



WSS NEWS

November 2009

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

Nominations Sought for the 2011 Waksberg Award

The journal *Survey Methodology* has established an annual invited paper series in honor of Joe Waksberg to recognize his contributions to survey methodology. Each year a prominent survey statistician is chosen to write a paper that reviews the development and current state of an important topic in the field of survey methodology. The paper reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterized Joe Waksberg's work.

The recipient of the Waksberg Award will receive an honorarium and give the 2011 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium to be held in the autumn of 2011. The paper will be published in a future issue of *Survey Methodology*.

The author of the 2011 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the American Statistical Association. **Nomination of individuals to be considered as authors or suggestions for topics should be sent before February 28, 2010 to the chair of the committee, Dan Kasprzyk (DKasprzyk@Mathematica-MPR.com).**

Previous Waksberg Award honorees and their invited papers are:

2001 Gad Nathan, "Telesurvey Methodologies for Household Surveys-A Review and Some Thoughts for the Future." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp.7-31.

2002 Wayne Fuller, "Regression Estimation for Survey Samples." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 5-23.

2003 David Holt, "Methodological Issues in the Development and Use of Statistical Indicators for International Comparisons." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 5-17.

2004 Norman Bradburn, "Understanding the Question-Answer Process." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 5-15.

2005 J.N.K Rao, "Interplay Between Sample Survey Theory and Practice: An Appraisal." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 117-138.

2006 Alastair Scott, "Population-Based Case Control Studies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 123-132.

2007 Carl-Erik Särndal, "The Calibration Approach in Survey Theory and Practice." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 99-119.

2008 Mary Thompson, "International surveys: Motives and Methodologies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 131-141.

2009 Graham Kalton, "Methods for Oversampling Rare Subpopulations in Social Surveys." *Survey Methodology* (forthcoming)

2010 International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral Modeling, & Prediction (SBP10)

Location: Natcher Auditorium, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Main Campus Bethesda, MD

Conference Dates: March 29 to April 1, 2010

Sponsored by: An up to date list of sponsors will be listed on the conference website. Current and anticipated sponsors include:

- Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) - confirmed
- Air Force Research Laboratories
- Office of Naval Research
- National Institutes of Health

About SBP

Due to the overwhelming success of its workshops in 2008 and 2009, Social Computing, Behavioral Modeling and Prediction (SBP) has become a high visibility, high-impact, international conference. Detailed information on SBP workshops (SBP08 and SBP09) including proceedings, presentations and invited speakers can be found at <http://sbp.asu.edu> Social computing harnesses the power of computational methods to study social behavior and social context. Behavioral modeling refers to representing behavior in the abstract and is a convenient and powerful way to conduct virtual experiments and scenario planning. Both social computing and behavioral modeling are techniques designed to achieve a better understanding of complex behaviors, patterns, and associated outcomes of interest. Moreover, these approaches are inherently interdisciplinary; subsystems and system components exist at multiple levels of analysis (i.e., "cells to societies") and cross disparate disciplines.

Conference Offerings and Opportunities

SBP10 is a highly interdisciplinary conference offering a rare and exciting opportunity for behavioral and social science researchers to come together with computational and computer scientists and other related disciplines in order to:

1. Gain fundamental working knowledge in a discipline outside one's own through half-day pre-conference tutorials. (More information will be posted to the conference website as it becomes available)
2. Showcase SBP research at paper and poster sessions.
3. Meet people in complementary disciplines through deliberate exercises aimed at exploring potential research partnerships during the post-conference half day workshop.

Because this conference is being held in the Washington, D.C. area there will be a unique opportunity to meet with program staff across a variety of federal agencies including: Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), Office of Naval Research (ONR), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

This conference is emphatically interdisciplinary and provides a platform for researchers, practitioners, program staff from federal agencies and graduate students in disciplines such as sociology, behavioral science, psychology, cultural study, health sciences, economics, computer science, engineering, information systems, and operations research to convene in one place. Attendees will walk away with a deeper understanding of social and behavioral computing and evaluation as they inform critical decision and policy making. The program will include invited speakers from government, industry, and academia, as well as research presentations and discussions.

