



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**The Washington Statistical Society kindly requests
your saving the date for the 2013
Cox Award Presentation
- and -
Annual Dinner**

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Speaker event commences at 4:30 p.m.

Mathematica Policy Research
1100 1st St NE, Washington DC

Dinner commences at 6:00 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn NoMA Ballroom
1225 1st St NE, Washington DC

All WSS members, family, friends, and colleagues are encouraged to attend regardless of membership status

WSS MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

We received 252 responses to our web-hosted survey of Washington Statistical Society members in March. Thank you to Westat for hosting the survey and providing programming assistance.

The survey asked about this newsletter—whether folks are satisfied with its content, delivery by email, frequency, and so on. A few highlights of the results are:

- 98% say they receive the newsletter email every month
- 87.7% say they open the newsletter email every month or most months
- On a scale from 1 to 5, 80.2% rate the utility of the Seminar Announcements section as 4 or 5
- 84.9% said the newsletter is the source they use most often to get information from WSS
- On preferred frequency of the newsletter, 5.6% said more than once per month, 4.8% said less than once per month, 81.7% said monthly.

As you can see, the members who completed the survey are generally pleased with the newsletter. Most free-text responses were also positive. For users who indicated that a .pdf file is hard to read on a screen (especially a small screen) we recommend the HTML edition. Vince Massimini will include a link to the HTML version as he distributes this and future newsletters.

We welcome further input from those who did, and did not, complete the survey. Please send your thoughts to wsscomments@philkalina.com. All questions and comments are welcome. Several suggested topics are:

- What other information would you like to see in the newsletter?
- Can you suggest other ways you would like to receive information from WSS? Many events are not scheduled far enough in advance for notices to appear in a monthly newsletter. Vince has been announcing these in supplemental emails—is that the best approach or can you suggest alternatives?

Thank you for helping WSS better serve our members.

SEMINARS

Title: **2013 WSS President's Invited Seminar: From Multiple Modes for Surveys to Multiple Sources for Estimates**

Date/Time: **May 22, 2012, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Light refreshments will be served following the talk
* Video conferencing will **not** be available.

Chair: Keith Rust, WSS President

Speaker: Constance F. Citro, Director
Committee on National Statistics
National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 7. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') **by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar**, or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar.

Abstract: Users of federal statistics want estimates that are “wider, deeper, quicker, better, cheaper” (channeling Tim Holt, former head of the UK Office for National Statistics). Each of these adjectives poses challenges and opportunities for those who produce statistics. I am going to focus on “better.” Since World War II, we have relied on the probability sample survey as the best we could do—and that best being very good, indeed—for estimates on everything from household income to self-reported health status, unemployment, crime victimization, and many other topics. Faced with secularly declining unit and item response rates, we have responded in many ways, including the use of multiple survey modes, more sophisticated imputation methods, etc. In the business sector, we also long ago moved away from relying solely on surveys to produce needed estimates, but, to date, we have not done that for household surveys. I argue that we can and must move from a paradigm of producing the best estimates possible from a survey to that of producing the best possible estimates from multiple data sources, including administrative records and, in the future, perhaps other kinds of data. I use household income as my main example. From my 45 years working in and around the federal statistical system (28 years with CNSTAT), mostly as a user, I also offer some observations about ways in which a user perspective can productively become a more integral part of the DNA of the federal statistical system.

- Title:** **Record Linkage Applications and Statistical Considerations**
- Date/Time:** **June 4, 2013, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.**
- Speakers:** William Winkler, Ph.D, Principal Researcher, US Census Bureau,
Jennifer Parker, Ph.D, Chief, Special Projects Branch, National Center for Health Statistics,
Deborah Wagner, Chief, Census Applications Group, US Census Bureau
- Sponsor:** WSS Methodology Program
- Organizer:** Mary Layne, United States Census Bureau
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center.
BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') **by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar**, or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar.
- Abstract:** This seminar will feature an interagency discussion by the United States Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) on the application of record linkage, its challenges, and statistical considerations when using linked data.
- William Winkler
The Census Bureau analyzes linked files for many of its research projects. The record linkage process, because of its probabilistic nature, has false match and false non-match error. When using linked files for statistical analysis, it necessary to adjust for record linkage error. This talk provides an overview of techniques and suggests methods to adjust statistical analysis for linkage error.
- Jennifer Parker
NCHS' record linkage program links the Center's population health surveys to administrative records from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). In addition, linkage with the National Death Index ascertains mortality status for survey participants. This talk will focus on analytic challenges and opportunities when using the NCHS-CMS-SSA linked data files.

