



June 1988

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

June 1	Wednesday	Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner
June 17	Friday	Analysis of Response Errors by Misclassification Models
June 21	Tuesday	Price Dispersion in U.S. Manufacturing and the Analysis of Production

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comments from the Incoming President

This next year promises to be one of the most interesting and eventful in the history of WSS. I cannot take much credit for it, although I hope I can contribute in some small way to the success. I am referring to the fact that WSS will be participating in a number of activities leading up to the ASA-150 celebration here in Washington, August 6-10, 1989.

ASA-150 should be the best celebration ever for statisticians. While all of us can hope that we will still be active and participating when ASA-200 rolls around, it will be wise to take advantage of all the next year has to offer.

Our formal WSS contributions start with the 1988 annual dinner on June 1. Our speaker, Charles Sheffield, has been asked to give us a futurist's view to focus our thinking. However, many WSS members have already been working for a year or more on planning of specific ASA and WSS activities.

Cathy Dippo and her committee (Connie Citro, Bill Bell, David McMillen, Eva Jacobs, Stephanie Shipp, Clyde Tucker, Nancy Gordon, and Mary Foulkes) are putting the final touches on a series of WSS-ASA 150 seminars for next

year (details elsewhere in this newsletter). This series will provide a special session nearly every month on a variety of interesting topics. Most of these will also provide a good social opportunity for greeting old friends and meeting new acquaintances.

Dan Kasprzyk has already arranged the WSS special session for the 1989 ASA meetings. Several of our members have been active in setting up special sessions for committees or sections of ASA. Other members are working on publicity, materials for out of town visitors, and even on the first annual ASA run to be held in conjunction with the meetings.

I hope that each of our program areas will have at least one special history-related session this coming year in addition to Cathy's seminars. We will be looking for volunteers who have ideas and presentations to share. Since this is a presidential election year, we plan on a session this fall on election forecasting. We will also have at least 2-3 short courses this next year.

I encourage all WSS members to do what I am going to do this next program year. Every time our newsletter comes out, I am going to pencil in as many of the upcoming WSS sessions as I can. I hope you will all participate in making this a banner year for WSS.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM CHAIRS

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Ron Bosecker 447-3895
W. Barnes Johnson 249-7388

Economics
Francis X. Diebold 452-2461
Robert Yuskavage 523-0876

Physical Sciences & Engineering
Thomas Mazzuchi 994-7514
Refik Soyer 994-6794

Employment
Evelyn Kay 331-1153

Public Health & Biostatistics
Jai Choi 436-7047
Mary Foulkes 496-6818

Social & Demographic Statistics
John Czajka 484-9220
Harvey Schwartz 223-5555

Statistical Computing
Khalid Aboura 994-7534
David Grier 546-8231

Short Courses
Virginia de Wolf 366-5361
Donald Gantz 425-3931
Brad Pafford 447-2129
Glenn White 763-5248

Methodology
Bill Winkler 763-3905
David Marker 251-4398

Newsletter Editor
Michael Cohen 454-6193

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

TOPIC: ANALYSIS OF RESPONSE ERRORS BY MISCLASSIFICATION MODELS

SPEAKER: Gad Nathan, Office of Research and Methodology, National Center for Health Statistics

CHAIR: Joe Fred Gonzalez, Jr., Office of Research and Methodology, NCHS

DATE & TIME: Friday, June 17, 1988; 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Note special time.)

LOCATION: National Center for Health Statistics, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, Room 1-39

SPONSORS: Office of Research and Methodology, NCHS and the Washington Statistical Society

ABSTRACT: The assessment of response errors due to the mode of data collection (e.g., home visit or telephone interview) is usually carried out on the basis of a controlled experiment of the split-ballot type. In many cases, random allocation is based on practical considerations of field organization. To deal with this case some form of repeated observation is necessary. This is possible, for instance, in panel surveys for characteristics which do not change over time. A misclassification model is proposed for this case, with probabilities of correct classification and of misclassification depending on the mode of collection. The estimation and comparison of these parameters are used to assess the effects of mode of collection.

The models proposed are applied to an empirical data set, for which home visits and telephone interviews were used in different rounds of the survey for the same units. The effects of mode of collection on model parameters are assessed for educational characteristics which are not subject to change over time. The results indicate that responses obtained by telephone interviews have higher consistency than those obtained by home visits. The implications and necessity for further research on cognitive aspects of survey design will be discussed.

TOPIC: PRICE DISPERSION IN U.S. MANUFACTURING AND THE ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION

SPEAKER: Thomas Abbott III, Center for Economic Studies, Bureau of the Census

CHAIR: Eva Jacobs, Bureau of Labor Statistics

DISCUSSANT: Michael Harper, Bureau of Labor Statistics

DATE & TIME: Tuesday, June 21, 1988; 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Room 2736, GAO Building, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
(Please call 523-1760 no later than Monday, June 20, to assure entrance.)

