



# WSS NEWS

---

# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

<b>IN THIS ISSUE</b>	
<b>2</b>	FROM THE WSS NEWS PRESIDENT
<b>7</b>	SEMINAR
<b>9</b>	WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!
<b>12</b>	SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!
<b>13</b>	CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ELECTED!
<b>14</b>	SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES
<b>18</b>	GET INVOLVED!
<b>22</b>	WORKSHOPS AND SHORT COURSES
<b>27</b>	WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS
<b>32</b>	FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

## **FROM THE WSS PRESIDENT**

### **WSS Board Annual Open Meeting**

The June meeting of the WSS Board is the one meeting per year that is open to all members. This is the "changing of the guard" with both the outgoing and incoming board members attending. Feel free to join us on Tuesday, June 28 at 2:00 pm in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center.

To attend the open board meeting at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), you will need to:

- 1) e-mail name, affiliation, and name of event ("June 28 Washington Statistical Society Board meeting") to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov) (underscore after 'wss') by noon on Friday, June 24.
- 2) Bring a photo ID.

BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave NE; the entrance is on First Street, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station. The visitor's entrance to BLS is across the street from the First Street, NE metro station exit.

## **Welcome to new ASA/WSS members**

The following new ASA/WSS members were identified in the most recent update of the WSS email list in April:

Rositsa Borislavova Dimova  
Yuhui Gao  
Andreas Vasilios Georgiou  
Paul Guerino  
Heather Hodge  
Maureen Letostak  
Maura Spiegelman  
Ruowei Wang

Welcome to WSS!

~Chris Moriarity, WSS President



## **The Washington Statistical Society**

*cordially invites you to the*

### **Cox Award Presentation**

**Dr. Bhramar Mukherjee**

Professor of Biostatistics, University of Michigan

How Small Data can Leverage Big Data

**- and -**

### **Annual Dinner**

**Tuesday, June 28, 2016**

*Speaker event commences at 4:00 PM*

RTI International

701 13th St NW Suite 705, Washington, DC

*Dinner commences at 6:00 PM*

Clyde's of Gallery Place

707 7th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Piedmont Room

The Gertrude M. Cox Award is co-sponsored by RTI International

## **REGISTRATION**

All are encouraged to attend both events regardless of WSS membership status.

Please register for each event you will be attending.

***For the Cox Award Presentation***, registration is free. The registration deadline is midnight on Monday, June 27. Register online at:  
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/cox-award-presentation-tickets-24412398140>

***For the Annual Dinner***, advance registration is required. The dinner cost is \$60 for WSS Members, \$70 for nonmembers, \$30 for full-time students and children under 18. The online registration deadline is noon on Friday, June 24, earlier if the Piedmont Room seating capacity of 130 is reached. For registration with payment by check, mail name(s)/check(s)/phone and email contact information by June 20 to: Ranjana Kohli, 1100 First Street NE, Floor 12, Washington, DC 20002

1. Online registration at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-annual-dinner-tickets-24411871565>
2. Follow instructions in the online registration form to pay by credit card or PayPal (if you have a PayPal account). Note: it is only necessary to supply a name for each registration, address is not required.
3. After completing registration, and allowing some time for processing, please confirm that you have received your ticket(s) by email from Eventbrite. Please contact Ranjana Kohli (RKholi@mathematica-mpr.com) if you do not receive your ticket(s).

## **BUFFET DINNER MENU**

### **Salads (V)**

Clyde's House Salad, Caesar Salad

### **Entrees**

Seasonal Vegetable Pasta (V), Pan Roasted Salmon,  
Roasted Chicken

### **Sides (V)**

Parmesan Garlic Roast Potatoes, Farro Pilaf

### **Dessert**

Assorted Petit Pastries

### **Beverages**

Sodas, Iced Tea, Coffee, Host Bar

(V) denotes vegetarian food items

**SEMINAR**

**Title:** **Does Participating in a Panel Survey Change Respondents' Labor Market Behavior?**

**Date/Time:** **May 31, 2016**  
**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Ruben Bach, Institute for Employment Research, Nuremberg, Germany

**Discussant:** John Czajka, Mathematica Policy Research, Washington, DC

**Chair:** Stephanie Eckman, RTI International, Washington, D.C.

**Sponsor:** WSS Methodology Section and DC-AAPOR

**Abstract:** Panel surveys are a key resource to measure changes over time and perform causal analyses, but repeated participation in a survey can induce undesirable changes as well. Changes may occur in respondents' behavior and/or in their reporting of behavior. These changes, both in reporting and in behavior, that are due to repeated participation in a survey are called panel conditioning.