Call for Papers and Posters

Papers or posters are solicited on research issues, theories, and applications. Topics of interests include, but are not limited to,

1. Military and security applications of SBP
 - Group formation and evolution in the political context
 - Technology and flash crowds
 - Networks and political influence
 - Information diffusion
 - Group representation and profiling
2. Health applications of SBP
 - Social network analysis to understand health behavior
 - Modeling of health policy and decision making
 - Modeling of behavioral aspects of infectious disease spread
 - Intervention design and modeling for behavioral health
3. Basic research on sociocultural and behavioral processes using SBP
 - Group interaction and collaboration
 - Group formation and evolution
 - Group representation and profiling
 - Cultural patterns and representation
 - Social conventions and social contexts
 - Influence process and recognition
 - Public opinion representation
 - Viral marketing and information diffusion
 - Psycho-cultural situation awareness
4. Methodological issues in SBP
 - Verification and validation
 - Sensitivity analysis
 - Matching technique or method to research questions
 - Metrics and evaluation
 - Methodological innovation
 - Model federation and integration
 - Limitations of and barriers to SBP
 - Research gaps and opportunities

Important Dates

Paper/full text poster Due: Friday, November 6, 2009

Notification of acceptance: November 27, 2009

Camera-Ready: December 11, 2009

Format and Submission

Papers (maximum 8 pages) should be submitted in PDF format. Full text of posters should also be submitted. Format instructions and a Word template from Springer can be found at the conference website

SBP10 Conference Proceedings will be published by Springer Papers should be submitted at EasyChair. Questions and inquiries are welcome. Please send them to sbpconf10@gmail.com

Pre-conference Tutorial Sessions

Two half-day sessions will be offered: one in the morning and one in the afternoon on the day before the full conference. One session will be designed for computational scientists, computer scientists, engineers, and others with strong mathematical backgrounds. The purpose of this session is for attendees to become familiar with the behavioral and social science concepts including terminology, theories, and traditional approaches to problem solving.

A second, concurrent session will be designed for behavioral and social scientists and others who may have limited formal education in the computational sciences. Attendees will gain an understanding of terminology, theories, and general approaches employed by computationally based fields, especially with respect to modeling approaches

The purpose of these tutorial sessions is to give each group of related disciplines a basic working knowledge in the complementary set of disciplines in order to pave the way for better communication across disparate disciplines and to enhance the conference experience for all attendees. More details regarding the preconference tutorial sessions, including instructors, course content, and registration information will be posted to the conference website as soon as this information becomes available at our website. Note that the plans for the tutorial sessions are in progress and are subject to change.

Post-conference Workshop: Cross-fertilization Roundtables

The post-conference SBP10 Workshop will be held in the morning following the final day of the full conference. The purpose of the cross-fertilization roundtables is to help participants become better acquainted with people outside of their discipline and with whom they might consider partnering on a future SBP project. To accomplish this goal, this workshop will feature 4-5 sessions, each lasting up to 30 minutes. During each session, a number of roundtables will run concurrently. Each roundtable will focus on a different topic (although should demand warrant, there may be duplication of some topics across roundtables). Approximately 6-10 participants will sit at each table. Conference organizers will assign participants to roundtables based on their interests (to be indicated on the tutorial registration form) and will ensure that the composition of each roundtable offers opportunities for behavioral and social scientist to meet systems scientists and vice versa. Thus, by the end of the workshop period, each participant will have had an opportunity to converse with a variety people from complementary disciplines and may have a feel for selected people they might like to collaborate with. It is the intent of the conference organizers that this workshop will spawn the formation of numerous interdisciplinary investigative teams, and that those teams will collaborate on grant applications to sponsoring funding agencies. More details regarding the preconference tutorial sessions, including instructors, course content, and registration information will be posted to the conference website as soon as this information becomes available at the website. Note that the plans for the post conference workshop are in progress and are subject to change.

Hotel and Logistics

A number of hotels are in the vicinity of the NIH campus. Conference rates are currently being negotiated with nearby hotels and will be posted to the conference website when available. The NIH campus is easily accessible via the Metro subway train (Red Line, Medical Center stop). Washington Reagan National Airport is located on the Metro (Blue/Yellow Line). East Coast travelers should consider taking the Amtrak train to Union Station. More details on Hotel and Logistics will be posted as they become available.

Travel Scholarships

It is anticipated that travel scholarships will be available on a competitive basis. Additional information will be provided on the SBP Conference website as it becomes available.

