

Washington Statistical Society

W.S.S. Newsletter—April 1980

CALENDAR

Topic: AgRISTARS (Agriculture and Resource Inventory Surveys Through Remote Sensing)
Speakers: Charles Caudill, USDA; Rich Allen, USDA; Dan Tarpley, NOAA; Galen Hart, USDA
Date and Time: Tuesday, April 15, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Federal Building; Room 3000A; 12th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

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Topic: Effectiveness of Programs for Disease Prevention—Measurement Issues
Speaker: Sam Shapiro, Director, Health Services Research and Development Center, Johns Hopkins University
Date and Time: Thursday, April 17, 1980, 12 Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Location: Federal Center Building, 3700 East-West Highway, Room G20, Prince George's Plaza, Hyattsville, MD

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Topic: Report of the Universal Social Security Coverage Group
Speakers: Syl Sheiber, Social Security Administration: "The Basis for Considering Mandatory Social Security Coverage" and "Federal Employees and Social Security Coverage"; Michael Mahoney, Social Security Administration: "Options for Resolving the Social Security Coverage Issues"
Date and Time: Wednesday, April 23, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Location: New Department of Labor Auditorium, 3rd & Constitution Ave., N.W.

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Topic: Results of Methods Tests Conducted on CPS Panel Households Used to Estimate Unemployment
Speaker: Tony Roman, U.S. Bureau of the Census
Date and Time: Thursday, April 24, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Location: New Department of Labor Auditorium, 3rd & Constitution Ave., N.W.

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Topic: Infant Mortality in the District of Columbia
Speakers: Joel C. Kleinman, Jennifer H. Madans, and Steven A. Machlin—Division of Analysis, National Center for Health Statistics
Date and Time: Tuesday, April 29, 1980, 12 Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Location: Federal Center Building, 3700 East-West Highway, Room G20, Prince George's Plaza, Hyattsville, MD

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Topic: Adequacy of the CPI as a Measure of Inflation
Speakers: Larry DeMilner, Congressional Budget Office; Jack Triplett, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Date and Time: Wednesday, April 30, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Location: New Department of Labor Auditorium, 3rd & Constitution Ave., N.W.

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WSS Open Board Meeting

This year's Open Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 1980 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 3000 at 4000 Maryland Avenue, S.W.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE MEETINGS

Topic: AgRISTARS (Agriculture and Resource Inventory Surveys Through Remote Sensing)
Speakers: Charles Caudill, USDA; Rich Allen, USDA; Dan Tarpley, NOAA; Galen Hart, USDA
Sponsor: Agriculture and Natural Resources Section

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Topic: Effectiveness of Programs for Disease Prevention—Measurement Issues
Speaker: Sam Shapiro, Director, Health Services Research and Development Center, Johns Hopkins University
Chair: Robert Fuchsburg, NCHS
Abstract: Issues are identified that require resolution in order to determine the nature and scope of investigations concerned with efficacy and application of preventive health measures. Compelling reasons for emphasizing randomized trials and circumstances that lead away from such trials are discussed.
Sponsor: Public Health and Biostatistics

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Topic: Report of the Universal Social Security Coverage Group
Speakers: Syl Sheiber, Social Security Administration: "The Basis for Considering Mandatory Social Security Coverage"; Michael Mahoney, Social Security Administration: "Options for Resolving the Social Security Coverage Issues"
Discussant: Edwin Husted, Chief Actuary, Civil Service Retirement System
Chair: Thomas Woodruff, Executive Director of the President's Commission on Pension Policy
Abstract: The Universal Social Security Coverage Study Group has conducted a two-year study on the feasibility and desirability of extending Social Security coverage to Federal and uncovered State and local employees. At this session, members of that group will present papers on some of the issues which have been addressed and findings which have been made and forwarded to the Secretary of HEW for submission to the Congress. The rationale for considering the extension of coverage, ideas on alternative programs, and possible effects of implementing different plans will be considered.
Sponsor: Social and Demographic Statistics

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Topic: Results of Methods Tests Conducted on CPS Panel Households Used to Estimate Unemployment
Speaker: Tony Roman, U.S. Bureau of the Census
Abstract: Methods Tests Panel was selected to test alternate data collection methodologies and concepts for use in the CPS. Three experimental treatments were considered: interview mode (telephone vs. personal); respondent type (self vs. proxy); and interviewer assignment (same vs. alternate interviewers). The report examines the effect of each treatment and their interactions as they affect the estimated unemployment rate. A fourth issue, Rotation group bias, is also discussed.
Sponsor: Methodology Section

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Topic: Infant Mortality in the District of Columbia
Speakers: Joel C. Kleinman, Jennifer H. Madans, and Steven A. Machlin—Division of Analysis, National Center for Health Statistics
Chair: Harry Rosenberg, NCHS
Abstract: Concern about the high rate of infant mortality in DC has led to the creation of task forces and several studies on various aspects of the problem. The NCHS has been involved in many of these activities. In this seminar, we will present a review of the trends in infant mortality in DC and discuss the conduct of a study using DC's file of linked birth and infant death records. Particular attention will be focused on the role of birthweight in determining neonatal mortality.
Sponsors: Public Health and Biostatistics and Social and Demographics Sections