Using administrative data linked to a large German panel survey, we analyze changes in respondents' behavior due to repeated participation in the panel. We use propensity score weighting to estimate the average treatment effect of participation in several waves of the panel survey on the take-up of federal labor market programs. Results show that panel respondents participate in more programs than those who were also eligible for participation but were not selected. Moreover, we present preliminary findings, which show that panel respondents need less time to find a new job.

Our results suggest that panel conditioning not only affects the reporting of behavior (as previous studies have demonstrated), but can also alter respondents' actual behavior. Thus, researchers using panel data should be aware of this (often ignored) source of panel specific error. Our findings add to the sparse empirical literature on changes-in-behavior

panel conditioning and will be of interest to all researchers who collect or analyze panel survey data.

**Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center, Room 8

To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), email your name, affiliation, and the seminar name to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov) (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar. Please bring a photo ID. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave, NE, Washington, DC. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

**WebEx:** WebEx event address:

<https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=md7496377acf271fcac10ac96f3e152b7>

**For audio:** Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048 (US)  
Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139  
(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2

Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.

# **WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!**

# Washington Statistical Society

## Member Spotlight

*Introducing your fellow members and showcasing the diversity of the WSS membership*



### Meet WSS Member John L. Czajka...

#### 1. Where do you work and what do you do?

I work at Mathematica Policy Research, where I have been employed since October 1978. My title as of a number of years ago is Senior Fellow. The nature of my work has not changed greatly over the years—I mostly direct projects or tasks that tend to involve uses of administrative records or household survey data, often with a focus on data quality—but my current title carries with it some degree of external, professional recognition.

#### 2. What attracted you to your current position?

I would have to answer in terms of what attracted me to my current employer, as the current position represents a progressive succession of positions. At the time I went on the job market I had a preference for an academic job, but there was an opportunity at Mathematica, where one graduate school colleague was employed. I liked the culture, the semi-academic atmosphere, and the people I met, and I had a number of other graduate school friends in DC—second only to Ann Arbor.

#### 3. Finish this sentence: “I joined WSS to...”

I joined WSS to expand my contacts in statistics in the DC area, I would guess, although it’s been so long that I truly cannot remember.

#### 4. Where was your first job?

Coming out of graduate school, but still pre-degree, I worked for a year as a lecture in the sociology department at UC-Berkeley, teaching classes in demography, sociology of education, and research methods. I spent long hours preparing lectures, as I had none to start with.

#### 5. What is the most interesting statistics project you have worked on recently?

With funding from the Census Bureau and the Department of Health and Human Services, I led a small project to evaluate the new income module that was introduced into the 2014 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement in a split sample test. We made use of the year-to-year overlap in sample addresses to estimate differences in differences for about 20 sources of income, comparing (1) matched households that received the old module in 2013 and the new module in 2014 with (2) matched households that received the old module in both years. Results were generally consistent with the Census Bureau’s comparison of the split sample in 2014, but having a set of households that had responded to both sets of questions provided an important

perspective on some of the more puzzling findings.

One of the more striking results was the volatility in households’ reported receipt of individual sources of income (besides earnings) between one year and the next, which we attributed more to measurement error than reality. The project was particularly interesting to me because some of the changes to the income module were in response to recommendations that a colleague and I had made a couple of years earlier.

#### 6. What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?

Join the American Statistical Association, attend the annual Joint Statistical Meetings, and get involved with the sections and your local chapter. I have found my involvement with the broader statistical community in this way to be enormously rewarding—both personally and professionally.

#### 7. What is your favorite daily ritual?

Reading the newspaper (the Washington Post if I am at home) with breakfast, going through the first section, the metro section, and the sports section in that order. I went to college with one of the regular op-ed columnists as well as another who appears only sporadically these days. The former is also a parent at my kids’ high school—as is another columnist. I enjoy all of their commentaries. This primary season has been a rich source of material for all of the columnists, although mostly pretty depressing.