SBP Conference Committees

SBP10 Conference Organizing Committee – Conference Co-Chairs

Patricia L. Mabry, Ph.D.
Conference Chair
Senior Advisor
Program Lead, Systems Science Initiatives
Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
National Institutes of Health
http://obssr.od.nih.gov/about_obssr/staff/patricia_mabry_bio.aspx

Yasmin Said, Ph.D.
Co-Chair
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Fellow
Co-Director of the Center for Computational Data Sciences
George Mason University

SBP10 Program Committee Chairs

Sun-Ki Chai, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, HI
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~sunki/>

John Salerno, Ph.D.
AFRL/RIEA
Air Force Research Laboratory
Rome, NY

SBP Steering Committee

This committee selects conference chairs and assures consistency and quality of the conference across years.

Huan Liu, Ph.D.
Chair
Professor, Computer Science and Engineering
Arizona State University,
Tempe, AZ
<http://www.public.asu.edu/~huanliu/>

John Salerno, Ph.D.
Chair
Principal Computer Engineer
Air Force Research Laboratory
Rome, NY

Sun-Ki Chai, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, HI
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~sunki/>

SBP Advisory Committee

Rebecca Goolsby, Ph.D.
Office of Naval Research

Terrance Lyons, Ph.D.
Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Patricia L. Mabry, Ph.D.
Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
National Institutes of Health

Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology 2009 Research Conference November 2-4, 2009

The 2009 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research Conference will be held November 2-4, 2009 at the Washington Conventions Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC. The Conference provides a forum for experts from around the world to discuss and exchange current research and methodological topics relevant to Federal government statistical programs. Each day of the conference will offer papers on a wide range of topics including the use of advanced technologies for survey design and data collection, processing and dissemination, data mining, data warehousing and metadata, treatment of missing data, improving coverage and response rates, confidentiality and disclosure issues, record linkage, sample design and estimation, cognitive research and usability testing, and data quality.

Technical demonstrations will run concurrently on the second day of the conference during the first morning session. Applications will include demonstrations on Q-Notes, Demonstration of Field Interviewer (FI) Tracker Tool, Statipedia, and a Demonstration of Census Coverage Measurement Clerical Matching Software. Sessions feature papers and demonstrations by government, private sector, and academic researchers from eight countries. Katharine Abraham from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland will be our guest speaker in the opening plenary session. All paper sessions will include an open discussion and some sessions will include a formal discussion.

Conference Fee: Registration is \$195. For a copy of the advance program and registration information please refer to <http://www.fcsm.gov/events/>.

WSS and Other Seminars

(All events are open to any interested persons)

November

- 5 Thurs. **Pattern Analysis of Pairwise Relationship in Genetic Network**
- 10 Tues. **Panel on Address-Based Sampling**
- 10 Tues. **Dual Frame Theory Applied to Landline and Cell Phone Surveys**
- 13 Fri. **Computer-Intensive Statistical Methodology with Applications to Translational Cancer Research**
- 19 Thurs. **Empirical likelihood based inference for quantiles and low income proportions in selection bias and missing data problems**

December

- 2 Wed. **Data, Information and Interpretation in Assessing the Sustainability of the Nation's Forests**
- 16 Wed. **Geographic Information (GIS) Data Collection and Storage**
- 17 Thurs. **Comparing the Census Bureau's Master Address File (MAF) with both Fresh Area Listing and Commercial Address Lists**

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

Announcement

SIGSTAT Topics for Fall/Winter 2009-2010

November 18, 2009: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 1
(http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html)

This month begins a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled “**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition**” by Brocklebank and Dickey.

Part 1: This month covers **Chapter 1: Overview of Time Series** and **Chapter 2: Simple Models: Autoregression**. Topics include regression with autocorrelated error terms, transformations to stabilize the variance, forecasting with PROC ARIMA, the backshift operator B, and the Yule-Walker equations.

December 16, 2009: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 2
(http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html)

This month continues a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled “**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition**” by Brocklebank and Dickey.

Part 2: This month begins **Chapter 3: The General ARIMA Model**. Topics include prediction and model identification.

January 20, 2010: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 3
(http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html)

This month continues a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled “**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition**” by Brocklebank and Dickey.

Part 3: This month continues **Chapter 3: The General ARIMA Model**. Topics include using the IDENTIFY and ESTIMATE statements with a number of examples.

February 24, 2010: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 4
(http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html)

This month continues a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled “**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition**” by Brocklebank and Dickey.