SPONSOR: Economics Section

ABSTRACT: Throughout much of economics, the assumption of efficient markets is made. One implication of efficient markets is that individual producers take prices as given, and that there is a unique market price for any good. This assumption allows one to use a common industry price deflator to measure real output of firms or establishments in that industry. However, if price dispersion is significant and widespread, estimates of firm behavior derived from commonly used econometric models may be biased. In one study, price dispersion is found to be a widespread phenomenon throughout manufacturing using an alternative, more robust, measure of price dispersion than the usual coefficient of variation. In another study, based on data from the hydraulic cement industry, price variation is found to lead to errors in the measurement of real output, leading in turn to biased estimates of producer behavior.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WSS Celebrates ASA 150

In celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the American Statistical Association, the Washington Statistical Society has arranged for a special series of seminars. The monthly seminars will focus on the uses of statistics in today's world and provide some historical perspectives. The seminars will differ from our usual speaker-discussant format by featuring three or four speakers or panel discussants. Several of the seminars will be followed by wine and cheese receptions to give WSS members an opportunity to meet the presenters.

September 1988: The Effects of Technology on Statistics

Edward Wegman, George Mason University; Nancy Flournoy, National Science Foundation; and Terence Ireland, National Security Agency, will discuss the impacts of computing on statistics and the implications and challenges for the future.

October 1988: Statistics and the Law

An examination of the uses of statistics in courts of law will feature Stephen Fienberg, chair of the Committee on National Statistics panel on Statistical Assessments as Evidence in the Courts, Joseph Gastwirth, Professor, George Washington University and author of the forthcoming book, "Statistical Reasoning in Law and Public Policy," and Lisa Newell, a Washington attorney specializing in discrimination cases.

November 1988: Modern Innovations for Policy Analysis and Their Impact on Statistics

The large scale social welfare experiments of the 1970's, microsimulation models for welfare reform proposals, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation will be discussed as tools for policy analysis and their impact on statistics. Speakers will include Harold Watts, Columbia University; Harold Beabout, Mathematic Policy Research; and Denton Vaughan, Social Security Administration.

January 1989: Statistics and the Media: What the Public Should Know and Can Understand

The 1988 Presidential campaign will be just one topic discussed by Warren Mitofsky, Director of

Elections and Surveys at CBS News, and Philip Meyer, the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Professor of Journalism at the University of North Carolina, and others.

February 1989: The Collection and Uses of National Economic Statistics

The collection, policy uses, and research uses of government economic statistics will be discussed by Charles Waite, Bureau of the Census; Charles Schultze, Brookings Institution; and Arnold Zellner, University of Chicago.

March 1989: Some Reminiscences on the Development of Survey Sampling

An informal panel discussion focusing on the early development of survey sampling in Washington will feature Morris Hansen, Lester Frankel, and Joseph Steinberg, with Ingram Olkin acting as moderator.

April 1989: Washington Women in Statistics

A panel discussion focusing on the experiences of women in the field of statistics in Washington since World War II will be chaired by Katherine Wallman and feature women who are at different stages in their careers.

May 1989: The Use of Statistics by Congress

Members of Congress and their staff are bombarded with "information" when legislation is being developed. What role do statistical analyses play in this process? This topic will be discussed by G. William Hoagland, Minority Staff Director of the Senate Committee on the Budget, and Wendell E. Primus, Chief Economist of the House Committee on Ways and Means, among others.

June 1989: Statistical Applications to AIDS

Some current and future studies of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) will be outlined, both surveys and clinical studies. The public policy implications of AIDS will also be discussed. Speakers will include Ron Wilson, National Center for Health Statistics, Michael Stoto, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, and Alvaro Munoz, the Johns Hopkins University.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

WSS Election Results

The election results announced by Dan Kasprzyk, Chair of the Nominations Committee, are:

President-Elect:	Cathryn Dipbo
Representatives-at-Large:	Virginia deWolf and David Cantor
Treasurer:	Bennie Clemmer
Methodology Program Chair-Elect:	Myron Katzoff.

Findley, Conference Chair, Statistical Research Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

To obtain registration information or to be included on the mailing list, contact: Maxine Anderson-Brown, Conference Coordinator, Office of the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

Please note, plans for ARC V are dependent upon final approval and funding which are still pending.

Open Board Meeting

The WSS Constitution specifies that at least one meeting of the Board of Directors shall be announced to the membership as an "open meeting" to provide a forum for comments and suggestions from members-at-large. This year's meeting will be held Tuesday, June 21, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 3000 at 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. This will be in conjunction with the annual changeover meeting of the old and new board of directors. Of particular interest at the June 21 meeting will be suggestions for program topics for next year as well as activities that WSS should consider to publicize the American Statistical Association 150th Anniversary celebration.

