



WSS NEWS

February 2009

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are sought for the 2009 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career:

- Dedication to the issues of measurement;
- Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
- Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals at all levels within Federal statistical agencies, other government organizations, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2009 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with, and strongly supportive of, these organizations during his career. The award consists of a \$1000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2009. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

The previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award are Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (NCHS), Constance Citro (CNStat), Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (Census Bureau), Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau), Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS), Nancy Kirkendall (EIA) and Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau).

Nominations for the 2009 award will be accepted beginning in February 2009. Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that should include references to specific examples of the nominee's contributions to innovation in Federal statistics. These contributions can be to methodology, procedure, organization, administration, or other areas of Federal statistics, and need not have been made by or while a Federal employee.
- Up to six additional letters in support that document how each contribution demonstrates innovation.
- A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for the 2008 award, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Dwight Brock, Chair, 2009 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-517-4026 or dwightbrock@westat.com. Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2009. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged. Please contact the chair if you need to make arrangements to fax or mail a nomination.

The Caucus for Women in Statistics Poster Project Competition for Girls in Grades K-12

The goal of the competition is to interest girls in grades K-12 in statistics and motivate them to participate in science competitions by submitting poster projects that incorporate statistics. Entries may be submitted in the following grade categories: K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. The winner of each category will receive \$100 and a certificate of recognition. Eight additional finalists, two from each category, will receive certificates of recognition.

Any girl attending a high school, middle school or elementary school at the K-12 level is eligible. Home schooled girls need to provide a verification of grade level.

Entries for K-6 students may be submitted by a coed group or a class, but a girl representing the group or class should submit the project. The advisor-teacher should select the representative.

Posters submitted to other competitions are eligible for submission to this competition, if allowed by the rules of the other competition.

Deadline for all submissions: February 28th 2009.

For more information, including application forms, types of projects, and submission instructions, go to: <http://caucusforwomeninstatistics.com/19.html>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed at different times between March and June 2009 -- to judge entries in the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project; to judge entries in the WSS Statistical Poster Competition; and to judge science fair projects at the regional science fairs in Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and the District of Columbia. The WSS needs **you** to volunteer now for any one – or all three!

The WSS has a longstanding and active program of reaching out to elementary and secondary school students to encourage them to gain an understanding and appreciation of Statistics. We do this in part by sponsoring two annual competitions – the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize and the WSS Statistical Poster Competition – and by awarding prizes at the annual regional high school science fairs.

Since 1986, WSS has provided special awards at the five **regional science fairs** to students whose projects demonstrate excellence in data analysis or the application of statistical methods. The fairs are held on Saturdays in March. They need volunteers willing to devote one Saturday morning to interact with students, judge their projects, and give them some guidance and encouragement. Those who have participated in these activities have very much enjoyed meeting the students, talking with them, and seeing the widely diverse projects they have presented. Last March, 27 of your fellow WSS members judged and awarded prizes to projects in Behavioral and Social Sciences, Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering, Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy, Environmental Management, Medicine and Health Sciences, and Animal Sciences. If you are interested in being a science fair judge, contact Bob Clickner at Robertclickner@westat.com, or 301-294-2815.

The **Curtis Jacobs Award** program focuses on gathering information and analyzing for making decisions. Entries are typically due in May; judges review and score the entries at their convenience and transmit their evaluations and scores by late May. If you are interested in volunteering to judge the entries, contact Tom Krenzke at TomKrenzke@westat.com or 301-251-4203.

The **poster competition** is open to students in grades K-12 and entries may be in any area of statistics. Judging is typically in May or June. If you are interested in judging, contact Cammy Fine at Cammy.Fine@ey.com or 202-327-7730, or Ryan Petska at Ryan.Petska@EY.com or 202-327-7245.