Part 4: This month continues **Chapter 3: The General ARIMA Model**. Topics include models for nonstationary data and differencing to remove a linear trend.

March 17, 2010: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 5
(http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html)

This month continues a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled “**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition**” by Brocklebank and Dickey.

Part 5: This month begins **Chapter 4: The ARIMA Model: Introductory Applications**. Topics include an introduction to seasonal modeling and model identification.

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:** **Pattern Analysis of Pairwise Relationship in Genetic Network**
- Speaker:** Ao Yuan, Ph.D.
National Human Genome Center
Howard University
- Date/Time:** Thursday, November 5, 2009 / 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Location:** Conference Room 9091. Two Rockledge Center, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892
- Sponsor:** Office of Biostatistics Research
Division of Prevention and Population Sciences (Bio)Statistics Seminar Series
- Abstract:** In recent times genetic network analysis has been found to be useful in the study of gene-gene interactions, and the study of gene-gene correlations is a special analysis of the network. There are many methods for this goal. Most of the existing methods model the relationship between each gene and the set of genes under study. These methods work well in applications, but there are often limitations on network size, issues of non-uniqueness of solution and/or computational difficulties, and interpretation of results. Here we study this problem from a different point of view: given a measure of pairwise gene-gene relationship, we use the technique of pattern image restoration to infer the optimal network pairwise relationships. In this method, the genetic network can be of any size, the solution always exists and is unique, and the results are easy to interpret in the global sense and is computationally simple. The regulatory relationships among the genes are inferred according to the principle that neighboring genes tend to share some common features. The network is updated iteratively until convergence, each iteration monotonously reduces entropy and variance of the network, so the limit network represents the clearest picture of the regulatory relationships among the genes provided by the data and recoverable by the model. The method is illustrated with a simulated data and applied to real data sets. This is a joint work with George Bonney.
- Seminar contact: Jungnam Joo (jooj@nhlbi.nih.gov).

Program Announcement

- Title:** Panel on Address-Based Sampling
- Co-Chairs:** Kathy Downey & Brian Meekins, OSMR, BLS
- Panelists:** Anna Fleeman-Elhini, Arbitron Inc.
Michael Link, Nielsen Media Research
Jill Montaquila, Westat
Robert Poole, OPLC, BLS
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, November 10, 2009 / 12:30-2:00 p.m.
- 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 & DC-AAPOR
- Abstract:** Each panelist will give a brief (10-15 minutes) discussion of their experiences in implementing address-based sample designs. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: coverage issues, cost, data quality, survey management, and questionnaire design. Ample time will be allotted for questions following the panelists' remarks.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the December issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until November 17, 2009. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@ams.usda.gov.

Program Announcement

Dear Washington Statistical Society Member:

The Section on Survey Research Methods is proud to announce its new webinar program. The first webinar in the series is “*Dual Frame Theory Applied to Landline and Cell Phone Surveys*” to be presented by J. Michael Brick on Tuesday, November 10, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Webinar Description:

As the number of households that have only cell phones has increased dramatically over the past 5 years, telephone surveys have addressed this problem by sampling from both landline and cell phone numbers. One of the issues emerging from these dual frame surveys is that the theoretical foundation for these surveys largely ignores nonsampling errors. Because these errors may be large and result in biases, they must be considered in dual frame telephone surveys. This Webinar begins with a review of dual frame theory with particular attention to surveys that sample landline and cell phone numbers. It then examines the effect of nonsampling errors when surveys are conducted without considering these errors. In particular, we describe the potential effect of nonresponse and measurement error using data from surveys of landlines and cell phone numbers. We discuss both practical sample design issues such as whether to screen for cell-only households, and weighting methods to reduce the effects of the errors. The advantages and disadvantages of different sample designs and estimation methods are discussed. The examples are from actual dual frame telephone surveys.

For more information on the webinar program and to register, please visit the SRMS web site at: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/webinar.html>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rick Peterson at the ASA office using the below information.

