

# Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

W.S.S. Newsletter—January 1981

## Calendar

### W.S.S.-Sponsored:

**Topic:** Rotation Sample Biases and Their Effects on Estimates of Change

**Speaker:** Barbara Bailar, Bureau of the Census

**Date and Time:** Thursday, January 22, 1981, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** IRS Auditorium, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

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**Topic:** Hazardous-Inspection Models

**Speaker:** David A. Butler, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

**Date and Time:** Monday, January 26, 1981, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Room 3000A, Federal Building (Old Post Office Building), 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue

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**Topic:** Increasing the Efficiency of Survey Design Through the Use of Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing

**Speaker:** Solomon Dutka, Audits and Surveys, Inc.

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, January 28, 1981, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Room 3000A, Federal Building (Old Post Office Building), 12th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

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**Topic:** X New HCFA Medicaid Data Initiatives

**Speakers:** Dr. Al Dobson, Dr. Don Muse, Michele Gerzowski, Dave Baugh (HCFA)

**Date and Time:** Thursday, January 29, 1981, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** 200 "C" Street, S.W. (FDA Building), Room 1409-B

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**Topic:** Code of Conduct for Statisticians: Do We Need It?

**Speakers:** F.J. Scheuren, Internal Revenue Service; J.L. Gastwirth, George Washington University; T.C. Ireland, Dept. of Defense; and D.W. Anderson, National Institutes of Health

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, February 3, 1981

**Location:** IRS Auditorium, 1111 Constitution Ave., N.W., Room 7132

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## Seminars—Other Sponsors

**Topic:** The Many Aspects of Mentoring

**Sponsor:** Washington Alliance of Statisticians

**Speakers:** An Interactive Discussion, With Leaders and Resources

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, January 13, 1981, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Nativity Catholic Church, Downstairs Meeting Room, on 13th Street, N.W., between Peabody and Quackenbos Streets (just north of Military Road - Missouri Avenue), and a large lighted parking lot is available.

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**Topic:** Private Foundations

**Speaker:** Dan Skelly

**Sponsor:** Internal Revenue Service, Statistics Division

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, January 14, 1981, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Room 806B, 1201 E Street, Washington, D.C.

## DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE MEETINGS

**Topic:** Rotation Sample Biases and Their Effects on Estimates of Change  
**Chair:** Monroe Sirken, National Center for Health Statistics  
**Discussants:** Hal Nisselson, Westat, Inc.; Stephan Fienberg, Carnegie-Mellon University  
**Abstract:** The phenomenon, in panel surveys, of sample units having different expected values, dependent on the number of times the units have been surveyed, has been referred to as rotation sample bias. It has been shown that this bias exists in consumer expenditure data, health data, labor force data and in crime victimization data. In the past, it has been assumed that this bias is constant over time so that, even though estimates of level may be affected, estimates of month-to-month change remain relatively unaffected. The focus of this paper is the rotation group bias in the Current Population Survey, its change from month-to-month, and the effect of the change on estimates of level and on month-to-month change.

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**Topic:** Hazardous-Inspection Models  
**Chair:** John C. Bailar, Environmental Protection Agency and Harvard University  
**Abstract:** Inspection procedures which may be detrimental to the well-being of the system being inspected are of direct interest. The basic issue in developing efficient inspection procedures is one of benefits of information revealed by inspections versus the risk to the system so imposed. The inspection process will be modeled as a partially observable Markov decision process, and the nature of the optimal inspection policy will be investigated. Computational considerations for efficiently determining the optimal inspection policy will also be discussed. Also, some issues involved in adapting the model to particular applications will be briefly considered. Although interest in this problem is expressed in assurance science aspects of physical and engineering applications, the problem of hazardous inspection is also of vital concern to biological scientists and physicians weighing the effects of exposure to radiation for medical examinations.

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**Topic:** Increasing the Efficiency of Survey Design Through the Use of Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing  
**Discussants:** Joseph Waksberg, Westat, Inc., and Joseph Fitti, National Center for Health Statistics  
**Abstract:** In order that optimization procedures be of use in sample survey design, prior knowledge is required concerning the characteristics of the sample population. When a study is repetitive in context and the characteristics to be measured do not change significantly over time, the optimization can be easily implemented. Until fairly recently, it had been difficult to apply these procedures to a one-time study. Heretofore, survey procedures were decentralized and time-consuming in execution. With the advent of telephone interviewing, centralized interviewing became possible. Through the use of CATI (computer assisted telephone interviewing) instant feedback is achieved. By making use of the computer, ongoing statistical analyses are performed; and by the interaction features of some systems, optimization procedures can be introduced while a survey is still in progress.