#### 8. What is your favorite song/artist/genre?

The Beatles, whom I saw in Detroit in 1966 on what proved to be their last tour, which ended with their final concert in Candlestick Park later that summer. From my office window I can see the shell of the Uline Arena (aka the Washington Coliseum), where the Beatles performed their first concert in the western hemisphere.

#### 9. What is your favorite vacation spot?

I don’t have a regular vacation place, but judging by the number of times I have been there, Yosemite National Park would have to rank first. I saw the park for the first time the summer after I graduated from college, when a friend and I

took a three-week drive from Michigan through the west. Living in California for a year and making side trips from occasional JSMs got me back there a few more times. On our California honeymoon my wife and I climbed (hiked up) Half Dome. Walking around on top was quite a thrill. We got back to the park with our kids last summer, 23 years later.

**10. What is your greatest accomplishment?**

Our three children, of course. The oldest graduates from college in a few weeks and heads off to work on a doctorate in physics. The middle one is a college freshman pursuing journalism, and the youngest is a high school junior with interests in marine biology. Watching them develop and pursue such diverse career interests has been fascinating. They've all got the mathematical aptitude for statistics, but they're choosing to use it in other ways.

## **SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!**

### **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 submit your nominations or direct any questions to, Tom Krenzke ([tomkrenzke@westat.com](mailto:tomkrenzke@westat.com)), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ELECTED!

## **Congratulations! WSS Members Elected as Fellows of the American Statistical Association**

We are pleased to announce that eight members of the Washington Statistical Society were recently elected as Fellows of the American Statistical Association. ASA Fellowship is a broad recognition of an individual's contribution to the field of statistics, the statistical profession, and the ASA. Congratulations to each of our new Fellows, who continue the tradition of strong WSS representation among those elected as Fellows. These new Fellows will be honored at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Chicago.

- Paul Beatty, US Census Bureau
- Jonaki Bose, *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*
- Barry Johnson, Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division
- Ruth Ann Killion, US Census Bureau
- Renee Miller, Energy Information Administration
- Van Parsons, National Center for Health Statistics
- Gene Pennello, Food and Drug Administration
- Michael Sinclair, Mathematica Policy Research

The WSS Committee on ASA Fellows works to identify members who are deserving of this honor and coordinate the preparation and submission of WSS nominations. Everyone is encouraged to identify colleagues who would be strong candidates. It is never too early to get the nomination process started. Please contact committee chair Polly Phipps at [phipp.polly@bls.gov](mailto:phipp.polly@bls.gov) with suggestions for nominees or questions about the process.

~ Chris Moriarity, WSS President 2015-16

~ Cynthia Clark

~ Debbie Griffin

~ Jill DeMatteis

~ Polly Phipps

WSS Committee on ASA Fellows 2015-16

## SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

### **The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize For Outstanding Statistics Project**

**==> Deadline is Friday, May 27, 2016 <==**

### OPPORTUNITY

The Curtis Jacobs Award for outstanding statistics project is an opportunity for fun, experience, and recognition – great for college applications and teacher development. It aims to encourage middle school and high school students to gain an understanding of the design of statistical studies and their uses. One of the intents of the award is to bring awareness and reward to school teachers.



### AWARDS



#### **1st Place Awards (Middle School and High School Divisions)**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Students           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cash prize of \$100 per entry;</li> <li>■ Complimentary invitation to Washington Statistical Society's annual dinner usually held in late June.</li> </ul>   |
| Teacher or Advisor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Invitation to American Statistical Association's (ASA) special Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM) with registration, commute, and meal expenses paid (up to a pre-set limit). Likely held in August 2016 in Chicago, Illinois;</li> <li>■ Complimentary invitation to the WSS annual dinner usually held in late June;</li> <li>■ A plaque;</li> </ul> |
| School             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ One-year free school membership to the American Statistical Association (ASA).</li> </ul>  |

## HELP AVAILABLE

To assist interested teachers, Washington area statisticians are available to visit interested classes to discuss types of projects and survey sampling. For more information on the Curtis Jacobs Award, teachers may contact Brian W, Sloboda at [bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu) or [Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov](mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov). An available source of information on surveys is the series of pamphlets: *What is a Survey?* (<http://www.whatisasurvey.info/>) published by the American Statistical Association.