Deborah Wagner

Many research projects at the Census involve matching persons across surveys and federal data to enhance the understanding of participation in various Federal programs. Fundamental to this work is a method to ensure the same person is linked across multiple files. The Census Bureau's Person Identification Validation System (PVS) uses probabilistic matching to assign unique person and address identifiers to federal, commercial, and survey data to facilitate linking persons across these files. This talk will discuss the PVS and its methods.

CONFERENCE



The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is planning a research conference to be held at the **Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC on November 4-6, 2013**. The conference provides a forum for experts from around the world to discuss and exchange current research and methodological topics relevant to statistical programs.

Tentative Schedule of Activities

Activity	Date
Abstracts due	<i>passed</i>
Papers selected/Authors notified	May 2013
Advance program ready	August 2013
Conference registration open	August 2013
Draft paper due to Organizers/Chairs	September 2013
Final program ready	October 2013
Conference dates	November 4-6, 2013
Final paper due (FCSM on-line proceedings)	January 31, 2014

To obtain conference information or to be included on the mailing list, contact:

Anna Holau, Conference Coordinator
Email: fcsm.conf@gmail.com
Phone: 301-763-2308
Fax: 301-763-3682

For questions about abstracts or the program, contact:

Pam McGovern, Program Chair
Email: pam.mcGovern@nass.usda.gov
Phone: 202-720-8853

SHORT COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Courses by George Mason University

The Department of Statistics, George Mason University will be offering 5-week introductory courses in SAS, SPSS, and R programming in the summer of 2013. Learn from the comforts of your own home or office. This is a perfect opportunity to become facile with technology's leading software packages to perform data management and data analysis using modern statistical methodology.

Five-Week Online SAS Training

Course Dates: 6/3/2013 to 7/7/2013

The course is offered completely online and does not require coming to campus. The course is taught by Dr. Linda Davis, Associate Professor of Statistics. Dr. Davis holds a Ph.D. in Statistics from Rutgers University and is an expert in data analysis and applied statistical methods.

This training course can be taken for non-credit under continuing education or credit:

Continuing Education: not for credit, fee \$500.

Register at http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/seminars/sas_programming.php

Note: The Continuing Education course is self-paced; access to course site is from 6/3/2013 to 7/21/2013.

STAT 501: a one credit graduate course; registration is through GMU Summer Programs registration; non-GMU students must apply as a non-degree student by April 30, 2013 at the following website: <https://masongrad.askadmissions.net/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=account> Although the course is offered in Summer, the selected term should be "Fall 2013".

Students may then register for the course 24 hours after receiving admission at the following website: <http://summer.gmu.edu/registration/>

Five-Week Online SPSS Training

Course Dates: 6/3/2013 to 7/7/2013

The course is offered completely online and does not require coming to campus. The course is taught by Dr. Larry Tang, Assistant Professor of Statistics. Dr. Tang received his PhD in statistics from Southern Methodist University in 2005. His areas of research interest include statistical methods in diagnostic medicine and clinical trials.

This training course can be taken for non-credit under continuing education or credit:

Continuing Education: not for credit, fee \$500. Registration will start after April 15 at http://ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/it/intro_spss.php.

Note: The Continuing Education course is self-paced; access to the course site is from 6/4/2013 to 7/8/2013.

STAT 506: a one credit graduate course; registration is through GMU Summer Programs registration; non-GMU students must apply as a non-degree student by April 30, 2013 at the following website: <https://masongrad.askadmissions.net/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=account>

Although the course is offered in Summer, the selected term should be “Fall 2013”. Students may then register for the course 24 hours after receiving admission at the following website: <http://summer.gmu.edu/registration/>

Five-Week Online R Training

The course is offered completely online and does not require coming to campus. The instructor of the course is Dr. Guoqing Diao, Associate Professor of Statistics. Dr. Diao holds a Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is an expert in statistical genetics, longitudinal data analysis, survival analysis, and high-dimensional data analysis.

This training course can be taken for non-credit under continuing education or credit:

Continuing Education: not for credit, fee \$500.