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**Topic:** New HCFA Medicaid Data Initiatives  
**Chair:** Dr. Judith R. Lave (HCFA)  
**Sponsor:** Public Health and Biostatistics Section, WSS  
**Abstract:** Data about the Medicaid population is difficult to gather and to analyze. The Office of Research, HCFA, has been developing several approaches toward learning more about the Medicaid population. These approaches will be discussed and include: (1) sample surveys, such as the National Medical Care Utilization and Expenditure Survey; (2) routine reports submitted to HCFA by the States; (3) the States' own administrative records; and (4) the construction of a person-level National Medicaid Data Base.

**Topic:** Code of Conduct for Statisticians: Do We Need It?  
**Chair:** T.C. Ireland  
**Abstract:** The panel will express their views on the concept of a formalized statement of ethics and standards for statisticians. In particular, the "Interim Code of Ethics" which appeared in the November 1980 *Amstat News* will be discussed. The public is invited to read this code of ethics and to express their opinion regarding the need for formalized standards.

**Topic:** The Many Aspects of Mentoring  
**Sponsor:** Washington Alliance of Statisticians  
**Abstract:** How does one find a mentor or a patron? How does one work with a mentor? What are the advantages of the many forms of relationship which one can have with a mentor? Should your mentor be in your Agency or in your profession? Do you want a mentor or a network? Or does that depend on your career stage? What is the value of a mentor?  
ANY statistician in the local area is invited and welcome at any function of the ALLIANCE, whether or not s/he is a WSS or ASA member. If you have any questions about the meeting or the ALLIANCE, or need a ride to the meeting, please call Marcia Glauberman at 632-9797.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS SEMINAR

The Internal Revenue Service, Statistics Division, is sponsoring a seminar on the "Statistics of Income—1974-1978, Private Foundations," on Wednesday, January 14, 1981, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. at 1201 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Dan Skelly of the Statistics Division will present an analysis of this first comprehensive report on the returns filed for private foundations. Included in this presentation will be a discussion of the plans for the 1979 study of private foundations and non-exempt charitable and split-interest trusts. In addition, plans for future studies in the exempt organization area will be discussed. Interested persons are invited to attend whether or not they are WSS or ASA members. Advance copies of this report may be obtained by contacting Dan Skelly on 376-0171. The publication will be available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, by January 30, 1981.

**Topic:** Census Return Briefing  
**Sponsor:** American Planning Association  
**Date:** January 16, 1981  
**Information:** For further information, call Robert Bragen, 223-6800  
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**Topic:** Estimating the Cost of National Health Insurance  
**Sponsor:** Washington Operations Research/Management  
Science Council/National Economics Club  
**Speaker:** Robert C. Bonhag, Director, National Health Insurance Cost Estimating Team, Office of the Sec., USDHHS  
**Date and Time:** January 22, 1981, 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** System Planning Corporation, 17th floor, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Rosslyn  
**Information:** Call Eloise Brooks, 426-8637  
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**Topic:** Draft vs. Volunteer Force: Manpower Choices for the '80's  
**Sponsor:** Washington Operations Research/Management  
Science Council  
**Speaker:** Dr. Dave Grissmer, Rand Corporation  
**Date and Time:** January 29, 1981, 11:30 a.m. (Luncheon Meeting)  
**Location:** University Club, The George Washington University  
**Information:** Call Don Gantzer, 633-8494. RESERVATIONS NEEDED.

## EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices  
is the 10th 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 301/436-6791

### Job Openings

**Mathematical Statistician  
GS-1529-9, with potential  
to GS-12**

This position is located in the Biometry Branch, Epidemiology and Biometry Research Program, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH. Incumbent performs a variety of statistical and mathematical duties in support of the Branch. Applies statistical techniques, such as loglinear models, multiple regression, discriminant functions, life tables, nonparametric methods, and sample size estimation to clinical and epidemiologic data. Designs and prepares statistical, mathematical, and graphic summaries of various types of data, interprets data, and prepares reports for review and incorporation into large project reports.

Send SF 171 to Miss Ferguson, Building 31, Room 2A25, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20205.

Mailed 1/2/81



**AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION**

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