## Submitting a Project

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to students who attend a high school or middle school in the Washington, D.C. area who have not previously won the award. For students enrolled at a school, a school teacher or a school advisor needs to oversee the project. For students enrolled in home based learning, the instructor (parent or tutor) needs to oversee the project.

**Rules:** Students may work individually or in teams of up to four students. Subject matter is the choice of the participants. The students must collect original data and submit an approximately five-page typed report that includes an introduction, research questions or hypotheses, data collection and analysis methods, and conclusions. A copy of the data and questionnaire (or data collection form) must be enclosed with the project report. Individual schools are responsible for implementing informed consent policies involving data collection on persons younger than 18 years old. Entries become the property of the Washington Statistical Society and cannot be returned.

**Types of Projects:** The project should involve the design of a statistical study (preferably a survey) as a way of gathering information for making decisions, as a way to make comparisons among groups, or as a way of analyzing trends over time. **Note that science fair projects involving data collection and statistical analysis are often eligible for this competition; students are strongly encouraged to simply submit the associated report for a science fair project as an entry.** Two examples of data that students might collect are expenses associated with automobiles and money earned in part-time jobs held by classmates.

**Steps:** The steps involved in a typical project will include those found in many surveys or other statistical studies: define the objectives and the population of interest; determine an appropriate method of random sample selection and/or data collection approach; develop a questionnaire or data collection instrument; select a random sample and collect data; process completed questionnaires or data collection forms; analyze data and interpret results; and finally write a report.

**Judging:** Each entry will be judged according to the following criteria: creativity in the choice of topic and objectives; understanding of the steps needed to conduct a statistical analysis and how well those steps are executed; definition of the population; utilization of an appropriate sample selection methodology; thoughtfulness of the data collection (i.e., survey questions); analysis of the data and interpretation of study results; and the overall quality of the written report. Entries will be judged by members of the Washington Statistical Society.

**Submitting a Project: The deadline for entry is Friday, May 27, 2016.** To compete for the award, submit a pdf copy of the entry form (see next page) and an approximately five-page typed report (with the questionnaire, if applicable, and the data attached) to: [bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu) or [Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov](mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov).

Alternatively, submit a hard copy to:

Brian W Sloboda  
Curtis Jacobs Entry  
8710 Cameron Street, 409  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

After the submission deadline, an email will be sent confirming your receipt of your submission.

### **Background on the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize**

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize was established in 1991 to honor the memory of a former statistician of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mr. Jacobs served as the chief statistician on many major Federal economic statistics programs, including the Consumer Price Index, which measures the rate of inflation in the American economy. The innovations he introduced are good examples of the practical uses of statistics and mathematics in improving the collection of data needed to inform public policy.



**Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project  
2015-2016**

Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society  
and the American Statistical Association

**Entry Form**

Please print clearly or type

Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student name(s) on team: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student/Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Teacher's name overseeing project: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email completed form to [bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu) or [Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov](mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov) or mail to the address shown below.

Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: **Friday, May 27, 2016.**

Brian W Sloboda  
Curtis Jacobs Entry  
8710 Cameron Street, 409  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

# GET INVOLVED!

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTED TALKS/POSTERS

### Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk

May 16-20, 2016

SAMSI, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA

We invite, especially Ph.D. students and young researchers, to register and submit a contributed talk/poster by March, 28th, 2016. Please note that only 60 participants will be allowed and SAMSI (Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute) might offer limited financial support to U.S. based students and young researchers. Abstracts for contributed talks/posters can be uploaded when registering online at <http://www.samsi.info/games>.

#### Workshop Organizers

Fabrizio Ruggeri, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy  
Refik Soyer, George Washington University, USA

Sujit Ghosh (SAMSI Liason), North Carolina State University, USA

The objective of the workshop is to present novel use of Game and Decision Theory in Reliability and Risk Analysis and to bring together researchers from diverse disciplines such as Economics, Engineering, Finance, Mathematics, Medical Sciences, Probability and Statistics who find themselves working with, and contributing to, this theme.

#### The first two days will be devoted to courses:

- Introduction to Decision Analysis  
Rene van Dorp, George Washington University, USA
- Reliability  
Fabrizio Ruggeri, CNR-IMATI, Italy
- Introduction to Game Theory  
David Rios Insua, ICMAT-CSIC, Spain
- Decision Analysis in Reliability  
Refik Soyer, George Washington University, USA
- Adversarial Risk Analysis  
David Banks, Duke University, USA
- Risk in Engineering, Finance, Health, and Environmental Sciences  
Thomas A. Mazzuchi, George Washington University, USA  
Jason Merrick, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

The following 3 days will be devoted to invited and contributed talks, posters and discussions aimed to foster cooperation among participants.