Register at

http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/it/intro_r.php

Note: The Continuing Education course is self-paced; access to the course site is from 6/10/2013 to 7/24/2013

STAT 505: a one credit graduate course; registration is through GMU Summer Programs registration; non-GMU students must apply as a non-degree student by April 30, 2013 at the following website: <https://masongrad.askadmissions.net/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=account>

Although the course is offered in Summer, the selected term should be “Fall 2013”. Students may then register for the course 24 hours after receiving admission at the following website: <http://summer.gmu.edu/registration/>

Short Course Sponsored by Joint Program in Survey Methodology

Course and registration information for all JPSM-sponsored short courses listed below are available at www.jpsm.org/shortcourses.

Balancing Data Confidentiality and Data Quality

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2013

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington, DC 20212-0001

Presented by Lawrence Cox

Payment and Registration Due by September 20, 2013

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=092413

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

AWARD WINNERS!

2013 Cox Award

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International are pleased to announce that Frauke Kreuter, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, has been chosen as this year's recipient of the 2013 Gertrude M. Cox Award. Since receiving her PhD from the University of Konstanz in 2001, Dr. Kreuter has made many noteworthy contributions in the area of survey methodology, specifically survey nonresponse, measurement error, and statistical modeling, all contributing to new insights in the field. She will receive the Award at the WSS Annual Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 and will give the Keynote Address, "Big Data in Survey Research - Analyzing Process Information (Paradata)".

The Award, established in 2003 through a joint agreement between WSS and RTI, recognizes statisticians in early to mid-career who have made significant contributions to statistical practice.

The award is in memory of Gertrude M. Cox (1900-1978), who in the 1950s, when Head of the Department of Experimental Statistics at North Carolina State College, played a key role in establishing Mathematical Statistics and Biostatistics Departments at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Statistical Division at the then newly founded not-for-profit RTI.

This award is made possible by funding from RTI. The recipient is chosen by a six person committee - three each from RTI and WSS. This year's committee from RTI consists of Marcus Berzofsky, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (Co-Chair), and from WSS Nancy Bates, Jonaki Bose, and Keith Rust (Co-Chair). The award consists of a \$1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS dinner, and a WSS plaque. Past recipients have been, in chronological order: Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, Nilanjan Chatterjee, and Amy Herring.

Winners of Statistics2013 Video Contest Revealed

The big winner of the Statistics2013 Video Contest—sponsored by Wiley—was an 18-year-old high-school student from Brimfield, Massachusetts in the United States. Jason T. Girouard claimed the top honor—the Best Overall Video—and his production also was awarded first place in the “Best Video by a Person or Persons 18 Years of Age or Less” category, giving him top billing in two of the competition’s three categories. The Best Non-English Language Video prize was awarded to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office for its production titled “That is What We Are”.

You can view the list of all winners and watch their videos at www.statistics2013.org.

All other news are available in the latest International Year of Statistics newsletter, <http://www.statistics2013.org/files/2013/05/May-6-2013.pdf>.

Past newsletters can be reviewed at <http://www.statistics2013.org/participant-newsletter-archive/>.

BE INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED!

Latest News on International Year of Statistics

The latest International Year of Statistics newsletter is available at

<http://www.statistics2013.org/files/2013/04/April-8-2013.pdf> .

Past newsletters can be reviewed at <http://www.statistics2013.org/participant-newsletter-archive/>.

Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program

The WSS Board of Directors has established a program to highlight members who have made or are making notable contributions to the work of their organization or their professional field of expertise. We know that WSS members are doing interesting work in the fields of statistics, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

This is our first request for nominations, to be featured in an upcoming issue of WSS News. We are interested in featuring members at all levels of the employment spectrum including recent graduates, mid-career employees, and those seasoned veterans.

Please feel free to nominate more than one person or a team working together. You may also nominate yourself as well. The nominees must be members of the WSS and not currently affiliated with the Board.

Please provide us with the following information about your nominee or nominees.

1. *Your* name, email address, and telephone number
2. Name or names of nominee(s)
3. Organizational affiliation
4. Job title
5. Their contact information including email address and telephone number
6. A brief narrative describing the reasons for your nomination
7. A photo of the nominee, although not required, would be greatly appreciated

Please send this information to Mel Kollander, member of the WSS Board. His email address is mellk@erols.com. If you have any questions please contact Mel.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Join the WSS Meetup

The Washington Statistical Society has begun to use Meetup to help spread the word about WSS events. Members are invited to join at <http://meetup.com/WashStat/> for benefits such as:

- Notices and reminders of WSS events
- Ability to indicate whether you will attend
- Opportunity to offer suggestions and other feedback.