Bureau of the Census Fifth Annual Research Conference (ARC V)

The Bureau of the Census is planning its Fifth Annual Research Conference, to be held in March of 1989 in the Washington, D.C. area. The conference will consist primarily of contributed papers, most of which receive formal discussion at the conference. The conference will feature papers on topics related to a broad range of Census Bureau research interests. Papers may address methodology, empirical studies, or relevant issues. A conference proceedings volume containing all papers and discussions will be published. Papers must be original and not previously published or disseminated. Presenters will be reimbursed for transportation and per diem expenses and will receive a fee for manuscript preparation (expected range: \$250-\$450).

To have a paper considered for presentation, send a 500-word abstract by June 1, 1988 to: David



125 Years of Agricultural Statistics

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is commemorating 125 years of agricultural data collection in USDA during 1988. The central focus of the celebration will be the July 12 Crop Production Report, one of the reports which is compiled under special "Lockup" conditions each year. The Agency will prepare displays and demonstrations of some of its procedures for viewing in the USDA Administration Building Patio, 12th and Jefferson Drive, S.W., on July 12. The public is invited to drop in and share in the celebration with NASS staff members.

Conference in Memory of Eugene Lukacs

The Conference at Catholic University in memory of Eugene Lukacs has been postponed from July 1988 to Fall 1988. Details will follow in the next issue.

Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis

From October 31 through November 2 the Society for Risk Analysis will meet in Washington, D.C. Session topics planned include Engineering and Statistics, Social and Policy Issues, and Health and the Environment. For more information please contact Richard Burk, Executive Secretary, Society for Risk Analysis, 8000 Westpark Drive (Suite 400), McLean, VA 22101, or call 703/790-1745.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices is 5 (five) weeks before the publication date. Send notices and requests to: Evelyn R. Kay, 520 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, 202/331-1153.

JOB OPENINGS

BIostatistician -- GS-12 (\$33,218/year) or GS-13 (\$39,501/year)

Duties include consulting on design and analysis of clinical/epidemiological studies of allergy and infectious diseases, especially randomized clinical trials; analyzing data from observational studies; and serving as a resource on appropriate computing software. Position involves a high degree of independence and includes collaboration on analysis and publication of specific studies as well as opportunity for methodologic research.

Applicant should have a doctoral degree in statistics or biostatistics, or equivalent training and experience; some experience in design and analysis of clinical trials and analysis of observational studies; and an interest in and knowledge of a variety of appropriate computer software, including SAS. U.S. citizenship is required.

Applicants should send CV and, if available, SF-171 to Mrs. Marge Johnson, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Building 31, Room 7A-34, Bethesda, MD 20892 (301/496-4634).

STATISTICIANS

Westat is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. (Rockville, MD). We provide statistical consulting and survey research to the agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, our company has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Westat has opportunities for persons who are interested in statistical applications in survey sampling, including the areas of sample design, frame development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Positions are currently available for persons with a master's degree and some SAS experience, and for senior level statisticians with Ph.D. training and experience.

Interested applicants should send resume with current salary to: Personnel Director, WESTAT, INC., 1650 Research Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20850, EOE M/F/H/V.

STATISTICIANS

(GS 9, 11, or 12) The Bureau of the Census, Data User Services Division, has positions for individuals with experience in working with social science data. Program responsibilities include preparation of technical documentation for Census Bureau data files as well as development and support of the Census Bureau's on line data base, CENDATA. We prefer applicants with experience using personal computers and data management and/or statistical software packages. Send 171 or resume to: Barbara Aldrich, Data Access and Use Staff, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233, (301/763-2074).

JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below is a brief description of the qualifications of an applicant seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing this applicant should notify Mrs. Kay of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The request should be by mail and should include the employer's name, organization, and telephone number. The applicant will be notified of the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential.

CODE #88-03

Position wanted: RESEARCH STATISTICIAN and DATA ANALYST, as study director, division director, or vice president post. GS-14 governmental level.

Education: Ph.D., Measurement and Statistics; MA, Psychology

Experience: Senior Associate for 13 years in professional services consulting firms, as large-scale study director, technical director or major writer of funded diverse survey research and program evaluation proposals. Three years government research agency. Also higher education, state, and nonprofit social service agency experience. In depth experience and breath in statistical data analysis, methodology, questionnaire design, SAS/SPSS software usage (mainframe and microcomputer settings), technical quality control and newsletter/report/article/proposal writing or presentations.

Contact directly: Evenings: 301/649-2768



P.O. Box 70843
Washington, D.C. 20024-0843

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
FALLS CHURCH, VA.
PERMIT NO. 186