



# WSS NEWS

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# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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## NOMINATIONS FOR WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Later this spring, the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) will hold its annual election for several positions on the Board of Directors. If you want to learn more about the activities of WSS (<http://www.washstat.org/>), please consider running for office. It is a great way to serve the membership, hone your leadership skills, connect with the statistical community in DC, network, and socialize with colleagues.

For the 2019 election the open positions are

### **President-Elect (at least two nominees)**

- for July 2019 to June 2020
- to serve as President July 2020 to June 2021 and Past-President July 2021 to June 2022

### **Secretary (at least one nominee)**

- for July 2019 to June 2021

### **Two Representatives-at-Large (at least four nominees)**

- for July 2019 to June 2021

### **Methodology Program Chair (at least two nominees)**

- for July 2019 to June 2020
- to serve as Methodology Section Chair July 2020 to June 2021

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. For the 2019 election, nominees for President-Elect will be from the non-government sector. For any other position, nominations may come from either the government or non-government sectors.

For all of the positions listed above, we heartily welcome nominations from any member of the WSS (self-nominations encouraged as well).

If you would like to nominate anyone to the WSS Board, please email Past-President Linda Young ([Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov](mailto:Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov)) to obtain information about whether nominations are open.

### **Continuing Board members for 2018-19**

- Past-President: Tom Krenzke, Westat
- President: Eileen O'Brien, Energy Information Agency
- Treasurer: Dhuly Chowdhury, RTI International
- Communications Officer: Leanna Moron, Child Trends
- Representatives at-large: Nick Hart, Bipartisan Policy Center; Michael Messner, Environmental Protection Agency

Methodology Section Chair: Nick Beyler, 2M Research Services

Council of Chapters Representative: Abhik Das, RTI International

Duties of board members can be found in the WSS handbook, available online at:

<http://washstat.org/documents/WSSHandbookv3.pdf>

# **SEMINARS**

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT  
BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC  
(ESPECIALLY EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS)**

<b>Combining GIS and Statistics: Data Visualization to Communicate Findings</b>	
<b>Date/Time:</b>	<b>March 7, 2019/4:00–5:30 p.m.</b> Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station.
<b>Speaker:</b>	Kristen Hocutt, Solution Engineer, ESRI
<b>Chair:</b>	Maura Bardos, Mathematical Statistician, Analytics Center of Excellence, Social Security Administration
<b>Sponsors:</b>	WSS Statistics Education Committee, WSS Methodology Section and WSS Defense & National Security Program Committee
<b>Location:</b>	Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center, Rooms 1/2 (Please check board in case of change of room)  BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <a href="http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking">http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking</a> . No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.
<b>RSVP:</b>	To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, date of the seminar and seminar name to <a href="mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov">wss_seminar@bls.gov</a> (underscore after 'wss') by noon on <b>March 4</b> .  Please bring a photo ID to the seminar.
<b>Abstract:</b>	A Geographic Information System (GIS) provides a powerful collection of tools to help organizations manage, explore, analyze, and present data. When combined with spatial statistics methods in ArcGIS, the approach helps analysts make full use of geographic context when generating the information that helps organizations make better decisions. In this talk, we discuss how solving spatial problems related to classification, clustering, and regression helps organizations in the domains of business, public health, and natural resources. Specific examples cover the use of Kriging, Density-based Clustering, and integrating your own R-driven processes with the R-ArcGIS Bridge. Applying these workflows can be the first step to help you explore spatial data relationships and design the models that help determine the right course of action in your research and organization. For the majority of this talk, only a knowledge of introductory statistics will be assumed.