Confirmed speakers include: Melike Baykal-Gursoy, Philippe Delquie, Kathy Ensor, Seth Guikema, Joseph Halpern, Aparna Huzurbazar, Lurdes Inoue, Suleyman Ozekici, Tao Pang, Nicholas Polson, Nalini Ravishanker, Kimberley Sellers, Ehsan Soofi, Canan Ulu, Mike West, Simon Wilson, Emmanuel Yashchin.

## Call for Presentation and Poster Session Abstracts Summer Conference Preview/Review 2016

Hosted by:

DC-Baltimore Chapter of the American Association for  
Public Opinion Research

Washington Statistical Society

USDA Conference Center  
355 E St SW, Washington DC  
July 18, 2016



We know you can't travel to every conference, so DC-AAPOR and WSS are teaming up to bring you a sample of exemplary presentations taking place at this year's national and international conferences. At the 2016 Summer Conference Preview/Review, you will get the opportunity to share your work, hear what others are doing, and connect with colleagues.

We are currently seeking presenters who have presented or will be presenting at the following 2016 conferences:

- 3MC International Conference 2016
- American Association for Public Opinion Research Conference
- International Field Directors and Technologies Conference
- International Conference on Establishment Surveys
- International Conference on Questionnaire Design, Development, Evaluation and Testing (QDET2)
- International Total Survey Error Workshop
- Joint Statistical Meetings
- Nonresponse Workshop
- World Association for Public Opinion Research Conference
- Other survey methodology and statistical conferences

We also welcome speakers whose papers were accepted for these conferences, but who were unable to present.

If you would like to submit a presentation or poster for consideration, please fill out the following form: <http://goo.gl/1Hsuky>. Submissions close June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Individuals will be notified of acceptance decisions by June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Registration for the conference will open June 17<sup>th</sup>, and early-bird registration will end July 8<sup>th</sup>.** Registration is open to everyone, and presenters receive a discount.

- Presenters:
  - Students - \$25
  - Everyone else - \$40
- Early Bird (on or before July 8<sup>th</sup>):
  - Student/Retirees - \$35
  - DC-AAPOR and WSS Members - \$50
  - Non-Members - \$85
- Late Registration (after July 8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Student/Retirees: \$60
  - DC-AAPOR and WSS Members: \$75
  - Late Non-Members: \$100

For questions, please contact the conference chairs:

Stephanie Eckman [seckman@rti.org](mailto:seckman@rti.org)

Pam McGovern [pam.mcgovern@nass.usda.gov](mailto:pam.mcgovern@nass.usda.gov)

Thank you to our conference sponsors:



## WORKSHOPS AND SHORT COURSES

### REFINING THE CONCEPT OF SCIENTIFIC INFERENCE WHEN WORKING WITH BIG DATA

A Workshop  
of the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics

The National Academies of  
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

The [Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics](#) invites you to attend a two-day workshop on the challenges of applying scientific inference to big data. The workshop will bring together statisticians, data scientists and domain researchers from different biomedical disciplines to explore four key issues of scientific inference:

- Inference about causal discoveries driven by large observational data
- Inference about discoveries from data on large networks
- Inference about discoveries based on integration of diverse datasets
- Inference when regularization is used to simplify fitting of high-dimensional models

The aim of the workshop is to identify new developments that hold significant promise and to highlight potential research areas for the future. For more information, including the preliminary program, check out the [workshop website](#).

**Date:** June 8-9, 2016

**Location:** Keck Center, Room 100, 500 Fifth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

***This workshop will be professionally webcast.*** If you intend to join us in person or online, please [register](#) by Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

For questions about the workshop, please contact Michelle Schwalbe at [mschwalbe@nas.edu](mailto:mschwalbe@nas.edu).

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/refining-the-concept-of-scientific-inference-when-working-with-big-data-registration-24442570386> .

