

GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION



GSS Summer 2021 Newsletter

Letter from The Chair

By Mike Messner, 2021 GSS Chair

It is July already! Time flies. JSM is nearly upon us (more about that below) and there is a lot going on.

We welcome two Newly-elected Section Officers: Claire McKay Bowen is our 2022 Section Chair-Elect and Lisa Mirel is our 2022 Program Chair-Elect. Next year's slate of candidates will include additional positions. Look for an announcement about that early in the fall.

As you read through the newsletter, you'll notice a number other opportunities to pitch in and help the Section better serve its membership...and none of those require running for elected office! You can help jump-start the new Transportation Statistics Interest Group, help engage with state government statisticians, join any of the various award committees (including the GSS Fellows Committee). Last, but not least, you can share any ideas for improving the Section and its member services. Check out our microsite to see what's happening – and also what's missing. Share your ideas with any of the Section officers to get things started.

Congratulations To...

NEW 2021 ASA FELLOWS:

Stephanie Eckman, Amelia Haveland, Kathryn M. Irvine, Stanislav Kolenikov, Pamela McGovern, Steve Pierson, and Jasjeet Sekhon.

Wray Jackson Smith Award Winner—Leanna Moron

Cosponsored with WSS, the Caucus for Women in Statistics, Harris-Smith Institutes, Mathematica Policy Research, and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., the award will support Leanna's continued education and to advance her career in health statistics.

Mentoring Wrap-Up Event

The GSS Mentoring Program successfully matched a dozen mentee/mentor pairs. Throughout the 2020-2021 school calendar-year, mentors and mentees met periodically. Some pairs remained active throughout the year, while others were able to satisfactorily conclude after a few months. Many of the mentee/mentor relationships remain active and may continue well into the future.

In June, we celebrated in an exciting wrap-up event. Virtual, of course. It was fun to hear what each person valued most about their experiences. Participants also shared several ideas for enhancing the program in the future. We even had breakout rooms so smaller groups could get to know each other, sharing ideas and experiences.

We will share more information this fall, when the 2021-2022 mentoring program kicks off. We expect the program to remain flexible, to address both short-term (weeks to months) and long term (year or more) mentoring needs. We hope to have more than just the one group event, so participants can benefit from more networking opportunities during the year.

--the GSS Mentoring Committee

The GSS Fellows Committee supports members who may be suitable candidates for election in 2022. We invite members who are interested in nominating others or becoming fellows, themselves, to connect with the committee. We can help! Send a message of interest to Mike Messner at mjaymessner@gmail.com

Virtual JSM 2021 UPDATE

We are excited to offer a full slate of sessions for Virtual JSM 2021.

The GSS will be primary sponsor for 4 Invited Sessions with topics ranging the independence of Federal Statistical Agencies to building infrastructure for the future of official statistics. We are co-sponsoring an additional 6 invited sessions. We are also sponsoring 7 Topic Contributed Sessions, including a student paper competition.

Due to the format change to speed sessions, the GSS will sponsor 2 Contributed Sessions with 37 total presentations. The GSS will also be sponsoring a roundtable session on missing data treatments for short-term statistics during a pandemic.

GSS EVENT SCHEDULE At-A-Glance

Sun, 8/8/2021, 3:30 PM - 5:20 PM: Invited Papers
— Spatial and Spatio-Temporal Modeling of the Demographic and Economic Data

Sun, 8/8/2021, 3:30 PM - 5:20 PM: Topic Contributed Papers
— Advances in Spatial Statistics for Survey Methodology and Official Statistics

Sun, 8/8/2021, 3:30 PM - 5:20 PM: Topic Contributed Panel
— Statistically Accurate Interactive Displays for Educational and Government Reports

Mon, 8/9/2021, 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM: Topic Contributed Speed Data Challenge and SPAAC

Tues, 8/10/2021, 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM: Invited Papers
—Producing Official Statistics During a Pandemic: Advances Under Adversity

Tues, 8/10/2021, 12:00PM-1:20PM: Roundtable (Fee event)
—[Toward Developing Viable Missing Data Treatments for Short-Term Statistics During a Pandemic](#)

Tue, 8/10/2021, 1:30 PM - 3:20 PM: Contributed Speed Session

Wed, 8/11/2021, 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM: Topic Contributed Papers
— The 2020 FCSM Data Quality Framework: Future Directions

Wed, 8/11/2021, 1:30 PM - 3:20 PM: Topic Contributed Papers
— ASA Student Paper Competition Winners

Wed, 8/11/2021, 3:30 PM - 5:20 PM: Invited Panel
— The Independence of Federal Statistical Agencies

Thu, 8/12/2021, 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM: Invited Panel
— Building the Infrastructure for the Future of Official Statistics

Thu, 8/12/2021, 12:00 PM - 1:50 PM: Topic Contributed Papers
— Being Agile During a Pandemic: The American Community Survey Approach

Thu, 8/12/2021, 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM: Invited Papers
— Collecting, Protecting, and Sharing COVID-19 Data and the Stories They Tell

Thu, 8/12/2021, 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM: Topic Contributed Panel
— Time Series Methods for Maintaining Official Statistics in the Face of COVID-19

Thu, 8/12/2021, 4:00 PM - 5:50 PM : Contributed Speed

Calling All State Statisticians

To learn more about the needs and experiences of state government statisticians, **we are reaching out to ASA members who have state government email addresses.** If you are a state government statistician, but have not listed your gov email address, we are likely to miss you! To connect and share your experience please contact GSS Chair-Elect Simone Gray (SimoneGray@CDC.Gov).

Transportation Statistics Workshops

GSS is partnering with ASA's new Transportation Statistics Interest Group (TSIG) to produce a series of online workshops and roundtable discussions on a wide range of topics that include equity and social justice, automated vehicles, climate change and other environmental impacts. Members with direct experience in these areas are welcome to join as subject matter experts and volunteers are needed to help with the nuts and bolts of workshop production. To participate, please send a brief email message to Bahar Dadashova (b-dadashova@tti.tamu.edu).