WSS and Other Seminars

(All events are open to any interested persons)

February

- 5 Thurs. **Using Administrative Data in Support of Policy Relevant Disability Research: Success of a Three-Way Partnership**
- 13 Fri. **A Distribution for P-values**
- 18 Wed. **Fully-Synthetic Data for Disclosure Control**
- 27 Fri. **Statistical input into Science Policy**

March

- 5 Thurs. **Administrative Data in Support of Policy Relevant Statistics: The Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages**
- 10 Tues. **New Bootstrap Bias Corrections with Application to Estimation and Prediction MSE in Small Areas Estimation**

Also available on the Web at the following URL: <http://www.scs.gmu.edu/~wss/>

Save the Date:

An All-Day Symposium in Honor of Dr. Edmund Gehan on April 27, 2009

The Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Biomathematics at Georgetown University and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center invite you to an all-day symposium in honor of Dr. Edmund Gehan, Professor Emeritus of Biostatistics. Invited speakers are Dennis Dixon, Jonas Ellenberg, Susan Ellenberg, Emil J. Freireich, Stephen George, J. Jack Lee, Aiyi Liu, Karen Messer, Peter Thall, and Marvin Zelen.

For more information and to register online, visit <http://dbbb.georgetown.edu/News/gehansymposium/> or contact Caroline Wu, Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Biomathematics, Georgetown University, Suite 180, Building D, 4000 Reservoir Road NW; (202) 687-4114; ctw26@georgetown.edu

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the March issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until February 12, 2009. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Announcement

Nominations Sought for 2009 Julius Shiskin Award

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The Award is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of information technology techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. The Award was established in 1980 by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and is now cosponsored by the WSS, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The 2008 award recipients were William R. Bell and Robert M. Groves. Dr. Bell was recognized for his innovative statistical research that led to improved economic statistics through important contributions to the theory and practice of seasonal adjustment, small area estimation, and time series modeling; Dr. Groves was recognized for his innovative statistical research that led to improved economic statistics through important contributions to the theory and practice of survey methods for the conduct of sample surveys of both households and establishments.

Because the program was initiated many years ago, statisticians and economists often ask, "Who was Julius Shiskin?" At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and earlier served as the Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Chief Economic Statistician and Assistant Director of the Census Bureau. Throughout his career, he was known as an innovator. At Census he was instrumental in developing an electronic computer method for seasonal adjustment. In 1961, he published *Signals of Recession and Recovery*, which laid the groundwork for the calculation of monthly economic indicators, and he developed the monthly Census report *Business Conditions Digest* to disseminate them to the public. In 1969, he was appointed Chief Statistician at OMB where he developed the policies and procedures that govern the release of key economic indicators (Statistical Policy Directive Number 3), and originated a *Social Indicators* report. In 1973, he was selected to head BLS where he was instrumental in preserving the integrity and independence of the BLS labor force data and directed the most comprehensive revision in the history of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which included a new CPI for all urban consumers.

Nominations for the 2009 award are now being accepted. Individuals and groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated. The award will be presented with an honorarium of \$750 plus additional recognition from the sponsors. A nomination form and a list of all previous recipients are available on the ASA Website at www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html. For questions or more information, please contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at paben.steven@bls.gov or phone at 202-691-6147.

Completed nominations must be received by April 1, 2009.

Announcement

SIGSTAT Topics

February 11, 2009: GeoDA – Part 3
(<https://www.geoda.uiuc.edu/>)

GeoDa is the latest incarnation in a long line of software tools developed by Dr. Luc Anselin's [Spatial Analysis Laboratory \(SAL\)](#) in the [Department of Geography](#) at the [University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign](#). It is designed to implement techniques for exploratory spatial data analysis (ESDA) on lattice data (points and polygons). The free program provides a user friendly and graphical interface to methods of descriptive spatial data analysis, such as spatial autocorrelation statistics, as well as basic spatial regression functionality. The latest version contains several new features such as a cartogram, a refined map movie, parallel coordinate plot, 3D visualization, conditional plots (and maps) and spatial regression.