<b>Remote Access:</b>	WebEx link: <a href="https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m94a73734295911a08ac35d4cb756270f">https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m94a73734295911a08ac35d4cb756270f</a>  Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx
<b>For audio:</b>	Call (866) 865-9536 or (517) 966-0857 Attendee access code: 744 124 3
<b>POC:</b>	Carol Joyce Blumberg, <a href="mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com">cblumberg@gmail.com</a>

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC**

<b>Combining survey, clinical and health care claims data to produce state-level estimates of diabetes prevalence, including both diagnosed and undiagnosed cases</b>	
<b>Date/Time:</b>	<b>March 19, 2019/12:30–2:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Speaker:</b>	David A. Marker, PhD, Westat
<b>Chair:</b>	TBD
<b>Sponsors:</b>	WSS Methodology Section
<b>Location:</b>	Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center, Room 8 (Please check board in case of change of room)  BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <a href="http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking">http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking</a> . No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.
<b>RSVP:</b>	To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, date of the seminar and seminar name to <a href="mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov">wss_seminar@bls.gov</a> (underscore after 'wss') by noon on Monday, February 11. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar.
<b>Abstract:</b>	This talk summarizes research conducted for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goal was to develop surveillance methods that could be used by state health departments to monitor diabetes and prediabetes prevalence rates in their state, including undiagnosed cases. This involved combining national and state-level surveys with clinical and health care claims data. The talk describes operational issues in combining these data sources along with statistical issues of adjusting for non-representative data and how best to combine the different data sources. This work includes recently published articles in <i>Preventing Chronic Disease</i> (Mardon, Marker, Nooney, et al., 2017) and <i>Statistics In Medicine</i> (Marker, Mardon, Jenkins, et al., 2018).
<b>Remote Access:</b>	WebEx link: <a href="https://dol.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?service=1&amp;siteurl=dol&amp;nomenu=true&amp;main_url=%2Fmc3300%2Ffe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddol%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D754927647%26UID%3D-1%26Host%3DQUHtSwAAAASjAGn8a2hmgSoy5zP-yLwFabRuEs3807Vb5MSIziedRstNdM43Qe70nDf0BBIl-OnuDj6K_4SPD5ZSdlc3l30%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dma64f412630a7fea659485cf2fea8287">https://dol.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?service=1&amp;siteurl=dol&amp;nomenu=true&amp;main_url=%2Fmc3300%2Ffe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddol%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D754927647%26UID%3D-1%26Host%3DQUHtSwAAAASjAGn8a2hmgSoy5zP-yLwFabRuEs3807Vb5MSIziedRstNdM43Qe70nDf0BBIl-OnuDj6K_4SPD5ZSdlc3l30%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dma64f412630a7fea659485cf2fea8287</a>

	Meeting number: 644 948 845 Meeting password: Wss-190319
<b>For audio:</b>	Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): <a href="tel:1-866-747-9048">1-866-747-9048 (US)</a> Call-in number (Verizon): <a href="tel:1-517-233-2139">1-517-233-2139 (US)</a> Attendee access code: 938 454 2
<b>POC:</b>	Carol Joyce Blumberg, <a href="mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com">cblumberg@gmail.com</a>

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC (ESPECIALLY EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS)**

<b>Role of Statistics in Today's Changing Society: 2020 Census</b>	
<b>Date/Time:</b>	<b>April 1, 2019/4:00–5:30 p.m.</b> Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station.
<b>Speaker:</b>	Julia Coombs, Chief, Census Experiments Branch, Decennial Statistical Studies Division, U.S. Census Bureau  Marisa T. Hotchkiss, Chief, Content, Language and Data Products Branch, Decennial Census Management Division, U.S. Census Bureau
<b>Chair:</b>	Martha McRoy, Research Methodologist, Pew Research Center
<b>Sponsors:</b>	WSS (Washington Statistical Society) Statistics Education Committee, WSS Methodology Section, WSS Data Methods Collection Program, and The Washington-Baltimore Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (DC-AAPOR)
<b>Location:</b>	Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center, Rooms 7/8 (Please check board in case of change of room)  BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <a href="http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking">http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking</a> . No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.
<b>RSVP:</b>	To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, date of the seminar and seminar name to <a href="mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov">wss_seminar@bls.gov</a> (underscore after 'wss') by noon on <b>March 28</b> .  Please bring a photo ID to the seminar.
<b>Abstract:</b>	Since 1790, a census of the U.S. population has been conducted every 10 years, as required by the U.S. Constitution. Decennial census data are used to apportion seats allocated to the states for the House of Representatives and to define the representative boundaries for congressional and local governmental districts. The American Community Survey (ACS) and dozens of current surveys conducted by the Census Bureau also rely on decennial census results, and the results of these surveys are used to support important government functions, such as appropriating federal funds to local communities (an estimated \$675 billion annually); calculating monthly unemployment, crime, and poverty rates; and publishing health and education data.  While these data inform the public about population change, the decennial census must also adapt to a changing environment. Changing