Users can specify their preferences for email and other features.

WSS Webmaster Needed

The Washington Statistical Society asks your help locating a volunteer to take on the job of webmaster.

Webmaster has long been a key role at WSS. The WSS website (<http://washstat.org/>) is updated much more frequently than this newsletter—whenever news of interest to our members becomes available. The webmaster also developed, maintains, and runs the scripts that implement our annual and special elections.

The WSS webmaster should have knowledge of current web technologies and pay careful attention to detail. Ideally, he or she will be familiar with WordPress, Drupal, Joomla, or other content management systems so he or she can help decentralize website maintenance. The webmaster should also know php so she or he can implement, maintain, and improve the scripts we use for elections and other special purposes.

Please ask within your organizations and elsewhere for someone to take on these important tasks. We also are looking for someone to help maintain and coordinate our various calendar listings. Contact Phil Kalina, Communications Officer, for more information.

Thank you for helping WSS better serve our members.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

The Biostatistics Center

CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIAN - MS Level

(Sr. Research Associate)

Off-campus University medical research center located in Rockville, MD is seeking a biostatistician/statistician to work at NIH-funded data coordinating center for multi-center clinical trials and epidemiological studies in maternal-fetal medicine. Responsibilities include study design, supervision of data management, data analysis and preparation of manuscripts in collaboration with academic medical investigators. Minimum requirements: Master's in Biostatistics or Statistics and 3+ years of experience, good communication skills, and knowledge of SAS. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. TUITION BENEFITS for employees, spouse and dependents.

Application instructions:

Go to <http://www.gwu.jobs/postings/6317> and **apply online**. Attach cover letter (referencing **job posting # Staff – 000607**) and resume to application.

The George Washington University Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., #750, Rockville, MD 20852.

Visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu.

EOE/AA.



IPA Assignment – Surveys

Are you a current employee of a state, local, or tribal government, or of an institution of higher education? Does the idea of improving policy and research by helping to shape new data on consumers and firms in the financial marketplace excite you? An Intergovernmental Personnel Act assignment (IPA) with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) may be the right fit for you.

About the CFPB

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (Dodd-Frank Act) established the consumer bureau. The central mission of the CFPB is to make markets for consumer financial products and services work for Americans — whether they are applying for a mortgage, choosing among credit cards, or using any number of other consumer financial products.

The CFPB's Office of Research is central to the CFPB's empirical, data-driven approach to understanding and regulating consumer financial markets. The Office of Research provides extensive analytical support to policy making, fair lending, supervision and enforcement. In doing so, it plays a key role in identifying where and how the CFPB can improve the functioning of consumer financial markets.

The Impact You'll Have

You will directly contribute to our mission by helping us continue to build the expertise of the Bureau — advising our team as well as third-party contractors currently working on our surveys. You would join several high-quality staff with survey experience to collect data from consumers as well as from firms that provide financial services or financial products. Additionally, you would help to further build that staff by identifying areas in which the Bureau could expand its survey expertise and ways to fill those needs.

What You'll Get

Working with some of the Federal government's finest is just the beginning. The IPA position is an opportunity to bring your expertise to bear on new and pressing challenges and to create a lasting impact by helping to develop new survey data resources for policymakers and researchers. And you'll get to keep your current job!

What We're Looking For

A well-qualified candidate would have experience in several aspects of survey data collection and dissemination. Relevant expertise could include: sample design and sampling; questionnaire design; editing and imputation; weighting; disclosure protection, and; record linkage. Prior experience with firm- or household-level surveys and experience with different survey modes are a plus.

This IPA position would be part-time (generally around 10–15 hours per week) with an initial appointment for up to two years. This position allows for remote work nationwide with occasional on-site meetings at our Washington, DC headquarters.

Want to learn more?

Contact our recruiting team at jobs@cfpb.gov to see if this may be a good opportunity for you.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is an equal opportunity employer and seeks to create and maintain a vibrant and diverse workforce. Women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Washington Statistical Society Board of Directors, Programs, and Committees

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **July/August, 2013*** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15th of July.**

***Monthly publications of WSS News will resume in the following September.**

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.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format (e.g., in an email) will be returned.

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



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Statistical
Society

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