Continuing the January discussion, this month will cover:

- ESDA Basics and Geovisualization
- Advanced ESDA
- Basic Rate Mapping
- Rate Smoothing
- Contiguity-Based Spatial Weights

March 18, 2009: What's New in SAS 9.2
(<http://support.sas.com/documentation/whatsnew/index.html>)

Some of the enhancements in the latest release of the SAS System include new language features and procedure options, ODS Statistical Graphics (previously experimental), which are now in production; a new family of SAS/GRAPH procedures that use ODS Graphics to create standalone plots; new procedures in SAS/STAT software; jackknife and BRR variance estimation and domain analysis provided by the survey data analysis procedures; the PANEL procedure in SAS/ETS which expands the estimation capability of the TSCSREG procedure in the time-series cross-sectional framework; and SAS Stat Studio, new software for data exploration and analysis, providing a flexible programming environment in which you can run SAS/STAT or SAS/IML analyses and display the results with dynamically linked graphics and data tables.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the **CPCUG**, the Capital PC User Group, and **WINFORMS**, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science. All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from **12:00 to 1:00**. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk.

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the **SIGSTAT** website, <http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/>.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Using Administrative Data in Support of Policy Relevant Disability Research: Success of a Three-Way Partnership
- Speakers:** Richard Burkhauser, Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor of Policy Analysis, Cornell University and Robert Weathers, Economist Social Security Administration
- Discussant:** Jameela Akbari, Program Examiner, U.S. Office of Management and Budget
- Chair:** Shelly Wilkie Martinez
- Date/Time:** Thursday, February 5, 2009 / 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 10. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to email your name, affiliation and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (note that there is an underscore after 'wss') by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message with this information. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** WSS Section on Public Policy
- Abstract:** A three way partnership between the Social Security Administration, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf of the Rochester Institute of Technology (NTID-RIT), and Cornell University resulted in the creation and ongoing analysis of a unique data set that links Social Security Administrative records data to educational attainment records of deaf and hard of hearing applicants to NTID from 1965 to the present. Each of the partners entered this agreement to achieve both joint and individual institutional goals. The project's success lies in mutual cooperation that allowed each partner to achieve their institutional goals. The result is a data set containing the most detailed information on the earnings and SSA program history of the applicants of any US institution of higher education. It has been of great value to NTID in evaluating its program's success. Because these students all meet or exceed the medical listings for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income benefits these data also have provided SSA researchers and program administrators with a unique opportunity to trace the use of these programs. Cornell University researchers have used these data to complete externally funded research that looks at the factors that determine both educational success and SSA program outcomes. We provide a description of these data and key findings from our research using them.

Program Announcement

- Topic:** A Distribution for P-values
- Speaker:** Chang Yu, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Department of Biostatistics
- Date/time:** Friday, February 13, 2009 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Location:** Georgetown University Medical Center, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, 3900 Reservoir Rd., NW, New Research Building, E501, Washington, DC 20007
- Sponsor:** Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Biomathematics
- Abstract:** What is the distribution of the p-value under the alternative hypothesis? We describe the properties of a parametric distribution defined on the interval (0,1). This distribution includes the uniform as a special case. The functional form is derived as the distribution of the p-value in a statistical test of a pair of close hypotheses in a wide variety of settings. The distributional form is retained when it is compounded with a uniform or when the individual p-values are sampled from a variety of different hypotheses. We describe properties of the parameter estimate and the distribution of extreme order statistics. The distribution is fitted to data from a study of breast cancer patients comparing many genetic markers. The p-values generated in a microarray experiment comparing gene expressions can be considered a mixture of p-values under the null hypothesis and under a range of alternative hypotheses. The proportion under the null is of interest. Using the derived distributions, we provide a method to estimate this proportion under the framework of mixture models.

