33rd Annual Morris Hansen Lecture

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Washington Statistical Society

Combining information from multiple data sources using statistical modeling and methods

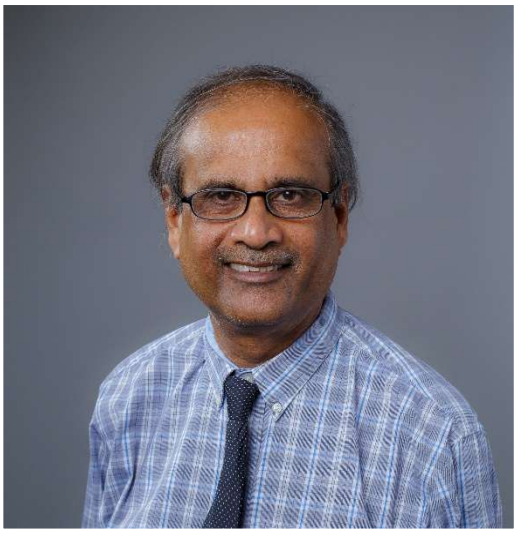
Speaker: ***Professor Partha Lahiri***

Joint Program in Survey Methodology and
Department of Mathematics
University of Maryland College Park

When: Monday, March 30, 2026
3:30–6:30 pm

Where: 2nd Floor Conference Room (Summit)
777 6th St NW, Washington, DC 20001
(Google Maps)

Closest Metro stop: Gallery Place–Chinatown
(● Green, ● Yellow, and ● Red)



Prof. Partha Lahiri is a Professor of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) and the Department of Mathematics at the University of Maryland College Park (UMD). He served as the JPSM Director from January 2021 through June 2025. Prior to joining UMD, Prof. Lahiri was the Milton Mohr Professor of Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Professor Lahiri is serving as the President of the International Association of Survey Statisticians during 2025–2027. His research interests include survey statistics, Bayesian statistics, statistical data integration, and small-area estimation. He has published over 85 papers in peer-reviewed journals, delivered 20 plenary/keynote presentations and over 90 invited talks in professional meetings worldwide. He has served on several advisory committees, including the U.S. Census Bureau Advisory Committee of Professional Associations (chair in 2006) and a U.S. National Academy of Sciences panel, and served as consultant/advisor for international organizations such as the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Bank. Prof. Lahiri is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He received the 2021 SAE Award at the 63rd World Statistics Congress Satellite Meeting on Small Area Estimation in recognition of his lifetime contributions to small area estimation research. More recently, Prof. Lahiri was awarded the Neyman Medal at a joint session of the 3rd Congress of Polish Statistics and the 2022 Conference of the International Association of Official Statistics held in Krakow, Poland, for outstanding contributions to the development of statistical sciences.

Abstract

The demand for statistics on diverse topics—including poverty measures, agriculture, health, and transportation—is on the rise, while governments and survey organizations have strived to address the increasing costs of conducting high-quality surveys. Along with technological advancements, the increasing accessibility of various data sources, including administrative records, geospatial data, social media data, and AI-generated data, presents researchers with new opportunities to produce improved estimates. In addition, this allows for the investigation of complex problems that would be challenging using only a single data source. Recently there has been a significant surge in statistical methodological research for a variety of applications that is focused on combining information from multiple data sources.

In this presentation I will begin by briefly discussing the scope of statistical modeling to harness information from multiple data sources for precise estimates at a granular level, conducting multivariate analysis when a single data source lacks all relevant variables, reducing nonsampling errors in probability samples, mitigating self-selection biases in nonprobability samples, and addressing other emerging challenges. The remainder of my presentation will focus on recent statistical methodological developments for combining information from multiple data sources in the context of small area estimation for poverty mapping—a topic of significant interest to various national statistical offices and international agencies. This will be illustrated for poverty mapping of municipalities in Albania.

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Program

Summit, 2nd Floor Conference Room
777 6th St NW, Washington, DC 20001

Monday, March 30, 2026

Welcome

Dr. Albert J. Lee

Summit

Opening Remarks

Dr. William Bell

U.S. Census Bureau

Keynote Speaker

Professor Partha Lahiri

Joint Program in Survey Methodology and Department of Mathematics, University of Maryland College Park

Discussants

Dr. Rebecca Steorts

Duke University and U.S. Census Bureau

Lisa Mirel

National Science Foundation

Hansen Lecture Committee

William Bell *(2025 Chair)*

Carolina Franco *(Past Chair)*

Jonathan Auerbach *(2026 Chair)*

Yan Li *(2027 Chair)*

Jeri Mulrow *(Westat Representative)*

Denise Abreu *(NASS Representative)*

Reception

Summit 2nd Floor Reception Area

5:30–6:30 p.m.

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About the 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 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 provided 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 subsequently added to the original grant. For many years the lectures have been held at the U.S. Department of Agriculture who provided the space and organizational support.

Sponsors

This year, the Washington Statistical Society, Summit, Westat, and USDA NASS are providing support for the lecture.

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