, which led to the Supplemental Poverty Measure. She co-edited or edited the 2nd-7th editions of CNSTAT’s flagship publication, *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*. She co-edited the *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census*, 1st and 2nd editions. She served on the American Statistical Association Task Force on 2020 Census Quality Indicators and is a member of its project team to assess the health of the federal statistical system (report, *The Nation’s Data at Risk: Meeting America’s Information Needs for the 21st Century*, released July 2024). She received the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics in 1997 and the Waksberg Award in Survey Methodology in 2014. Her Waksberg paper, “From multiple modes for surveys to multiple data sources for estimates,” built on the theme of multiple data sources in her 2013 Washington Statistical Society President’s Invited Address. In 2018, the American Statistical Association established the Links Lecture Award in honor of Citro, Robert Groves, and Fritz Scheuren.

### Abstract

Income and poverty status are among the most important indicators of household economic well-being the federal statistical system produces. Income is also one of the most difficult items to obtain by asking people, and current income statistics from surveys such as the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) are flawed by unit and item nonresponse, coverage error, and item misreporting. Promising developments to produce improved household income statistics include the Bureau of Economic Analysis’s experimental program of household distributions of Personal Income, and the Census Bureau’s National Experimental Wellbeing Statistics (NEWS) program, which is intended to improve the quality of the CPS ASEC statistics. Both efforts involve “blended data,” including surveys and administrative records.

This talk will take an historical, organizational, and statistical perspective on the measurement of income and poverty in the United States, from the first hesitant foray into collecting household income (wages and all other income) in the 1940 census to the NEWS program today. The historical record is one of intermittent bursts of policy interest in improved income and poverty measures coupled with efforts by the Census Bureau and other agencies to respond, followed by retreats on the policy front with changes in agendas and retreats on the statistical front as evidence grew of increasing inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide complete data. We are hopefully in a period of sustained effort toward improved measures in terms of relevance, accuracy, and granularity that can shed light on overall levels and trends and, more important, on how different groups of the population are faring.

## **Program**

Jefferson Auditorium  
South Building  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Thursday, September 26, 2024.

### **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Linda J. Young  
Research & Development Division, USDA NASS

### **Program Chair**

Dr. Carolina Franco  
NORC at the University of Chicago

### **Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Constance F. Citro  
Committee on National Statistics  
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

### **Discussants**

Dr. Marina Gindelsky  
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Dr. Jonathan L. Rothbaum  
U.S. Census Bureau

### **Hansen Lecture Committee**

Carolina Franco (Chair)  
Jenny Thompson (Past Chair)  
William Bell (2025 Chair)  
Jonathan Auerbach (2026 Chair)  
Jeri Mulrow (Westat Representative)  
Linda Young (NASS Representative)

### **Reception**

Patio - Department of Agriculture  
Jamie L. Whitten Building  
(Across Independence Avenue, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.)



## Morris Hansen Memorial Lecture Series

Morris Howard Hansen has been described as the most influential statistician in the development of survey methodology in the twentieth century. Early in his Census Bureau career he put together a staff to define the principal problems in the conduct of surveys, investigate these problems, and develop statistical methods to address them. Morris and his staff then widely distributed the results of their efforts, thus influencing statistical agencies all over the world. Generations of statistical students have learned from and been influenced by *Sample Survey Methods and Theory*, Volumes I and II by Hansen, Hurwitz, and Madow, which are commonly referred to by the authors' names instead of the title, and by Hansen's other publications.

Morris was also known as an innovator and a leader in adapting electronic tools, such as computers and mark-reading sensors, to statistics. After his outstanding Census Bureau career, Morris joined Westat, which was at the time a fairly small statistical research company. Morris again assembled a strong staff and expanded Westat's scope to take on large federal government statistical problems.

Morris also made outstanding contributions to professional organizations, serving as the president of both the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and as the first president of the International Association of Survey Statisticians. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1976 and was an important member of many Academy committees and panels.

There have been many tributes to Morris since his death in 1990, such as memorial issues of both the *Journal of Official Statistics* and *Survey Methodology*. Westat issued a grant to the Washington Statistical Society to honor Morris with an annual lecture series. The series has been so successful in attracting top quality presentations on a wide variety of topics—in keeping with Morris' broad interests—that Westat has added to the original grant.

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