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Program Announcement

- Title:** **Computer-Intensive Statistical Methodology with Applications to Translational Cancer Research**
- Speaker:** Kim-Anh Do, PhD, Department of Biostatistics, Division of Quantitative Sciences, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Date/Time:** Friday, November 13, 2009 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Location:** Georgetown University Medical Center, Building D, Warwick Evans Conference Room, 4000 Reservoir Road NW, Washington DC, 20057
- Sponsor:** Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Biomathematics
For information, please contact Caroline Wu at 202-687-4114 or ctw26@georgetown.edu
- Abstract:** Early detection is critical in disease control and prevention. Biomarkers provide valuable information about the status of a cell at any given time point. Biomarker research has benefited from recent advances in technologies such as gene expression microarrays, and more recently, proteomics. The long term translational research goal is that if drugs can be targeted to specific tissues in the body, then dosage can be altered to achieve the desired effect while minimizing side effects such as toxicity. Motivated by specific problems involving such high throughput data, I have developed computer-intensive statistical methods based on nonparametric and semiparametric mixture model assumptions for real-time analysis in the context of biomarker discovery. Most biomarker-discovery projects aim at identifying features in the biomarker profiles (gene expression, phage, SAGE, mass spectrometry proteins) that distinguish cancers from normals, between different stages of disease development, or between experimental conditions (such as different treatment arms or different tissue types). Novel statistical methodology development will be highlighted with direct applications to cancer research challenges that address our long term translational goal.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Empirical likelihood based inference for quantiles and low income proportions in selection bias and missing data problems
- Speaker:** Jing Qin, Ph.D.
Mathematical Statistician
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- Chair:** David Judkins, Westat
- Discussant:** Paul Zador, Ph.D.
Senior Statistician
Westat
- Date/Time:** Thursday, November 19, 2009 / 12:30- 2:00 p.m.
- 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.
- Video Link:** Westat, Rockville Offices. On a trial basis, Westat is opening up its conference center for watching the lecture remotely. Reservation required. Call Fran Winter, 301-294-4419.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Program, WSS
- Abstract:** In this talk, we study covariate-adjusted median treatment effects based on the empirical likelihood method. This method is useful for studying treatment effects on skewed variables in studies where treatment is not randomly assigned. A closely related problem is to estimate the low income proportion on a sample subject to nonresponse that is ignorable given measured covariates but is not completely random. The low income proportion is defined as the proportion of the population income falling below a given fraction α ($0 < \alpha < 1$) of the β^{th} ($0 < \beta < 1$) quantile of the income distribution. It is an important index in comparisons of poverty in countries around the world. The stability of a society depends on this index heavily. An accurate and reliable estimation of this index plays an important role for government's economic policies.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Data, Information and Interpretation in Assessing the Sustainability of the Nation's Forests**
- Speaker:** Guy Robertson, Ph.D.
Sustainability Program Lead
U.S. Forest Service
- Chair:** Mike Fleming
- Date/time:** Wednesday, December 2, 2009 / 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar list 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:** WSS Agriculture and Natural Resources Section
- Abstract:** The Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators for Forest Sustainability (MP C&I) provide the foundation for the 2010 National Report on Sustainable Forests, a major Forest Service reporting effort currently underway. The processes through which the MP C&I were derived and applied as well as the specific content of selected indicators will be the focus of this talk. The MP C&I include 64 indicators spanning ecological, economic and social dimensions associated with the sustainability of forest ecosystems, and they entail a host of technical and conceptual issues related to data gathering, reporting and interpretation. Moreover, the underlying concept of sustainability presents various challenges both when considered generally and within the context of specific indicators. These topics and others will be discussed within the general context of presenting the overall findings of the 2010 Report.
- Point of contact e-mail: grobertson02@fs.fed.us

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Geographic Information (GIS) Data Collection and Storage**
- Speakers:** Chuck Roberts, ESRI Federal Account Manager and Tosia Shall, ESRI Sales Engineer
- Discussant:** TBD
- Chair:** Marcela Rourk, Mathematical Statistician, Energy Information Administration
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, December 16, 2009 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 2. 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. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsors:** WSS Data Collection Methods, WSS Agriculture and Natural Resources and DC-AAPOR
- Abstract:** This presentation will describe methods creating geographic data, storing it in a database, and displaying it for analysis. We will detail methods of data collection, what attributes differentiate GIS data from other types of data, and how to best format the data for storage in a database.
- Once the data are geographically referenced in a database, we will further explore how these GIS data can be accessed and displayed with data from other sources to further enhance its usability. These other sources of data can be internal or external to your organization. We will discuss some of these external data sites as well as detail how they disseminate their GIS data.