**Place in Early Care and Education: Using Geographic Information in  
NSECE Analyzes  
June 21-23, 2016  
Bethesda, MD**

The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) provides a national picture of families' non parental care utilization, as well as characteristics of both home-based and center-based providers for children birth to age 13. The NSECE helps deepen our understanding of the extent to which families' needs and preferences coordinate with providers' offerings and constraints. The study and this workshop are funded by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The "Place in Early Care and Education" workshop--held June 21-23, 2016, in Bethesda, MD-- will provide data users detailed training on various geographic data available for the NSECE and statistical issues associated with using them. Topics will include use of GIS data collected in the Household Survey, community characteristics merged in from the American Community Survey, reporting state-specific estimates, linking households and providers through the NSECE provider cluster, incorporating other data using geographic identifiers and managing disclosure risk in place-based analyses.

NSECE public-use data files are available for secondary analysis through Research Connections ([www.researchconnections.org/childcare/studies/35519](http://www.researchconnections.org/childcare/studies/35519)). Researchers will not be required to secure restricted use access to participate in the workshop, but many of the topics discussed can only be implemented using restricted use data. Participants will be expected to be familiar with the NSECE prior to attending the workshop.

The workshop is free, but space is limited. Participants must have experience with statistical programming using complex survey data. All applications should include: 1) a resume or curriculum vita, 2) a cover letter describing prior early care and education research experience, knowledge of statistical programming, and experience analyzing large, complex survey data, and 3) a brief description (less than 2 pages) of a possible research question(s) to be explored using the NSECE. Please include at least one original weighted tabulation of NSECE data in your submission.

There is no cost to participate in the workshop. Participants will be responsible for their own travel and food expenses.

**Applicants will be selected for participation on a rolling basis starting May 1.**

Submit applications or contact us with any questions at: [nsece@norc.org](mailto:nsece@norc.org).

**Creating and Updating Prices Indexes: Theory and Practice  
May 23-24, 2016**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by Dennis Fixler and Richard Valliant

**Registration and Payment Due by May 9, 2016**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=052316](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=052316)

**Synthetic Data: Balancing Confidentiality and Quality in Public Use Files  
JUNE 13-14, 2016**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by Joerg Drechsler and Jerry Reiter

**Registration and Payment Due by May 30, 2016**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=061316](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061316)

**Introduction to Survey Management**

**JUNE 23-24, 2016**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington D.C.**

Presented by Brad Edwards and Nicole Kirgis

**Payment and Registration Due by June 9, 2016**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=062316](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=062316)

## **SAPW/2016: The 1st Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop Friday, November 4, 2016**

- Check-in:** 8:00—9:00 am
- Schedule:** 9:00 am—4:00 pm  
(Plenary and concurrent session schedule to follow)
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center  
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20212
- Organizers:** Brian Monsell, Kathleen McDonald-Johnson, and Demetra Lytras, U.S. Census Bureau; Wendy Martinez, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Abstract Submission Due:** **August 15, 2016 to**  
[esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov](mailto:esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov)
- Register Online By:** **November 2, 2016 at noon** at [EventBrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seasonal-adjustment-practitioners-workshop-tickets-24517370114)  
(<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seasonal-adjustment-practitioners-workshop-tickets-24517370114>)  
There is no charge for participation.

### **Description**

The Washington Statistics Society is proud to sponsor the 1st Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop. The SAPW 2016 is a one-day conference for public employees and those actively involved in seasonal adjustment, so they can

- share experiences in producing seasonal adjustments;
- give details of interesting problems and possible solutions;
- discuss best practices in seasonal adjustment and time series modeling;
- share lessons learned, tips, and shortcuts;
- present applied research in seasonal adjustment practice.

Modeled after the successful Federal Forecasters Conference, this workshop will provide an opportunity for those who work with official statistics and seasonal adjustment to present interesting issues, problems and applied research to a knowledgeable audience. There will be a plenary session in the morning with four speakers and a discussant, followed by lunch on your own and contributed sessions in the afternoon.

The organizers are soliciting abstracts for presentations of interest to practitioners of seasonal adjustment. Abstracts should be less than 100 words in length, for a presentation of about 15-20 minutes. Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- seasonal adjustment methodology (model-based seasonal adjustment, high frequency data, etc.);
- issues in seasonal adjustment production (residual seasonality, revisions policy, etc.);
- calendar effect estimation and adjustments (trading and working day, moving holidays);
- seasonal adjustment software;
- seasonal adjustment diagnostics.