For information, please contact Caroline Wu at 202-687-4114 or ctw26@georgetown.edu

Program Announcement

- Title:** Fully-Synthetic Data for Disclosure Control
- Chair:** TBA
- Speaker:** Mandi Yu, Office of Biostatistics, FDA
- Discussant:** Steve Cohen, National Science Foundation
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 / 12:30 - 2:00pm
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Program, WSS
- Abstract:** Recent advances in technology dramatically increase the volume of data that statistical agencies can gather and disseminate. The improved accessibility translates into higher risks of identifying individuals from public microdata, and therefore increases the importance of the development of statistical confidentiality control methods. A potential useful technique is to alter certain elements without distorting the statistical information in the Microdata. Rubin (1993) and Little (1993) proposed Multiple Imputation approach to limit disclosure, where multiply imputed fully synthetic public use data are released in place of the actual survey data.

This seminar presents findings from two methodological studies of fully-synthetic data approach. The first study develops semi-parametric models to construct fully-imputed synthetic datasets for a large complex longitudinal survey. The actual values of about one hundred variables of different types on more than 12,000 subjects are synthesized. In the second study, we extend this approach to cope with situations where small area statistics are of vital importance. Both theoretical and empirical findings are included. The fully-synthesized data contains enough geographic details to permit small area analyses, which otherwise is impossible because such geographical identifiers are usually suppressed to control disclosure. We evaluated the information loss of synthetic data inferences on both descriptive and analytic statistics. In the second study, information loss was also assessed for statistics at sub-national level.

Program Announcement

- Topic:** Statistical input into Science Policy
- Speaker:** Mary A. Foulkes, Ph.D., George Washington University, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Date/time:** Friday, February 27, 2009 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Location:** Georgetown University Medical Center, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, 3900 Reservoir Rd., NW, New Research Building, E501, Washington, DC 20007
- Sponsor:** Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Biomathematics

Abstract: A new emphasis on evidence-based policy presents unprecedented opportunities for statistical input, for statisticians to contribute to new efforts. There are, however, numerous substantive statistical contributions to policy from the past which will be reviewed. Public health issues, for example, in infectious diseases, have raised challenges and questions that statistical modeling, experimental design and novel analyses have addressed. Many new directions in science, such as genomics, and new capabilities, such as high throughput computing, require quantitative approaches often provided by bioinformatics, economics, or other disciplines, but may miss some essential statistical thinking. Science policy is at a tipping point where statistical thinking will become a necessary component; where communication of statistical issues will become an even more essential aspect of the discipline of statistics. The science of science policy as a new initiative of the Federal government, and particularly of NSF, will be reviewed.

For information, please contact Caroline Wu at 202-687-4114 or ctw26@georgetown.edu

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Administrative Data in Support of Policy Relevant Statistics: The Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages**
- Speakers:** Richard L. Clayton and James R. Spletzer, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Chair:** Shelly Wilkie Martinez, Office of Management and Budget
- Date/Time:** Thursday, March 5, 2009 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 10. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to email your name, affiliation and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (note that there is an underscore after wss') by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message with this information. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** WSS Section on Public Policy
- Abstract:** The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program provides national, State, MSA, and county data on monthly employment, quarterly total wages, and the number of establishments, by 6-digit NAICS code. These data originate from the administrative records of the Unemployment Insurance system in each State, augmented by two supplemental surveys – the Annual Refiling Survey and the Multiple Worksite Report – that are necessary to yield accurate data at the local level. In the second quarter of 2008, the QCEW statistics show an employment level of 136.6 million, with 9.1 million establishments in the U.S. economy. The QCEW data also are the basis for the BLS Business Employment Dynamics (BED) series, which are created from longitudinally linking the QCEW microdata. The linkage process tracks net employment changes at the establishment level, which allows for a decomposition of net employment growth into the jobs gained at opening and expanding establishments (gross job gains) and the jobs lost at closing and contracting establishments (gross job losses). In this WSS seminar, we will emphasize the "foundations" of the QCEW program and describe how we transform raw administrative UI records into something statistically useful, and we will also discuss the exciting new data products and research opportunities that the data present.