For further information contact Carol Joyce Blumberg at carol.blumberg@eia.doe.gov or (202) 586-6565.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Comparing the Census Bureau's Master Address File (MAF) with both Fresh Area Listing and Commercial Address Lists
- Speaker:** Clifford Loudermilk and Timothy Kennel
Mathematical Statisticians
U. S. Census Bureau
- Organizer:** David Judkins
Senior Statistician, Westat
- Chair:** TBD
- Discussant:** TBD
- Date/Time:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 / 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- 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.
- Video Link:** Westat, Rockville Office. On a trial basis, Westat is opening up its conference center for watching the lecture remotely. Reservation required. Call Fran Winter, 301-294-4419.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Program, WSS
- Abstract:** This is an expanded version of two talks from the JSM. In the first talk, Loudermilk reports on joint work with Mei Li to assess the suitability of the MAF as a replacement for the frame for current surveys at the Census Bureau such as the Current Population Survey. They used fresh area listings for this purpose. In the second talk, Kennel reports on joint work with Mei Li to compare the coverage of a commercially available address list with that of the MAF and to that from the same fresh area listings produced to study MAF coverage. Together, these talks should be of high interest to sampling statisticians both inside and outside of the federal government.

Announcement

Nominations Sought for 2010 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 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. Completed nominations must be received by March 5, 2010. For questions or more information, please contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at paben.steven@bls.gov or call 202-691-6147.

Announcement

JPSM Short Courses

www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

November 19-20, 2009
Focus Groups from Start to Finish
David Morgan
Registration Deadline: November 5, 2009

December 17-18, 2009
Introduction to Survey Sampling
Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski
Registration Deadline: December 3, 2009

January 11-12, 2010
Web Survey Design
Mick P. Couper
Registration Deadline: December 28, 2009

February 1-2, 2010
Experimental Design for Surveys
Roger Tourangeau
Registration Deadline: January 18, 2010

February 23-24, 2010
Balancing Data Confidentiality and Data Quality
Lawrence Cox
Registration Deadline: February 9, 2010

March 3-4, 2010
Introduction to Survey Estimation
David Morganstein and Richard L. Valliant
Registration Deadline: February 17, 2010

March 29-30, 2010
Writing Questions for Surveys: A Workshop
Nora Cate Schaeffer
Registration Deadline: March 15, 2010

April 22-23, 2010
Cognitive Interviewing Methods: A Hands-On Approach
Gordon B. Willis
Registration Deadline: April 8, 2010

May 4-5, 2010
Sampling and Estimation for Establishment Surveys
Richard Valliant and Phillip Kott
Registration Deadline: April 20, 2010

May 26, 2010 (1-Day course)
Introduction to Item Response Theory (IRT) Modeling and Applications
Bryce B. Reeve
Registration Deadline: May 12, 2010

JPSM SHORT COURSES: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST: projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors

JPSM HOME PAGE: www.jpsm.org

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.

WESTAT AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED RESEARCH CORPORATION

WESTAT is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, DC (Rockville, Maryland). 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, Westat has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,900 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Westat statisticians are actively involved in teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities.

We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/90001)

A total of 3 or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Applicant must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics and have excellent writing skills. Coursework in sample survey design is highly desirable.

Westat offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, indicating the Westat Job Code, and resume, by one of the following methods to:

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ASSOCIATE TO FULL PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS OR BIOSTATISTICS

The Department of Statistics (DOS) and The Biostatistics Center (BSC) of The George Washington University are recruiting a tenured faculty position at the Associate Professor or Professor level. Basic Qualifications are a PhD in Statistics or Biostatistics, an established program of research, and a strong national and international reputation. Core responsibilities of the position will be to serve as Principal Investigator or co-Investigator on one or more BSC major projects; to teach 1 course per year in the DOS and to advise PhD students in Statistics and Biostatistics. The position will be tenured and funded 100% in Year 1. Salary support will decrease to 25% over a 5-year period. The remaining salary will be funded by sponsored projects (either at the BSC, or other external funding secured by the faculty member). Review of applications will begin May 1, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled. For additional information and the application procedure, please see <http://www.gwu.edu/~stat/>.

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CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University is currently recruiting biostatisticians to serve as Co-Investigator or Principal Investigator (Project Director) and to provide statistical direction of the design, conduct and analysis of studies and the conduct of methodologic research to meet the projects needs.