Please note, papers may cover any subject relating to seasonal adjustment methodology or the process of seasonally adjusting series at a statistical agency. Please send your abstract of 100 or fewer words to: [esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov](mailto:esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov) by August 15, 2016.

Even if you do not plan to present a paper, please register for the conference and join the conversation at this history-making event. The SAPW is organized by the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics and is sponsored by the American Statistical Association's Government Statistics Section and the Washington Statistical Society.

## WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

<b>Voting Members</b>				
<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
President	Chris Moriarity	7/2015-6/2016	(301) 270-3416	cdm7@cdc.gov
Past President	Diane Herz	7/2015-6/2016	(202) 250-3529	dherz@mathematica-mpr.com
President-Elect	Mike Larsen	7/2015-6/2016	(301) 881-9260	mlarsen@bsc.gwu.edu
Secretary	Darcy Miller	7/2015-6/2017	(202) 690-2562	Darcy.Miller@nass.usda.gov
Treasurer	Jill Dever	7/2014-6/2016	(202) 974-7846	jdever@rti.org
Representatives-at-Large	Kennon Copeland	7/2014-6/2016	(301) 634-9432	copeland-kennon@norc.org
	Thomas Krenzke	7/2014-6/2016	(301) 251-4203	tomkrenzke@westat.com
	Wendy Barboza	7/2015-6/2017	(202) 720-4503	Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov
	Erin Tanenbaum	7/2015-6/2017	(301) 634-9405	Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org
Council of Chapters Representative	Dhuly Chowdhury	1/2016-12/2018	(301) 770-8234	dchowdhury@rti.org
Methodology Section Chair	Donsig Jang	7/2015-6/2016	(202) 484-4246	Djang@Mathematica-Mpr.com
Communications Officer	Tom Mule	7/2014-6/2016	(301) 763-8322	vincent.t.mule.jr@census.gov

<b>Non-Voting Members – Programs</b>				
<b>Program</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Methodology Program Chair	Pam McGovern	7/2015-6/2016	(202) 720-8853	Pam.McGovern@nass.usda.gov
Methodology Program	Yulei He			wdq7@cdc.gov
Agriculture and Natural Resources	VACANT			
Data Collection Methods	Fritz Scheuren		(202) 320-3446	scheuren@aol.com
Defense and National Security	Wendy Martinez		(540) 284-1032	martinezw@verizon.net
Economics	VACANT			
Human Rights	Michael P. Cohen		(202) 232-4651	mpcohen@juno.com
Public Health and Biostatistics	Grant Izmirlan		(301) 496-7519	izmirlian@nih.gov
	Carolyn Carroll		(202) 320-8709	carolyn@stattech.com
Public Policy	Jennifer Park		(202) 395-9046	Jennifer_E_Park@omb.eop.gov
Quality Assurance	Michael Yang		(301) 634-9492	Yang-Michael@norc.org
Social and Demographic Statistics	Promod Chandhok		(202) 366-2158	promod.chandhok@dot.gov
Statistical Computing	Xin He		(301) 405-2551	xinhe@umd.edu
Student Representative	Scott Marchese	7/2015-6/2016	(540) 313-0258	smarches@masonlive.gmu.edu

<b>Non-voting Members – Committees and Other Board Members</b>			
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Quantitative Literacy	Dhuly Chowdhury	(301) 770-8234	dchowdhury@rti.org
Short Courses	Yang Cheng	(301) 763-3287	yang.cheng@census.gov
WSS Newsletter Editor	Colleen Choi		wss.editor@gmail.com
Electronic Mail Committee	S.V. (Vince) Massimini	(703) 983-5893	svm@mitre.org
Employment Column Coordinator	Lisa Faustlin	(303) 396-5164	faustlin@yahoo.com
Financial Advisor and Audit Committee	Jonaki Bose	(240) 276-1257	jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov
	J. Michael Brick	(301) 294-2004	mikebrick@westat.com
Historian	Dwight Brock	(301) 517-4026	dwightbrock@westat.com
Social Arrangements Committee	Ranjana Kohli	(202) 552-6456	RKohli@mathematica-mpr.com
Video Conferencing	Dan Gillman	(202) 691-7523	gillman.daniel@bls.gov
Communications	Phil Kalina	(703) 725-6600	phil@philkalina.com
Web Master	Jonathan Lisic	(202) 720-0034	jonathan.lisic@nass.usda.gov
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	(202) 693-5904	Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov
Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition	Barnali Das	(301) 279-4593	barnalidas@westat.com
Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT		
Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coordinator	Mark Otto	(301) 497-5872	mark_otto@fws.gov
Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coordinator	Frank Yoon	(609) 945-6616	FYoon@Mathematica-Mpr.com

