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Letter from The Chair

By Simone Gray, 2022 GSS Chair

Hi GSS Members!

The weather is finally warming up and Spring has arrived! I wanted to send a quick note to introduce you to the newest members of our Executive Board and to let you know about upcoming activities for our section.

Updates to the GSS Executive Board

We welcome to the GSS Executive Board Claire Bowen (2021 Chair-elect) and Lisa Mirel (2021 Program Chair-elect). I would also like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing board members Jenny Thompson (Past Chair) and Will Cecere (Program Chair) for their outstanding contributions to the section over the years.

Upcoming GSS Activities

GSS will be co-sponsoring another Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop this summer. Tentative dates are June 8th and 9th. More details to follow as we continue to work on this program. We will also kick off another **mentoring program** for 2022-2023. If you would like to get more involved with our section, please consider joining one of our committees. To do that, email our Publications Officer Kathi Irvine (kirvine@usgs.gov) to get plugged in. We also have elections coming up for positions that will start in January 2023. Meet our candidates and get ready to vote!

We can't wait to see you at some of our upcoming events throughout this season. Continue to stay safe and productive in all you do.

Congratulations to Student Paper Award Winners

**Joint awards with Survey Research Methods Section and
Social Statistics Section**

2021 Winners

Yutao Liu, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Neha Agarwala, University of Maryland,

Claire Kelling, Penn State

Eli Ben-Michael, Harvard University

Sheridan Lloyd Grant, Univ. of Washington

2022 Winners

Olivier Binette, Duke University; *“On the reliability of Multiple Systems Estimation for the Quantification of Modern Slavery”*

Peter Gao, University of Washington; *“Smoothed Model-Assisted Small Area Estimation”*

Dae-Gyu Jang, Iowa State University; *“A-Optimal Split Questionnaire Designs for Multivariate Continuous Variables”*

Tamy Moraes Tsujimoto, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; *“Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve for complex survey data”*

Yibo Wang, University of Michigan; *“Sample Size Estimation in Respondent-Driven Sampling”*

Call for Nominations: DUE APRIL 1, 2022

2022 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics

Details: washstat.org/awards/herriot.html.

The award is intended to reflect the characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

Dedication to the issues of measurement;

Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and

Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

Meet the Candidates

Chair– Elect: Bob Sivinski

Bob Sivinski is a third-generation civil servant. As a Senior Statistician in the Office of the Chief Statistician of the U.S., he designs and implements policies that support the integrity, objectivity, accuracy, and usefulness of federal science and statistics. He's always looking for opportunities to help federal statisticians coordinate across agencies, tackle difficult measurement challenges, communicate effectively with senior officials, and advance their careers.



Bob began his federal career at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at the Department of Transportation, where he designed surveys, contributed to benefit/cost analyses, and conducted retrospective reviews of traffic safety regulations. He's an active member of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, the American Statistical Association, and the American Association for Public Opinion Research, and he leads the public policy program of the Washington Statistical Society. In his free time, he's consumed with finding the perfect starting word for Wordle.

Secretary/Treasurer: Nancy Murray

Nancy is excited to have the opportunity to become more involved in the Government Statistics Section (GSS) as Secretary/Treasurer. She was able to learn more about GSS and statisticians working in government through a mentoring roundtable at JSM 2019 in Denver.



In late 2020, she joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a Statistician. She earned her Bachelor's in Statistics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in Knoxville, Tennessee, which is also her

hometown. She moved south in 2014 to Atlanta, Georgia to attend Emory University, where she earned both a Master's and Doctorate in Biostatistics. Nancy's research, both at Emory and CDC, has centered around modeling and using the best model for estimation despite its simplicities or complexities.

Nancy believes as statisticians and data scientists in government, daily work has the potential to impact not only other scientists but also family, friends, and the public. Therefore, the work of GSS members cannot exist in a vacuum. By connecting with other statisticians in government, GSS members can establish relationships to help advance science across agencies at various levels. If elected as Secretary/Treasurer, she will help ensure all meetings, opportunities, and necessary information are conveyed to her fellow GSS members. In doing so, she hopes that GSS member relationships can flourish.

Chair– Elect: Jiashen You

Jiashen You is a statistician with the government spanning many roles of researcher, program manager, educator and data policymaker over several federal agencies. Jiashen was fortunate to observe, work with and learn from many dedicated statistical professionals in fields ranging from urban planning, regulatory affairs, law enforcement to decennial census. These experiences taught humility, as Jiashen discovered how statisticians could be such an unassuming job title with an all-encompassing work portfolio that requires lifetime learning and Jiashen is grateful for the opportunity to serve. More importantly, they gave Jiashen the perspective of how saturated government statisticians are in our everyday life and how crucial it is upon us to promote the use of sound theory and methods in producing data products.



