

WSS



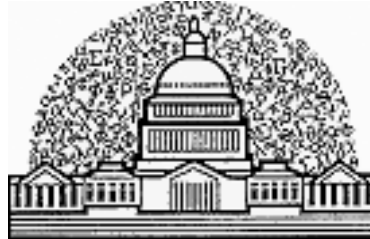
The Washington Statistical Society

SINCE 1926

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32ND ANNUAL MORRIS HANSEN LECTURE



Washington Statistical Society

Registration

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

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

Committee on National Statistics

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Thursday, September 26, 2024

3:30-5:30 PM

Jefferson Auditorium
USDA South Building

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

Morris Hansen Lecture Series



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

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

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

Abstract

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

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

Program

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

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

Program Chair
Dr. Carolina Franco
NORC at the University of Chicago

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

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

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

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

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



Morris Hansen Memorial Lecture Series

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

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

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

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

Sponsored by:



Washington Statistical Society



STUDENT CORNER

2025 WSS Student Travel Competition Application

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) is offering travel support to a local area student in a statistics or related discipline's degree program. The support includes \$800 plus early-bird student conference registration to one American Statistical Society (ASA) meeting or conference between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. A full list of eligible events may be found on [ASA's website](#). Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one or more eligible events. A one-year student membership to the ASA and a one-year student membership to the WSS are also granted to the winner.

Applications are **due at 11:59 p.m. EST on November 15, 2024**, and the winner will receive notification by January 15, 2025.

Eligibility

Applicants must be enrolled in the fall 2024 semester in a degree-seeking program in DC, MD, or VA. Eligible majors include statistics or related disciplines (applied statistics, biostatistics, data science, etc.). Previous WSS Student Travel Award winners are not eligible.

Application Process

Applications must include:

1. The completed application form provided on the next page.
2. A copy of the most recent transcript or advising report from your university.
3. A double-spaced essay, no more than two pages, describing: your interest in statistics (including projects, internships, and/or assistantships) and activities to help improve the field of statistics (including teaching, mentoring, advising, collaborating, and service), and your interest in attending and presenting at an ASA meeting or conference.
4. A letter of support from a faculty member or ASA member, indicating knowledge of any funding support the student has already received to attend an ASA meeting or conference.

To apply, please email your academic transcripts, essay, and completed application form to the WSS Student Travel Competition Chair, Andreea Erciulescu (AndreeaErciulescu@westat.com) with the subject line WSS STUDENT TRAVEL COMPETITION. The letter of support should be sent by the reference.

Deadlines

1. The applicants email the application package to the WSS Student Travel Competition Chair with the subject line WSS STUDENT TRAVEL COMPETITION by 11:59 p.m. EST on November 15, 2024.
2. The competition winner is notified by January 15, 2025.
3. The competition winner must confirm their travel support acceptance by January 20, 2025. Failure to confirm the travel support may lead to removal as a winner.
4. The competition winner attends an ASA meeting or conference between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.
5. The competition winner attends the WSS Annual Dinner in the spring of 2025, where they are recognized. The cost of the dinner is covered by the WSS.
6. The competition winner prepares an essay on their experience at the ASA meeting/conference. The essay will be published in the upcoming WSS Newsletter.

The applicants can address any questions to the WSS Student Travel Competition Chair, Andreea Erciulescu (AndreeaErciulescu@westat.com).

Good luck, and we hope to see you at an ASA meeting/conference in the near future!

2025 WSS Student Travel Competition Application Form

Applicant Name: _____ Full time student Part-time

Department: _____

University: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Degree: _____ Anticipated graduation date: _____

Are you considering other funding sources to attend an ASA meeting or conference? YES NO

If YES, please describe:

Are you planning to present a paper or poster at an ASA meeting or conference? YES NO

If YES, please describe (event(s), date(s), paper or poster title(s)):

Have you previously attended any professional meetings on statistics or a related discipline? YES NO

If YES, please describe (meeting(s), location(s), date(s)):

Are you currently part of, or do you have plans to join, the WSS mentoring program (or another ASA mentoring program)? YES NO

If YES, please describe:

Are you currently a member of the WSS? YES NO

Are you currently a member of the ASA? YES NO

Scoring Sheet (FOR JUDGES ONLY)