Program Announcement

Title: New Bootstrap Bias Corrections with Application to Estimation and Prediction MSE in Small Areas Estimation

Chair: TBA

Speaker: Danny Pfeffermann, Hebrew University and University of Southampton

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 / 12:30 - 2:00pm

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Methodology Program, WSS

Abstract: Classical Bootstrap bias corrections estimate the bias of an estimator computed from the original sample by the bias of the estimator computed from the bootstrap samples in estimating the original estimator, and then corrects the original estimator accordingly. The use of these corrections has two important limitations. First, it assumes implicitly that the bias is independent of the true parameter value, whereas in practice, the bias may be a more complicated function of the true parameter value. Second, when there are multiple parameters, the bias of the estimator of any one of them may depend on the bias of the estimators of the other parameters. This possibility is not accommodated by the classical corrections.

In this presentation I propose a new bootstrap bias correction procedure that aims to overcome the above two limitations. The procedure attempts to model the bias of the original estimator of any given parameter as a function of the original estimators and the corresponding bootstrap estimators of all the parameters. An application of the procedure for estimating the prediction MSE when estimating small area proportions under the unit level mixed logistic model will be illustrated and compared to other methods proposed in the literature to deal with this problem.

Student Corner

Earlier this year, I went to the American Statistical Association (ASA) website (www.amstat.org) to find a dataset for a simulation study when I found that the ASA had changed their website. The updated website is attractive and continues to provide links to valuable resources for statistically minded students. It appears that the primary navigation and much of the content of the website has not drastically changed, but the aesthetics of the site are easily noticed. Since the website is large, and serves many purposes, in this student's corner I would like to highlight some of the pages that may be of interest to students.

Many of the applied statistics classes I have taken require students to find and analyze a dataset. Finding, editing, and formatting an appropriate dataset for a homework assignment or a major project can take significant effort. The Journal of Statistics Education (JSE) maintains an archive of over 70 datasets. These datasets can easily be downloaded and record layouts as well as value descriptions of the files are easily available. One of the nice things about the JSE archive is the amount of metadata that accompanies each dataset. Many have been analyzed in publications, giving students the possibility of recreating and extending the analysis of journal articles. Navigating to the JSE archive of datasets doesn't appear to be any easier with the new layout, so I would recommend searching the ASA website for "JSE datasets" or directly going to (http://www.amstat.org/publications/jse/jse_data_archive.html)

The Education section of the ASA website contains information on internships, scholarships, fellowships, and awards for graduate students. There are also a number of opportunities publicized for undergraduate students. The Career section contains information for graduates and those looking for employment. I have always been fascinated by the salary reports under the career section. The ASA publishes salary information for statisticians in a variety of sectors and industries.

The ASA also offers many valuable sources of information for research. Students can subscribe to journals online at discounted prices through the ASA website. I highly recommend the Chances magazine which never ceases to have fascinating articles on a wide range of topics. Publications can easily be found from the ASA home page. Unfortunately, it still requires quite a few clicks to navigate to Joint Statistical Meetings proceedings papers published on the Survey Research Methods Section site. When doing research for class, I often browse through the proceedings papers which can be found at (<http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html>).

Although I mentioned it in last month's corner, I must also mention again that thousands of statisticians will descend upon Washington DC this summer as part of the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). The deadline for submitting an abstract for a poster or paper is February 2, at 3:00 p.m. I highly recommend participating in the conference with a paper or poster. More information on the JSM can be found at (<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/index.cfm>)

Tim Kennel (tkennel@survey.umd.edu)

JPSM Short Courses

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

February 19, 2009

Practical Tools for Nonresponse Bias Studies

Robert M. Groves and J. Michael Brick

Registration Deadline: February 5, 2009

February 23-24, 2009

Introduction to Survey Estimation

David Morganstein and Richard L. Valliant

Registration Deadline: February 9, 2009

March 10-11, 2009

The Psychology of Survey Responses

Roger Tourangeau

Registration Deadline: February 24, 2009

March 25-26, 2009

Introduction to Survey Sampling

Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski

Registration Deadline: March 11, 2009

April 6-7, 2009

Guidelines for Writing Questions for Standardized Measurement

Nora Cate Schaeffer

Registration Deadline: March 23, 2009

May 11-12, 2009

Methods for Testing Survey Questions

Pamela Campanelli

Registration Deadline: April 27, 2009

ADDITIONAL 2009 COURSES

May 28-29, 2009 (Not yet open for registration): Bayesian Inference in Surveys / Roderick Little and Trivellore E. Raghunathan
Registration Deadline: May 14, 2009