	<p>use of technology, declining response rates, complex living arrangements, and mobile populations, along with other factors, can result in a population that is harder and more expensive to enumerate. To prepare for the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts testing throughout the decade, including qualitative testing of materials and questionnaires, field testing of data collection instruments, and data analysis. This talk will provide a brief history of the decennial census and an overview of preparation for the 2020 Census, including a discussion of the mid-decade statistical work that informs the 2020 Census. Only a knowledge of introductory statistics will be assumed for most of the talk.</p>
<b>Remote Access:</b>	<p>WebEx link: <a href="https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=mc036c5cfd74bfb8fe30494a4702ebcde">https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=mc036c5cfd74bfb8fe30494a4702ebcde</a></p> <p>Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx</p>
<b>For audio:</b>	<p>Call (866) 865-9536 or (517) 966-0857 Attendee access code: 744 124 3</p>
<b>POC:</b>	<p>Carol Joyce Blumberg, <a href="mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com">cblumberg@gmail.com</a></p>

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC**

<b>Using R for Advanced Statistical Modeling in the National Energy Modeling System</b>	
<b>Date/Time:</b>	<b>April 3, 2019/10:00–11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Speaker:</b>	Janice Lent, U.S. Energy Information Administration
<b>Chair:</b>	Mike Bellow, NASS
<b>Sponsors:</b>	WSS Methodology Section
<b>Location:</b>	Webinar (Remote Only)
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>We discuss three applications of R currently in use in the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA's) National Energy Modeling System (NEMS). The NEMS projects U.S. annual energy production, consumption, prices, and related statistics for publication in EIA's <i>Annual Energy Outlook</i>. While the NEMS base code is written in Fortran, the modular system incorporates components written in other languages, including R. We discuss three advanced statistical applications programmed for the NEMS in R: (1) the use of hurdle models to project residential solar photovoltaic system installations; (2) the use of multi-process Bayesian dynamic linear models to project prices of hydrogen gas liquids; and (3) the use of newly-developed time-series calibration methods to ensure that NEMS projects are consistent with the short-term projections EIA publishes in its <i>Short Term Energy Outlook</i>. Each application involves the use of contributed R packages (e.g., gamlss, dlm).</p>
<b>Remote Access:</b>	<p>Meeting number (access code): 903 043 797 Meeting password: gCkK3CBD</p> <p>To Join:  <a href="https://doe.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?service=1&amp;siteurl=doe&amp;nomenu=true&amp;main_url=%2Fmc3300%2Ffe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddoe%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D11396672%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAAK9Uhn488a86gGfrxqDYZPBuS_RHMardX3Wm-6y4I5MTgy1HeA_5hBMTZ-YWOxGQm9AlobnaB-SOwKoXD0UjEHV0%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dm771c4527fe49f6c493e1f02f242ce109">https://doe.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?service=1&amp;siteurl=doe&amp;nomenu=true&amp;main_url=%2Fmc3300%2Ffe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddoe%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D11396672%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAAK9Uhn488a86gGfrxqDYZPBuS_RHMardX3Wm-6y4I5MTgy1HeA_5hBMTZ-YWOxGQm9AlobnaB-SOwKoXD0UjEHV0%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dm771c4527fe49f6c493e1f02f242ce109</a></p> <p>Join by phone: +1-415-527-5035 US Toll Global call in Numbers:  <a href="https://doe.webex.com/cmp3300/webcomponents/widget/globalcallin/globalcallin.do?serviceType=MC&amp;serviceType=MC&amp;serviceType=MC&amp;serviceType=MC&amp;ED=11396672&amp;ED=11396672&amp;ED=11396672&amp;ED=11396672&amp;tollFree=0&amp;tollFr">https://doe.webex.com/cmp3300/webcomponents/widget/globalcallin/globalcallin.do?serviceType=MC&amp;serviceType=MC&amp;serviceType=MC&amp;serviceType=MC&amp;ED=11396672&amp;ED=11396672&amp;ED=11396672&amp;ED=11396672&amp;tollFree=0&amp;tollFr</a></p>