Basic Position Requirements: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in Biological Science, Physical Science or Computer Science **with** a Masters in Biostatistics or Statistics, 1-5 years' experience with clinical trials, especially study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience. All interested applicants at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may apply for the **Samuel W. Greenhouse Biostatistics Research Enhancement Award**. For a period of 1 year, the award will provide 20% effort for methodological research, professional activities and travel. Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. For complete information and application procedures, please visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu. Only complete applications will be considered

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DIRECTOR OF BIOSTATISTICS

*Interested candidates should apply under <http://www.hjf.org/careers/search.html> for Job ID# 203931 **Faculty Position: Director of Biostatistics**, Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program (IDCRP) in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics (PMB) at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD*

Responsibilities

Seeking a Director of Biostatistics for the Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program (IDCRP) in the Department of Preventive Medicine/Biometrics (PMB) at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD. The incumbent reports to the Director of the IDCRP. Responsibilities are to coordinate and provide biostatistical support for clinical and/or laboratory research, oversee statistical support and collaborations in clinical research protocols carried out in the IDCRP, and coordinate IDCRP data management activities within IDCRP and with senior personnel at the collaborating data management activity. Oversee coordination of statistical review requirements to support scientific review board and data monitoring board activities. Direct and lecture in graduate level courses on clinical research and lecture to medical students. Mentors graduate students, residents, and fellows conducting clinical research. Mentors junior biostatisticians and promotes additional publications and presentations of applications/methods for

problems motivated by clinical research collaborations. Must have knowledge of medical science and research; knowledge of statistics relevant to clinical research; ability to communicate effectively; ability to make effective presentations and publish; excellent verbal, written and interpersonal skills. This involves performing statistical analysis on data collected from clinical trials, laboratory / translational research experiments, and/or epidemiologic observational research studies.

Incumbent provides senior management of statistical analysis and data management activities within IDCPRP. Coordinates with senior personnel at collaborating data coordinating/analysis organizations to work toward and address research program goals. Recommends and advises on the design of biomedical research protocols. Provides statistical support via statistical consultation and data analyses throughout the courses of studies and prepares statistical reports for presentations and publications. Provides relevant statistical and project status updates to research staff. Recommends and implements changes as needed. Coordinates statistical review requirements to support scientific review board and data monitoring board activities. Works with research staff to achieve the goals of the research program. Supervises junior biostatisticians and data analysts. Direct and lecture in graduate level courses on clinical research and lecture to medical students. Mentors graduate students, residents, and fellows conducting clinical research. Performs other duties as required.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: experience in the design, monitoring, and analysis of clinical trials and/or epidemiologic observational studies; experience in organizing and tracking multiple statistical support activities; experience in research administration, including supervision of statistical and/or data management personnel; knowledge of medical science and research; collaborative/ participatory decision-making skills; skills for identifying and addressing statistical issues in applications for extramural research; ability to communicate effectively; ability to make effective presentations and publish; excellent verbal, written and interpersonal skills.

Minimum Education/Training Requirements: Ph.D. in Biostatistics, Statistics or related field

Minimum Experience: At least 10 years experience, having progressed to the level of senior statistician managing a data coordinating and analysis center for 1 or more clinical research contract(s)/grant(s)/program(s).

Physical Capabilities: extended periods of sitting

Supervisory Responsibilities/Controls: supervises junior biostatisticians

Work Environment: office or laboratory environment

Any qualifications to be considered as equivalents, in lieu of stated minimums, require the prior approval of the Director of Human Resources, Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. (HJF)

Statistician

A statistics based consulting firm located in Washington D.C. is looking for a Statistician with 3+ years of experience.

Applicants for the Statistician position must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen
2. Have a doctoral degree in Statistics, Math or Economics (Ph.D. candidates may apply)
3. Possess strong oral and written skills

Major Duties:

4. Sample design and selection
5. Power calculations
6. Frames development
7. Weighting including non-response adjustment and bench-marking
8. Imputation
9. Variance estimation
10. Excellent verbal and written communication skills
11. Excellent consulting skills and the ability to work directly onsite with government client
12. Effectively communicates information to management

In addition:

1. Applicants selected will be subject to a government investigation and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information and obtain government-granted security clearance.
2. Applicants must pass a background check.
3. Coursework in sample survey design is highly desirable.

To Apply:

Qualified applicants should email resumes in Word or PDF format to durham@culbertconsult.com. Please no phone calls.



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