1. The completed application form.
 - a. If missing, then disqualify from competition.
2. A copy of the most recent transcript or advising report from their university.
 - a. If missing, then disqualify from competition.
3. A double-spaced essay, no more than two pages, describing: their interest in statistics (including projects, internships, and/or assistantships) and activities to help improve the field of statistics (including teaching, mentoring, advising, collaborating, and service), and their interest in attending and presenting at an ASA meeting or conference.
 - a. If missing, then disqualify from competition.
 - b. If available, then score (score 1-5, with highest being 5) the following:
 - i. Clarity of writing
 - ii. Projects, internships, assistantships
 - iii. Teaching, mentoring, advising, collaborating, and service
4. A letter of support from a faculty member or ASA member, indicating knowledge of any funding support the student has already received to attend an ASA meeting or conference.
 - a. If missing, then disqualify from competition.

Note. Items 1, 2 and 4, in addition to the WSS President's input, will be used in the event of a tie.

WHO IS IN THE SPOTLIGHT?

Introducing your fellow members and showcasing the diversity of the WSS.

Meet WSS Member Dr. Daifeng Han...

Dr. Daifeng Han is a statistician with 19 years of experience in survey statistics and methodology. Dr. Han has authored articles in *Survey Research Methods*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*. In addition to her technical expertise, Dr. Han also strives to mentor young statisticians and promote staff development. She finds great joy in adding positive value to other people's lives.



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

I'm a survey statistician at Westat. I've led a wide variety of statistical activities for federal clients and developed new procedures and best practices through cross-team collaboration.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

Before officially joining Westat, I interned for a year and had the opportunity to work with some well-known researchers and practitioners in the field. I was amazed at both their expertise and their willingness to mentor young statisticians. As an eager learner, I was deeply attracted to Westat's nurturing environment.

3. What skills are most important for the next generation of statistics professionals?

In addition to a strong mathematics background and computer skills, I think a successful statistician should also have sound industry knowledge, be skilled at articulating statistical concepts to non-technical audiences, and have teamwork and collaborative skills.

4. Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to..."

better connect with fellow statisticians and find opportunities to serve the community.

5. What was your first job?

I worked as a part-time evaluation consultant for the World Bank Group while I was in graduate school. Through that experience, I learned to translate complex data into easily digestible format for non-technical audiences.

6. Why did you join the statistics profession?

Being a sampling statistician requires not only solid statistical knowledge, but also a good understanding of the practical factors that could make a study successful. I love amalgamating statistics and methodology. In my daily work, I enjoy problem-solving with my colleagues throughout a survey's life cycle.

7. What is the most interesting statistical project you have worked on recently?

In 2022, my Westat colleagues and I conducted a pilot test of using a mail push-to-web sequential mailing design to identify households with potentially high medical expenditures. We leveraged administrative data and record linking to stratify the address-based sample. We also experimented with various levels of pre-paid and promised incentives, and presented the interesting findings at the 2023 Joint Statistical Meetings.

8. If you could have dinner with 3 people from history, who would they be?

Vincent van Gogh, Virginia Woolf, and Abraham Lincoln. I'd be thrilled to peek into their great minds.

9. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

I enjoy all kinds of ethnic food – Chinese, Indian, Ethiopian, Mexican, Italian, etc... I also love being creative and experimenting with my cooking. My favorite restaurant is probably my own kitchen.

10. How do you like to spend your free time away from work?

Running, reading, yoga, classical music, hiking with family and friends, and making crafts and playing board games with my sons.

11. What is your greatest accomplishment?

It might be going from nothing to completing the Marine Corp Marathon within six months, or finishing my dissertation while working full-time and becoming a mom. But really, what I feel most thankful for is my ability to always show up and give my best however challenging the situation may be. I never quit.

SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER

Are You Interested in Being Featured in the Washington Statistical Society Spotlight of WSS News?

Request follows: Please respond via the following link: <https://forms.gle/xSx1cRricFJsRYoU7>

In advance, I thank you for any consideration you may provide regarding the aforementioned request, and I hope you have a superb day.

Respectfully submitted,

~ Florrie O'Loughlin, WSS Associate Member

IN NEED OF SOME SUPPORT?

Are you in a graduate program? Are you or have you been in ABD status...like forever?
Are you in the throes of *trying* to start or finish your dissertation? Thesis? Proposal? Large project?

Are you overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of what is in front of you? Do you find yourself being pulled between needing to work on your dissertation/thesis and tending to life's daily demands? In short—feeling unmotivated?