	<p><a href="http://globalcallin.php?apiname=globalcallin.php&amp;needFilter=false&amp;needFilter=false&amp;needFilter=false&amp;rnd=4745917251&amp;rnd=4745917251&amp;actappname=cmp3300&amp;actappname=cmp3300&amp;actname=/webcomponents/widget/globalcallin/gcnredirector.do&amp;actname=/webcomponents/widget/globalcallin/gcnredirector.do&amp;renewticket=0">ee=0&amp;tollFree=0&amp;tollFree=0&amp;siteurl=doe&amp;siteurl=doe&amp;siteurl=doe&amp;apiname=globalcallin.php&amp;apiname=globalcallin.php&amp;apiname=globalcallin.php&amp;needFilter=false&amp;needFilter=false&amp;needFilter=false&amp;rnd=4745917251&amp;rnd=4745917251&amp;actappname=cmp3300&amp;actappname=cmp3300&amp;actname=/webcomponents/widget/globalcallin/gcnredirector.do&amp;actname=/webcomponents/widget/globalcallin/gcnredirector.do&amp;renewticket=0</a></p> <p>Can't Join the Meeting: <a href="https://help.webex.com/en-us/WBX000029055/Cisco-Webex-Help">https://help.webex.com/en-us/WBX000029055/Cisco-Webex-Help</a></p>
<b>POC:</b>	Mike Bellow, <a href="mailto:MBELLOW@nass.usda.gov">MBELLOW@nass.usda.gov</a>

## **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 Nick Hart...

#### **Where do you work and what do you do?**

I work in a Washington, D.C.-based think tank called the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), leading our Evidence Project. BPC specifically works across the political divide to identify solutions for challenging public policy problems. Our Evidence Project specifically focuses on strategies to improve the information available to policy-makers so they can make good decisions. This work, in part, includes continued efforts to champion the recommendations from the U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking that were issued back in 2017, encouraging Congress and agencies to take steps toward effective implementation. The commission sought to develop a strategy for more effectively using government data, issuing recommendations that addressed strong privacy protections, secure data access, and government's capacity to use data.

My work is less focused on generating statistics and research, and more on the policies and processes that enable statistics to thrive. In practice, I spend much of my energy working with congressional staff and executive branch agencies to inform and shape policies that enable evidence-based policymaking to occur in practice.

#### **What attracted you to your current position?**

Because I had served as the policy and research director for the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, after it issued its final report and BPC became the new, non-governmental home, the transition was one that just made sense. By combining the insights gained during the commission's operation with the implementation strategies following the move to BPC, I have been able to encourage some of the follow-up activities to have a great deal of fidelity to what the commission said. For example, when Congress passed the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act in December 2018, we were able to promote fidelity to the commission by using the network of commissioners and key

stakeholders to ensure the monumental legislation would be truly useful and productive for the statistical community, while also achieving its broader goals.

#### **Finish the sentence: "I joined WSS to..."**

...stay connected with professionals who jointly share an interest in using data to inform effective government. As a recent addition to the WSS Board, I'm happy to say that the community is one that hasn't disappointed!