2009 (Dates to be determined): Analysis and Presentation of Economic Data / Katharine G. Abraham and Deborah P. Klein

2009 (Course is tentative): Introduction to Item Response Theory (IRT) Modeling and Applications / Bryce B. Reeve

INFORMATION: Course Details and Online Registration / www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

Sponsor Affiliate List: projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy.

Employment

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com or (703) 373-6645.

Research Positions At NISS

NISS, with its sister institute, SAMSI, in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, focuses research efforts on cross-disciplinary research where the statistical sciences can and should play a central role. Individual research projects bridge gaps between government and industry needs and academic expertise. NISS research spans a wide range of significant issues for policy and science, including health, education, the economy, the environment and transportation.

Postdoctoral Positions At NISS

NISS plans to appoint several postdoctoral fellows in the areas described in health, education and modeling. NISS Fellows work with senior mentors to conduct statistical research with a dual focus: to advance statistical theory and methodology and to advance the scientific or policy focus of the particular project.

Research agendas variously require development of theory and models for new scientific paradigms, development of new statistical methodology and algorithms, design of complex experiments, or analysis of high-dimensional databases.

NISS Fellows also join SAMSI Fellows in a lively community of postdoctoral researchers. They share in opportunities to participate in both NISS and SAMSI conferences and workshops and to present research results at professional meetings. Publication of research in refereed journals is expected.

Current Research Agendas At NISS

General Requirements: Statistical data analysis capability, Knowledge of statistical computing software, Strong written and oral communication skills. (Useful specialized expertise listed below for individual projects and positions).

Health:

I-ECG analysis, QT study design, Cardiac Safety Biomarker Evaluation – functional data analysis, design of complex experiments with repeated measures, computational statistics and graphics.

II-Proteomics and Mass Spec Data Analysis for Biomarkers – applied probability modeling, analysis of mixture data, high-dimensional data analysis, experimental design for non-homogeneous processes, simulation.

Education:

I-Statistical Data on Education – design, data integration and analysis of longitudinal studies, graphical statistics and mapping, non-response bias analysis, survey theory and methodology.

II-Models for Cognition and Learning – multi-level Markov models, applied probability modeling,

Bayesian theory and modeling methodology.

III-Learning Trajectories and Assessment – high-dimensional data analysis, statistical computation and graphics, Bayesian inference and modeling.

Modeling:

I-Survey Sampling for Space-Time and Prediction Models – finite population inference, variance estimation from complex sampling designs, Bayesian hierarchical [predictive] models, statistical computation, imputation, agriculture statistics.

II-Transportation and Networks – prediction of travel times, uncertainty characterization.

Application to NISS

Appointment: •Variable length (one or two years with renewal, depending on project)

•Salary (from July 2009) at \$75,000 with a range of benefits

•Variable starting date (February 2009 to October 2009, depending on project)

Eligibility:

•Doctorate awarded in 2003 or later (must be complete prior to arrival at NISS)

Application:

•Letter of interest responding to a specific research agenda

•Full contact information including citizenship/immigration status

•CV listing educational background, research experience, publications

•Dissertation abstract

•List of references with contact information

Submission: •PDF File sent to postdocjob@niss.org

•Three supporting letters to be sent directly by references to postdocjob@niss.org

Other Research Opportunities at NISS

•Positions for faculty, new researchers, graduate students and interns

•NISS-NASS Cross-Sector Research in Residence Program - for faculty, post doctoral fellows, graduate students

•New Researcher Program - within 5 years of Ph.D.

•NISS-EIA program

See www.niss.org for more information.

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Student Representative Timothy Kennel	301-763-6795				
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