In pursuit of greater data transparency, more reliability, and easier but responsible access, Jiashen has led the efforts to build EEOC's Enterprise Data Warehouse and establish its single-source-of-truth analytical data; launched the agency's first interactive mapping and query tool; and created public use files subject to the confidentiality protection standards of a federal statistical agency. However, some of Jiashen's most rewarding recent experiences came from volunteerism in the ASA community. Last year, as the Chair of the LGBTQ+ Advocacy Committee, Jiashen led a successful campaign to raise over \$30K for the endowment of the annual ASA Pride Scholarship, making it the fundraising event with the most outside donors ever. Jiashen is a firm believer of "pay it forward" and has been actively volunteering as a mentor in several professional and alumni groups, including the current GSS mentoring program. While some of us enjoy filling and comparing our March madness brackets, the month has been extra rewarding as Jiashen lead the coordination as well as taken part in the judging process myself from time to time for a long-run community engagement tradition by the Washington Statistical Society in supporting local Science and Engineering Fairs.

Jiashen looks forward to the opportunity to serve you and to develop diversity and inclusion plans as we recruit more civic-service-minded members to join our family.

Secretary/Treasurer: Robert Ashmead

Robert is a Research Scientist with the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center and a part-time Research Mathematical

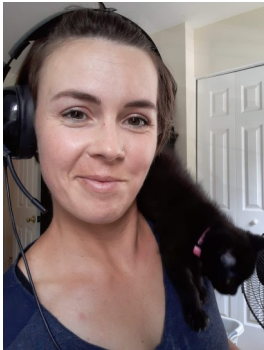


Statistician with the U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Enterprise Dissemination. He holds a PhD in Biostatistics and MS in Statistics from The Ohio State University, as

well as a BA in Mathematics from the College of Wooster. He is the current Vice President of the Columbus ASA Chapter. In his roles at the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center and the U.S. Census Bureau he has gained experience in working in government statistics at both the State and Federal level, and he can bring that firsthand experience to the GSS role.

Publications Officer:
Elizabeth Petraglia

Elizabeth Petraglia is a senior statistician at Westat, in Rockville, MD. Elizabeth has been at Westat since graduating with a PhD in statistics from The Ohio State University in 2015. Working at Westat has given Dr. Petraglia the opportunity to interact with statisticians and analysts across federal agencies, and a real appreciation for how unique, vibrant, and innovative the government statistics community is! Elizabeth is active in the Washington Statistical Society, having led their K-12 statistical poster competition for the past several years, and is one of the two newsletter editors for the Survey Research Methods Section. Elizabeth is thrilled to have the opportunity to run for GSS Publications Officer, since she thinks 2023 will be an exciting year—more events to publicize, and less teleworking with a cat on her shoulder (although she is not ready to give that up entirely quite yet!).



C.O.S. Representative:
Erica Dawson Luke

Dr. Erica Dawson Luke is a mathematical statistician in the Population Health and Surveillance Branch (PHSB) in Division of Population Health in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As a mathematical statistician in PHSB, she performs data and statistical analyses, and provides technical assistance to states on data and statistical programming related issues pertaining to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). In addition to her role as a statistician, she assists PHSB with BRFSS questionnaire development. Dr. Dawson Luke has research experience in HIV, cardiovascular disease, and other chronic diseases. She is passionate about disease prevention and promoting healthier lifestyles.



Dr. Dawson Luke earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Fort Valley State University, a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics from the University of Northern Iowa, a Master of Science degree in Statistics from Iowa State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

In her spare time, Dr. Dawson Luke enjoys cooking, doing community outreach, and spending time with her family.

Publications Officer:
Henry Olaisen

Dr. Henry Olaisen is currently Research Director for the Robert Graham Center at the American Academy of Family Physicians. As a social entrepreneur in Silicon Valley — working at the intersection of health, technology, and workforce development — Henry witnessed a troubling gap between community need and scientific pursuits. This led him to return mid-career for Ph.D. training in epidemiology & biostatistics to help close this gap. Henry brings multi-sectorial experience at the federal, state, and local levels as well as with non-profits, for-profits, and tech start-ups. He is deeply committed to tapping science in more systematic and effective ways to inform resource allocations.