#### **What is the most interesting statistical project you have worked on recently?**

Aside from our activities related to the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, one particularly interesting project was a policy paper co-authored with former Chief Statistician of the United States Katherine Wallman that addressed the topics of consent, transparency, and accountability when re-using administrative data for statistical activities. Aside from our unique vantage point in studying the existing legal framework for ethical uses of data, we noted that certain concepts have been misconstrued to inadvertently limit certain uses of data for statistical activities.

Another exciting project currently underway, conducted in partnership with Galois and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, is a demonstration of a privacy-preserving approach called Secure Multiparty Computation. We are looking forward to releasing final results in spring 2019.

**What is the last book you read?**

Evaluation Failures: 22 Tales of Mistakes Made and Lessons Learned, Kylie Hutchinson (2018).

**What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?**

Our coursework teaches us incredible methods and the power of data. As we move forward, it's imperative that increased attention and academic bandwidth be spent on ensuring our confidentiality protections are top notch. Take any opportunity to learn more about disclosure avoidance approaches and strategies for managing or reducing the risks of re-identification.

**Have you had any great career mentors? If so, what made them great?**

Many. My mentors have offered so much insight that it's hard to keep track. But in a recent discussion with one mentor, I was reflecting on an important life lesson: relationships matter. When I was a newly minted employee straight out of my graduate studies at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to a fault I believed at the time that my wit and analytical capabilities would prevail in any policy discussion. I quickly learned, from this mentor, that professional relationships combined with strong analysis can offer a far more meaningful and effective grounds for policy solutions.

**What are your favorite daily rituals?**

Making my son giggle, dinner with my family, and that first cup of coffee in the morning.

**What is your favorite vacation spot?**

Wherever family is, and work isn't.

**What is your favorite local restaurant?**

Acqua Al 2.

## **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 Nick Hart ([nhart@bipartisanpolicy.org](mailto:nhart@bipartisanpolicy.org)) or Natalia Weil ([NataliaWeil@westat.org](mailto:NataliaWeil@westat.org)).

We look forward to hearing from you.

## COURSES

### WSS Short Course Big Data for Small Area Estimation

March 13, 2019  
9:00 am – 4:30 pm

**Instructor:**

Dr. Partha Lahiri, Joint Program in Survey Methodology and Department of Mathematics, University of Maryland, College Park

**Place:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Conference rooms 1-3, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

**Course Content:**

The demand for various socio-economic, transportation, and health statistics for small geographical areas is steadily increasing at a time when survey agencies are desperately looking for ways to reduce costs to meet fixed budgetary requirements. In the current survey environment, the application of standard sample survey methods for small areas, which require a large sample, is generally not feasible when considering the costs. One of the key factors that led to the success of small area estimation (SAE) methodology is the availability of strong auxiliary variables. The accessibility of Big Data from different sources (e.g., administrative/register records, social media data, mobile phone data, sensor data, satellite data, etc.) is now bringing new opportunities for statisticians to develop innovative SAE methods. We will begin the course by presenting a brief history of small area estimation, basic concepts and issues. Then we will discuss different existing methods for producing small area estimates using Big Data. We will discuss a few case studies to illustrate the utility of combining information from multiple databases for small area estimation. The goal of this short course is to provide a broad overview of the subject and will avoid derivations of complex results. Active participation from the attendees will be strongly encouraged.

**About the Instructor:**

Dr. Partha Lahiri is Professor of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) and Department of Mathematics at the University of Maryland, College Park, and an Adjunct Research Professor of the Institute of Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Prior to coming to Maryland, Dr. Lahiri was the Milton Mohr Distinguished Professor of Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research interests include survey sampling, small-area estimation, record linkage and Big Data. Dr. Lahiri's research has been widely published in leading journals such as the Journal of the American Statistical Association, Annals of Statistics, Biometrika and Survey Methodology. Dr. Lahiri has served on a number of advisory committees, including the U.S. Census Advisory committee and U.S. National Academy panel.