Been there. Done that. I can provide you with the support you desperately need.

My mission is to see you cross that finish line.

Contact me for a free no-obligation 15-minute discovery call.

Go!

Colleen

homestretch102@gmail.com

TIME TO START DIGGING!

Seeking Old WSS Newsletters

The project to create PDF scans of the WSS newsletter paper archive began in March 2023 and now has been completed. PDF scans of WSS newsletters from 1945 to 1995 are now available in the WSS newsletter archive <https://washstat.org/newsletters>. Unfortunately, we discovered that the paper archive is incomplete. We have discovered both missing issues, and issues with missing pages. The issues with missing pages have not been added to the online newsletter archive. As a result, the online archive currently does not include December 1994, November 1993, October 1992, September 1990, June 1979, September 1972, December 1971, June 1971, June 1968, May 1968, February 1968, February 1967, November 1963, and December 1962. Additionally, there were pieces of paper in the paper archive that said "No Newsletter" for December 1973, December 1972, and January 1972. We don't know if that means no newsletter was created for these months, or if these were lost.

For earlier years, there likely are missing newsletters as well. For example, the archive contained only three newsletters from 1946, and only two newsletters from 1947.

We would like to hear from you if you have an archive of paper WSS newsletters from 1994 and earlier years that includes one or more of the missing/incomplete/unknown status issues. Please contact either John Czajka (johnlczajka@gmail.com) or Chris Moriarity (cdm7@cdc.gov).

Additionally, the online newsletter archive mainly contains the electronic version of the newsletter between 1996 and 2002. There are many broken links in these electronic newsletters. If we are able to locate sufficient paper newsletters from this period to scan into PDFs to supplement the electronic newsletters, we intend to do this. Please contact us if you have a significant collection of paper newsletters from this period that you are willing to loan for this initiative.

WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES

Last updated on 9/23/2024.

WSS Board of Directors / Officers*

Office	Name	Term	E-mail
President	Jonathan Auerbach	7/1/24-6/30/25	Jauerba (gmu.edu)
President-Elect	Benmei Liu	7/1/24-6/30/25	liub2 (mail.nih.gov)
Secretary	Dan Liao	7/1/23-6/30/25	Dliao (rti.org)
Treasurer	Lloyd Hicks	7/1/24-6/30/26	lloydhicks (westat.com)
Communications Chair	Daifeng Han	7/1/24-6/30/26	daifenghan (westat.com)
Methodology Section Chair	Katherine Irimata	7/1/24-6/30/25	oui4 (cdc.gov)
Methodology Program Chair	Pushpal Mukhopadhyay	7/1/24-6/30/25	Pushpal.Mukhopadhyay (eia.gov)
Representative-at-Large	Yulei He	7/1/24-6/30/26	wdq7 (cdc.gov)
Representative-at-Large	Mandi Yu	7/1/24-6/30/26	mandi.yu (nih.gov)
Representative-at-Large	Maura Bardos	7/1/23-6/30/25	Maura.bardos (gmail.com)
Representative-at-Large	Aaron Gilary	7/1/23-6/30/25	aaron.j.gilary (census.gov)

* Note: all WSS Board of Directors/Officers are also voting members

Additional Voting Members

Office	Name	Term	E-mail
Past President	Jeff Gonzalez	7/1/24-6/30/25	Gonzalez.Jeffrey (bls.gov)
Council of Chapters Representative	Taylor Lewis	1/1/22-12/31/24	thlewis (rti.org)

Programs (Non-Voting Members)

Committees (non-voting members)