<b>Non-voting Members – Committees and Other Board Members</b>				
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Membership Committee	John Czajka		(202) 484-4685	jczejka@mathematica-mpr.com
	John Dixon		(202) 691-7516	dixon_j@bls.gov
	Timothy Kennel		(301) 763-6795	timothy.l.kennel@census.gov
	Adam Safir		(202) 691-5175	safir.adam@bls.gov
	Fritz Scheuren		(202) 320-3446	scheuren@aol.com
Herriot Award Committee	Jill Montaquila	Soc. Sec. Rep.	(301) 517-4046	jillmontaquila@westat.com
	John Dixon	Govt. Sec. Rep.	(202) 691-7516	dixon.john@bls.gov
	Mary Batcher	WSS Rep.		marybat1@verizon.net
WSS Committee on ASA Fellows	Polly Phipps	Chair	(202) 691-7513	Phipps.polly@bls.gov
	Cynthia Clark		(703) 556-8825	czfclark@cox.net
	Debbie Griffin			Deb_Griffin3@verizon.net
	Jill Montaquila		(301) 517-4046	jillmontaquila@westat.com
Shiskin Award Committee	Robert Parker	Chair	(301) 467-7677	parkerrobertp@aol.com
	Thomas Evans	Secretary	(202) 691-6354	Evans.thomas@bls.gov
	Paul Bugg			paul_bugg@omb.eop.gov
	Connie Citro			ccitro@nas.edu
	Carol Corrado			Carol.corrado@conference-board.com
	Dennis Fixler			dennis.fixler@bea.gov
	Michael Horrigan			horrigan.michael@bls.gov
	Charles Hulten			hulten@econ.bsos.umd.edu
	William Bostic			William.g.bostic.jr@census.gov
	Polly Phipps		(202) 691-7513	phipp.polly@bls.gov
Brian Bucks			brian.bucks@cfpb.gov	

<b>Non-voting Members – Committees and Other Board Members</b>				
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Hansen Lecture Committee	Morgan Earp		(202) 691-7387	earp.morgan@bls.gov
	Frauke Kreuter		(202) 390-0413	fkreuter@umd.edu
	Eric Slud			eric.v.slud@census.gov
	Barry Graubard	Chair	(202) 276-7316	graubarb@mail.nih.gov
	Mark Harris	USDA Rep.	(703) 877-8000 ext. 100	mark_harris@nass.usda.gov
	Keith Rust	Westat Rep.	(301) 251-8278	keithrust@westat.com
Gertrude Cox Award Committee	Chris Moriarity	WSS Rep.	(301) 270-3416	cdm7@cdc.gov
	Mike Larsen	WSS Rep.	(301) 881-9260	mlarsen@bsc.gwu.edu
	Diane Herz	WSS Rep.	(202) 250-3529	dherz@mathematica-mpr.com
	Karol Krotki	RTI Rep.	(202) 728-2485	kkrotki@rti.org
	Marcus Berzofsky	RTI Rep.	(919) 316-3752	berzofsky@rti.org
	Phillip Kott	RTI Rep.	(301) 468-8281	pkott@rti.org
Statistics Education Committee	Carol Joyce Blumberg	Co-chair	(301) 273-3093	cblumberg@gmail.com
	Elizabeth Johnson	Co-chair	(703) 993-9116	ejohns40@gmu.edu
	Paul Buckley		(240) 601-5573	<a href="mailto:pbuckley@gonzaga.org">pbuckley@gonzaga.org</a>
	Carol Howald		(443) 518-4933	chowald@howardcc.edu
	Kathleen Robens		(301) 915-5757	Kathleen_c_robens@mcpsmd.org

## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the **June, 2016** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20<sup>th</sup>** of **preceding month**.

Email items to [wss.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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. Announcements with track changes will not be accepted.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format will be returned.

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