Over the years Dr. Lahiri advised various local and international organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, World Bank, Gallup Organization. Dr. Lahiri is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

**Course Schedule:**

- 8:15 - 9:00 Coffee, breakfast, and check in
- 9:00 - 10:15 Introduction & Welcome
- 10:15 - 10:30 Break
- 10:30 - 12:00 Alternative data sources
- 12:10 - 1:00 Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Small Area Modeling and Methods
- 2:30 - 2:45 Break
- 2:45 - 4:00 A few case studies
- 4:00 - 4:30 Discussion

**Advance registration:** In addition to your RSVP here, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-big-data-for-small-area-estimation-tickets-55049104353> to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on March 8, 2019; earlier if the course fills up.

**Registration Fee:**

Full-time students (at most 8): \$63.69 advance, \$80 at the door  
WSS members: \$187.89 advance, \$200 at the door  
All others: \$218.94 advance, \$240 at the door

**Contact person:**

Yang Cheng, 301-763-3287, yang.cheng@census.gov

## JPSM SHORT COURSES

The [2018-2019 JPSM Short Course Schedule](#) is now available and registration is open.

- **March 25-26, 2019**    **Writing Questions for Surveys**  
Instructor: Nora Cate Schaeffer
- **April 10-11, 2019**    **Machine Learning for Survey Data**  
Instructor: Trent Buskirk
- **April 24-25, 2019**    **Web Survey Design**  
Instructor: Florian Keusch
- **May 29-30, 2019**    **Introduction to Survey Estimation**  
Instructors: David Morganstein & Sunghee Lee

\*Some agencies allow current year training funds to be used when there is a limited time on a discounted rate. Please check with your agency training office.

*All courses will be held at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in Washington, D.C.*

A friendly reminder: payment must be received at the time of registration to reserve a seat in a course. An emailed receipt will confirm payment and successful registration.

<https://jointprogram.umd.edu/prodev/jpsm-short-courses>

JPSM Short Course Team  
University of Maryland  
1218 Lefrak Hall  
College Park, MD 20742  
Ph: 301-314-7911  
Fax: 301-314-7912  
[jpsm-shortcourse@umd.edu](mailto:jpsm-shortcourse@umd.edu)

## GET INVOLVED!

Dear colleagues,

As you may know, the spring season brings science fairs to the region, which showcase the talent and aspirations of the remarkable students in our schools. The Washington Statistical Society has traditionally provided invaluable community support to these important events by nominating and sending delegations of official judges, who serve as representatives of our profession.

WSS is issuing a call for volunteer judges for the five regional sciences fairs of 2019. Our judges work as a team at each fair to identify science projects that demonstrate excellence in investigation or use of statistical methods. **Every year, our junior high and high school students eagerly look forward to the opportunity to share their understanding of statistics**, and our judges have always valued this rewarding experience.

[http://washstat.org/science\\_fairs/](http://washstat.org/science_fairs/)

Please take a moment to consider this important community service on behalf of the profession! We greatly appreciate your consideration and support of this important WSS community service.

If you are interested in serving as a WSS judge at one or more of the science fairs below, please contact Frank Yoon by email or phone.

- Frank Yoon, Science Fair Coordinator (email: [fyoon@us.ibm.com](mailto:fyoon@us.ibm.com), phone: 917-267-7562)
- Maura Bardos, WSS Quantitative Literacy Chair (email: [maura.bardos@gmail.com](mailto:maura.bardos@gmail.com))

*All fairs take place on Saturday.*

### **Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Fair**

March 16 at Wakefield High School, Arlington, VA

### **DC STEM Fair**

March 16 at Location TBA, Washington, DC

### **Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair**

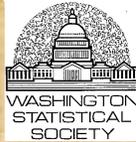
March 16 at Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax, VA

### **Prince George's Area Science Fair**

March 16 at Charles Herbert Flowers High School, Springdale, MD

### **Montgomery County Science Fair**

March 23 at Food and Drug Administration White Oak Campus, Silver Spring



# WSS ANNUAL DATA VISUALIZATION POSTER COMPETITION FOR K-12 STUDENTS



Entries **must** be postmarked by the following deadline: **April 1, 2019.**

Are you in grades K-12 in the Washington, D.C. area?  
Are you interested in answering questions about data and explaining them visually?  
Would you like to win up to **\$100**?