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Topic: Adequacy of the CPI as a Measure of Inflation
Speakers: Larry DeMilner, Congressional Budget Office; Jack Triplett, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Discussant: Richard Boyce, Council on Wage and Price Stability
Chair: W. Kip Viscusi, Council on Wage and Price Stability
Abstract: The Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Nation's most important price index, has been used for a variety of purposes such as a measure of change in purchasing power and as a basis for indexation of wages and pension benefits. Although the index serves users both during periods of relative price stability and in periods of rising or declining prices, questions about the accuracy of the measure peak in periods like the present, when prices tend to be unresponsive to measures taken to diminish their rapid rise. In this session, the adequacy of the CPI as a measure of inflation and the cost of living will be discussed. Such questions raise the issues of the treatment of homeownership and the use of a fixed market basket.
Sponsor: Economics Section and Society of Government Economists

WSS OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Constitution of the Washington Statistical Society specifies that at least one Society meeting each year shall provide time for discussion of Society business by the general membership. This year's open Board meeting will be held Tuesday, May 6, 1980, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 3000 at 4000 Maryland Avenue, S.W.

A special feature of this year's meeting will be a discussion of the WSS Review Committee Report. This Committee examined the existing program and procedures of the WSS. Their Report includes findings and recommendations in 10 specific areas: membership policy, organization and operating procedures, publicity, scientific meetings, prize paper contest, career conference, international activities, minorities in Statistics, Statistics and the media, and social events. A copy of the full WSS Review Committee Report can be obtained by calling 447-4896.

The May 6 meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. with monthly Board business. The WSS Review Committee discussion and other items from the floor will commence at 1:00 p.m.

WSS CANDIDATES

The following persons have agreed to run for offices in the Washington Statistical Society for the 1980-81 year:

For Vice President and President-Elect:

Vito Natrella, Consultant, Recently retired from Internal Revenue Service
Shirley Kallek, Bureau of the Census

For Representatives-at-Large (Three to be elected):

Mitchell Gail, National Cancer Institute
Maria Gonzalez, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards
William Kibler, Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service, USDA
Jerome Mark, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Jack Moshman, Moshman Associates, Inc.
Edward Wegman, Office of Naval Research

For Secretary:

Rich Allen, Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service, USDA

For Treasurer:

Bennie Clemmer, Social Security Administration

For Methodology Section Program Chair:

Paul Biemer, Bureau of the Census
Thomas Herzog, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Candidates other than these may be nominated by petition of at least 40 members of WSS, provided that the petition is received by the Nominations and Elections Committee at least two weeks before balloting. This means that any such petition should be sent to Thomas B. Jabine, 3231 Worthington Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20015, before April 15, 1980.

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY ANALYSIS SYMPOSIUM—April 28-29, 1980

A major National Energy Policy Analysis Symposium will be held in Washington, D.C., on April 28-29, 1980 at the Marvin Center of The George Washington University. The symposium is sponsored by the National Council of Associations for Policy Sciences (NCAPS), an association of ten national and local professional societies with an interest in policy sciences. For information, contact: Dr. Armand B. Weiss, (703) 241-0333.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices is the 12th of the month preceding the publication date

Send notices and requests to:
Evelyn R. Kay, National Center for Education
Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20202 (202) 245-8340

Job Openings

Statistician (General) Smithsonian Institution

Challenging position for professional growth. Beginning level position for individual with BA/BS and added coursework in statistics or an MS. Experience with FORTRAN, SPSS/BMD. Assignment will be diverse and projects may include applications in biostatistics, social and behavioral science, education, business, and others. Must have ability to express technical items clearly in writing and interest in being trained in consulting. Starting salary ranges from \$11,243 to \$13,925, based upon experience and education. This is *not* a Federal Civil Service position; however, Civil Service classification standards apply. Send SF 171 by April 15 to the Smithsonian Institution, Office of Personnel Administration, ATTN: Desk 1413-E, 900 Jefferson Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20560.

Director (Senior Economist) Office of Industry Economic Research and Analysis)BIE (SES)

The general mission of the Bureau of Industrial Economics (BIE) is to provide government and business decision makers the data and objective analytical support needed to assess the individual industry implications of major policy decisions and world-wide economic developments. The Office of Industry Economic Research and Analysis engages in industrial forecasting and studies on important issues related to the industrial sector, such as productivity developments, impact of government regulations, capacity and capital formation needs, energy conservation trends, and international competitive developments. Projects are frequently done in cooperation with industry specialists located in other offices of the Bureau. This office is responsible for the Bureau's new publication, *Industrial Economics Review*. Applicants with appropriate academic background and proven capabilities in conducting and directing economic research projects should submit applications to: Beatrice N. Vaccara, Director: Bureau of Industrial Economics; U.S. Department of Commerce; Washington, D.C. 20230.

Survey Statistician

Challenging opportunity for professional growth and recognition working on subjects of national and international concern. Permanent, mid-level staff position available with expanding multicultural research and management consulting firm with offices across the United States and overseas.

Candidates should at least have a Masters' Degree in statistics, some experience in the design and analysis of large scale probability samples in social science topic areas, and interest in further development of sampling skills (particularly in the area of complex, multi-stage sample designs). Also must be able to express themselves clearly in writing on technical subjects and have some data processing experience, preferably using generalized statistical software. Assignments will be diverse and include use of state-of-the-art techniques in program evaluation and survey research.

Interested persons should contact and/or send a current resume, including salary requirements, to: Ms. Nancy Jaffie, Development Associates, Inc., 2924 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia, 22204, (703) 979-0100.

(Mailed 3-28-80)



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

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