As a member of ASA for over 7 years, Henry is committed to service and giving back. He believes people are what make the ASA the most important network and professional society for statisticians. He is inspired by the connections he has forged with many remarkable leaders within the ASA who demonstrate action-based leadership. Thomas Love, Ph.D. introduced him to ASA and encouraged him to join (2014). In Cleveland, he became an active member of the local chapter throughout Ph.D. training and brought newer students to quarterly day-long workshops (2014-2018). When arriving in DC and the National Center for Health Statistics, Jennifer Parker, Ph.D., introduced him to the Washington Statistical Society and got him involved (2018). He continued to meet remarkable colleagues through the WSS leadership program. In 2020, thanks to digital communication from ASA, Henry learned of the GSS mentoring program and met Barry Nussbaum, Ph.D. (ASA president, 2017). He is now an important mentor and guide post in Henry's career and life. In 2020-21, he had the fortune of working alongside other colleagues to boost the GSS mentorship program. As a Government Statistics Section publication representative, Henry's priorities include building upon what works, creating new channels, and fostering community.

C.O.S. Representative:
Denise Abreu

Denise Abreu has been a Mathematical Statistician serving within the Federal Statistical System for over 23 years. She obtained a double degree: a B.S. in Applied Mathematics & Statistics and a B.A. in Spanish Languages and Literature from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Later, she obtained her Masters in Survey Methodology from the University of Maryland. Upon joining the US Census Bureau, she began working on the



Census of Agriculture. Although she did not move to NASS when the Census of Agriculture was transitioned in 1997, she quickly followed, joining NASS in 2000, and she has been with the NASS family ever since. Mrs. Abreu's background has allowed her to work on a number of research projects, including efforts to improve the Census of Agriculture, the June Area Survey and NASS's List and Area Frames. Her current research focuses on capture-recapture methodology and the use of web-scraping in list frame development. As Deputy Directory in the Research and Development Division, she leads a staff comprised of over 25 highly qualified Mathematical Statisticians, Data Scientists, Survey Statisticians, Geographers, and Cartographers.

Don't Forget to Vote!

Program Chair-Elect: **Michael Jadoo**

Mike has served our government as an economist for over 10 years. In addition, he has been a community meetup organizer for 5 years and served as an adjunct professor for 3. His core values are education and community. He is



familiar with topics Federal Statistical Agencies are currently dealing with related to differential privacy, high-frequency data, economic measurement, challenges of data collections, and alternative data sources. As a community organizer at the Statistical Seminars DC, he hosted and taught seminars on the topics related to statistical computing/data science. He has also hosted events related to federal career/hiring workshops for the general public. He understands the needs required to deliver a successful event/conference/workshop/seminar from the numerous educational seminars from the General Assembly and other institutions. He is knowledgeable about the various social media marketing tools and how to leverage those tools to promote events.

Moreover, as the previous event leader for the Government Advances Statistical Programming (GASP), I am aware of the importance of contacting organizations/communities focused on federal statistics to bring important and relevant topics into the public eye for discussion to expand the public knowledge and find solutions to problems. He values the importance of continuing the different awards, workshops, contests, and seminars offered by the Government Statistical Section. The various positions that he has held have been an asset in developing skills as an effective community leader. He has supported various organizations related to education on data science, statistics, and issues related to Federal Statistical agencies.

Program Chair-Elect: **Lisa Frehill**

Lisa M. Frehill has worked in academic, non-profit, and government settings since earning her doctoral degree in Sociology and Systems and Industrial Engineering from the University of Arizona. In addition to teaching research methods, statistics, and program evaluation (among other things) at New Mexico State University, she has more than two decades experience deploying qualitative and quantitative approaches to understand the connections between education and labor market outcomes. As the IMLS Senior Statistician, Dr. Frehill published datasets and data file documentation, along with technical reports and research about museums, libraries, and other cultural organizations. She is now a Social



Science Research Specialist at the Department of Energy, Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, where her work focuses on statistical analysis and reporting about the internal DOE workforce. In 2022, she was the Planning Committee chair for the Government Advances in Statistical Programming (GASP) workshop organized by the Computational Statistics for the Advancement of Official Statistics interest group of the FCSM.

Contact Kathi Irvine
for Future
Publication Content

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JSM REMINDERS

Key Dates:

May 2, 2022 11:00 AM Registration and Housing Open

May 31, 2022 Early Registration Deadline

June 1-30, 2022 Regular Registration

July 1-Aug. 11, 2022 Late Registration

August 6 - 11, 2022 Joint Statistical Meeting

Washington, D.C.