Then enter the Washington Statistical Society (WSS)'s Data Visualization Poster Competition!

**What is a data visualization poster?** A data visualization poster is a display containing **two or more related graphics** that **summarize a set of data**, look at the data from **different points of view**, and answer **specific questions** about the data.

### **Judging**

Posters will be judged on the following criteria:

- ▶ **Overall Impact (Design)** – Poster design aspects, colors/patterns, grammar, spelling, dimensionality, readability, neatness
- ▶ **Technical Aspects (Statistical Correctness)** – Age-appropriate use of statistical methods, calculations, and interpretation
- ▶ **Clarity of the Message (Statistical Process)** – How well is the four-step investigative process implemented? How well is a story told?
- ▶ **Appropriateness** – Appropriate, original graphics for the data
- ▶ **Creativity!** – A unique statistical question, original dataset, or novel approach

Remember: this is **not** a science fair! The best posters answer an interesting *statistical* question using

appropriate data, and must be able to stand on their own, since students are not present during the judging.

### **Prizes**

	<b>Individual Entries</b>	<b>Team Entries</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</b>	\$100	\$50 per team member, up to a maximum of \$200
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes</b>	\$50	\$25 per team member, up to a maximum of \$100

Winners (up to four per team) and one teacher/academic supervisor/parent per winner will also be invited to attend the annual WSS awards dinner, typically held in June. Additional guests may attend at their own cost.

WSS winners will also have their submissions sent to the national ASA poster competition. National winners will receive additional prizes!

### **Other Useful Information:**

- ▶ WSS Data Visualization Poster Competition Page: <http://www.washstat.org/poster/>
- ▶ Entry form, detailed rubric, rules for submission, and information about the national competition: <http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>
- ▶ Winning posters from 2018: [http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2018/08/01/poster\\_projects/](http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2018/08/01/poster_projects/)

*Questions? Contact Elizabeth Petraglia (elizabethpetraglia@westat.com)*

# **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**



## Applied Research and Methods Team (ARM)

### EXPERTS in the HOUSE

We design and execute appropriate methodologies to help GAO's mission and operations teams investigate and improve federal government operations. We also routinely assess emerging technologies and evaluate federal programs and policies. Here are the details for each of our offices/centers:



#### Center for Design, Methods, and Analysis

Provides methodological, statistical, analytical, and technical assistance to mission and operations teams



#### Center for Economics

Provides expertise in a broad range of issues, approaches, and methodologies in economic analysis



#### Center for Enhanced Analytics

Provides assistance with data, using descriptive, predictive, and prescriptive analytics



#### Center for Evaluation Methods and Issues

Produces studies on program evaluation, performance measurement, applied statistics, social science research, and future-oriented analyses



#### Center for Science, Technology, and Engineering

Conducts technology assessments, technical performance audits, and provides assistance on engagements related to science, technology, engineering, operations research, and cybersecurity



#### Managing Director's Office

Plans and supports the production of ARM's work, and provides library research services for the entire agency

### JOIN US!

	Internship	Permanent Position
<b>Education Required</b>	Current advanced undergraduate or graduate student in social science, STEM, or public policy	Master's or doctoral degree in statistics, social science, STEM, or public policy
<b>Schedule</b>	400-640 hours; full-time in summer, full- or part-time in fall	Full-time
<b>Opportunities</b>	Internship, which could convert to a permanent position	Flexibility to work on the topics that interest you most
<b>Compensation</b>	Professional salary with benefits	

### HOW TO APPLY

All applicants must apply for available positions through [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

We recommend that interested applicants:

- Create a profile on USAjobs.
- Sign up to receive a daily search alert for GAO vacancies. (A weekly alert may not catch time-limited postings.)
- Build a resume in USAjobs (rather than uploading one). Describe your experience with specific, direct examples.
- Email [ARMDIHiring@gao.gov](mailto:ARMDIHiring@gao.gov) to receive announcements about upcoming opportunities in ARM.
- Read through past GAO reports available at [gao.gov](http://gao.gov), and familiarize yourself with the GAO style.
- Provide detailed responses to the written application questions when you submit an application.
- Apply to positions early to account for possible technical challenges.