Committee	Member		E-mail
Communications Committee, Chair	see Board of Directors		
Web Master	Chris Moriarity	7/1/24-6/30/25	cdm7 (cdc.gov)
WSS Newsletter Editor	Colleen Choi	7/1/24-6/30/25	wss.editor (gmail.com)
Spotlight Editor	Florrie O'Loughlin	7/1/24-6/30/25	tech (florriezo.com)
Employment Column Coordinator	Open		
Electronic Mail Committee	Vince Massimini	7/1/24-6/30/25	vince (massimini.us)
Social Media Manager	Phil Kalina	7/1/24-6/30/25	phil (philkalina.com)
Social Arrangements Committee	Leanna Moron	7/1/24-6/30/25	leannaxmoron (gmail.com)
	Maura Bardos	7/1/24-6/30/25	maura.bardos (gmail.com)
	Jessica Hoehner	7/1/24-6/30/25	Jessmhoehner (gmail.com)
Student Representative Chair	Marina Costa	12/1/23-12/31/24	mcosta1 (terpmail.umd.edu)
Student Representative	Open		
Quantitative Literacy Committee, Chair	Sabrina Zhang	7/1/24-6/30/25	SabrinaZhang (westat.com)
QL Poster Competition	Open		
QL Volunteer Coordinator	Dan Sherman	7/1/24-6/30/25	ratitekeeper (yahoo.com)
QL Science Fair Coordinator	Jiashen You	7/1/24-6/30/25	Jiashen.You (gmail.com)
Statistics Education Committee (inactive), Chair	Open		
Mentoring Committee, Chair	Amy Lin	7/1/24-6/30/25	Amylin (westat.com)
Committee Members	Benmei Liu	7/1/24-6/30/25	liub2 (mail.nih.gov)
	Mark Otto	7/1/24-6/30/25	Mark.Ot2o (gmail.com)

	Jaki McCarthy	7/1/24-6/30/25	Jaki.don (gmail.com)
	Michael Messner	7/1/24-6/30/25	mjaymessner (gmail.com)
	Amanda Koepke	7/1/24-6/30/25	amanda.koepke (nist.gov)
Diversity Committee, Chair	Open		
Committee Member	Darryl Creel	7/1/24-6/30/25	dcreel (rti.org)
Membership Committee, Chair	John Czajka	7/1/24-6/30/25	JohnLCzajka (gmail.com)
WSS/SRMS Committee on ASA Fellows, Chair	Tom Krenzke	7/1/24-6/30/25	tomkrenzke (westat.com)
Committee Members	Jill Dever	7/1/24-6/30/25	jdever (rti.org)
	Jennifer Parker	7/1/24-6/30/25	jdp3 (cdc.gov)
	Stephanie Shipp	7/1/24-6/30/25	sss5sc (virginia.edu)
Committee Member (President-Elect)	See Board of Directors	See Board of Directors	
Financial Audit Committee	Chris Moriarity	7/1/24-6/30/25	cdm7 (cdc.gov)
	Michael P. Cohen	7/1/24-6/30/25	mpcohen (juno.com)
Historical Committee, Chair	Amy Lin		amylin (westat.com)

Award Committees (Non-Voting Members)

Award Committee	Member		E-mail
Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee	Raji Sundaram	7/1/24-6/30/25	sundaramr2 (mail.nih.gov)
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	7/1/24-6/30/25	Sloboda.brian.w (dol.gov)
WSS' Gertrude Cox Award Committee, Chair (RTI)	Marcus Berzofsky	7/1/24-6/30/25	berzofsky (rti.org)
RTI Committee Members	Darryl Creel	7/1/24-6/30/25	dcreel (rti.org)
	Phillip Kott	7/1/24-6/30/25	pkott (rti.org)
Committee Members	President		See Board of Directors

	Past President		See Board of Directors
	President-Elect		See Board of Directors
Hansen Lecture Committee, Chair	William Bell	2024	William.r.bell (census.gov)
Past Chair	Carolina Franco	2024	Franco-Carolina (norc.org)
Committee Member, Chair Elect	Jonathan Auerbach	2024	Jauerba (gmu.edu)
Committee Member, Chair Elect On-Deck	Open	2024	
NASS Committee Member	Linda Young	2024	Linda.Young (nass.usda.gov)
Westat Committee Member	Jeri Mulrow	2024	JeriMulrow (westat.com)
Herriot Award Committee (GSS)	a committee comprising representatives of the ASA Social Statistics and Government Statistics sections and the Washington Statistical Society		
WSS Representative	Devi Chelluri	1/1/23-12/31/25	Chelluri-Devi (norc.org)
Shiskin Award Committee	See the ASA website for a full list of committee members and terms		
Committee Members	President	2024	See Board of Directors
	Past-President	2024	See Board of Directors
Student Travel Award	Andreea Erciulescu	7/1/24-6/30/25	AndreeaErciulescu (westat.com)

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

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. Announcements with track changes will not be accepted.

Feel free to also send items to the following: chachi.fan@dot.gov, mark.ot2o@gmail.com.

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