## ACCOUNTABILITY is our middle name

Often called the “congressional watchdog,” GAO is an **independent, nonpartisan agency** that advises Congress about ways to make government more efficient, effective, ethical, equitable, and responsive.

Returning **more than a hundred dollars in savings** for every dollar of our budget, we support oversight of taxpayer dollars by:

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- **investigating** allegations of illegal and improper activities;
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- **issuing legal decisions and opinions**, such as bid protest rulings and reports on agency rules.

## Our PEOPLE are our STRENGTH

...and we value them accordingly. We strive for:

A workplace that emphasizes

- diversity
- inclusion
- respect
- fairness



Work/life balance, offering

- flexible work schedules
- continuous learning
- a pay system that rewards performance



GAO’s support of diversity has been top-ranked among mid-sized federal agencies since 2011, and has ranked in the top 5 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government every year since 2005.

## Across the NATION; Across GOVERNMENT

Our **11 field offices** and **headquarters in Washington, DC**, position us to explore government programs around the country.



We split our work among **14 Mission Teams** that cover federal programs and activities across government:

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- Contracting and National Security Acquisitions
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## When we talk, OTHERS LISTEN



**GAO is integral to government decision making.** We make hundreds of recommendations each year, testify frequently at congressional hearings, and are cited regularly in the national press.



On average, roughly 80% of our recommendations are implemented over a four-year period, improving government services and saving billions of taxpayer dollars annually.

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	Lisa Mirel	7/2017-6/2019	(301) 458-4087	zav8@cdc.gov
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Communications Officer	Leanna Moron	7/2018-6/2020	(240) 223-9264	lmoron@childtrends.org

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Methodology Program	Nick Beyler	7/2018-6/2019	(703) 214-0931	<a href="mailto:nbeyler@2mresearch.com">nbeyler@2mresearch.com</a>
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Data Collection Methods	Tom Mule	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 763-8322	<a href="mailto:Vincent.T.Mule.Jr@census.gov">Vincent.T.Mule.Jr@census.gov</a>
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Public Health and Biostatistics	Grant Izmirlan	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 496-7519	<a href="mailto:izmirlian@nih.gov">izmirlian@nih.gov</a>
	Carolyn Carroll	7/2018-6/2019	(202) 320-8709	<a href="mailto:carolyn@stattech.com">carolyn@stattech.com</a>
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Data Science	Gonzalo Rivero	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 517-8053	<a href="mailto:GonzaloRivero@westat.com">GonzaloRivero@westat.com</a>
Student Representative	Sofia Sikandar	7/2018-6/2019		<a href="mailto:ssikanda@masonlive.gmu.edu">ssikanda@masonlive.gmu.edu</a>

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<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>		<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
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Video Conferencing	Dan Gillman	7/2018-6/2019	(202) 691-7523	<a href="mailto:gillman.daniel@bls.gov">gillman.daniel@bls.gov</a>
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Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	7/2018-6/2019	(202) 693- 5904	<a href="mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov">Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov</a>
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Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coord.	Mark Otto	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 497-5872	<a href="mailto:Mark.ot2o@gmail.com">Mark.ot2o@gmail.com</a>

Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coord.	Frank Yoon	7/2018-6/2019	(609) 945-6616	<a href="mailto:FYoon@us.ibm.com">FYoon@us.ibm.com</a>
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Spotlight	Natalia Weil	Chair	(240) 314-5811	<a href="mailto:NataliaWeil@westat.com">NataliaWeil@westat.com</a>
	Nick Hart		(202) 218-6762	<a href="mailto:nhart@bipartisanpolicy.org">nhart@bipartisanpolicy.org</a>

## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the next issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20<sup>th</sup> of the 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.

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