

GSS/SSS January 2015 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

**February 19-21**      2015 Conference on Statistical Practice—New Orleans, LA

**August 8-13**        2015 Joint Statistical Meetings—Seattle, WA

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ROGER HERRIOT AWARD

NEW!

Submitted by Fritz Scheuren (Chair of the Roger Herriot Award Committee)

Roger Herriot was the Associate Commissioner of Statistical Standards and Methodology at the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) when he died in 1994. Prior to his service at NCES, he also held several positions at the U.S. Census Bureau, including Chief of the Population Division. Soon after his death, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA) along with the Washington Statistical Society (a chapter of ASA) established the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to recognize individuals or teams who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs.

Nominations are sought for the **2015 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics**. The award is intended to reflect the special 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.

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 or teams 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. As innovation often requires or results from teamwork, team nominations are encouraged. Team innovations often are more lasting, resulting in real paradigm shifts, not just one-off improvements. For an example, see the 1998 Herriot (team) award.

The recipient of the 2015 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 \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2015. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past Award Recipients:

1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)
1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)
1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)
2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)
2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)
2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)
2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)
2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)
2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)
2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)
2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)
2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)
2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
2012 – Paul Biemer (RTI International)

2013 – Exact Match Team (Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, and Internal Revenue Service)

2014 – Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics study; Abowd, Haltiwanger, Lane

Nominations for the 2015 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2015**.

Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that includes 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 demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
- A current vita for the nominee with current contact information. For team nominations, the vitae of all team members should be included.

The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Fritz Scheuren, Chair of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202-320-3446 or ***Scheuren@aol.com***. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2015**. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

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**FROM THE GSS CHAIR**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Wendy Martinez (2015 GSS Chair)*

I am honored to serve as your section chair in 2015, and I am looking forward to the exciting year ahead. One of the highlights for this year is our GSS Data challenge. We have 15 contestants, who will be conducting some interesting research on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 tract and block Planning Databases. Their work will be presented in a topic-contributed session and a special speed poster session at the JSM in Seattle. Stay tuned for scheduling details and show your support for this challenge by attending these sessions.

In closing, I would like to thank the outgoing officers of the GSS, especially our former chair Jill Montaquila. A list of your current section officers can be found [here](#). Please feel free to contact us with ideas and issues relevant to our section. We are here to serve you.

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PLANNING FOR JSM 2015**NEW!***Submitted by Jenny Guarino (GSS Program Chair) and Barbara Downs (SSS Program Chair)***CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS**

If you are going to attend the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, Washington (August 8-13, 2015), you are invited to volunteer as a contributed session chair for SSS- or GSS-sponsored sessions. More information about session chair responsibilities can be found at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2015/chairs.cfm>. To volunteer, please contact Jenny Guarino (GSS 2015 Program Chair, jenny.guarino@dot.gov) or Barbara Downs (SSS 2015 Program Chair, barbara.a.downs@census.gov) for more information.

CALL TO SUBMIT SPEED SESSIONS

This year, GSS and SSS will each be sponsoring a speed session at JSM. A speed session consists of 20 oral presentations of approximately 10 minutes each with an electronic poster session later the same day. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jenny Guarino (GSS 2015 Program Chair, jenny.guarino@dot.gov) or Barbara Downs (SSS 2015 Program Chair, barbara.a.downs@census.gov) for more information.

Abstract submission deadline is **February 2, 2015**.

GSS INVITED PAPER SESSIONS

We are pleased to announce the GSS invited paper sessions for the 2015 JSM.

Activity Number	Title	Date	Time
211167	Poverty, Government Program Receipt, and Measurement Using Administrative and Survey Data	Sun, 8/9	4:00–5:00PM
211123	Bayesian Approaches to Record Linkage	Mon, 8/10	8:30–10:20AM
211172	Utilizing Administrative Records and Adaptive Design in the 2020 Census	Wed, 8/12	10:30-12:20PM

SSS INVITED PAPER SESSIONS

We are pleased to announce the SSS invited paper sessions for the 2015 JSM.

Activity Number	Title	Date	Time
211034	Better Demographic Forecasts, Better Policy Decisions	Mon, 8/10	10:30-12:20PM
211138	Causal Inference Meets Big Data	Wed, 8/12	8:30-10:20AM
211076	Structural Equation Modeling and Analysis in Testing and Estimating Casual Relationships for Social Science Data	Thu, 8/13	10:30-12:20PM

For more information on these sessions, please refer to the [JSM 2015 Preliminary Program](#).

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**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESTABLISHMENT SURVEYS (ICES-V)**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Polly Phipps (Chair of Program Committee)*

**THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESTABLISHMENT SURVEYS  
(ICES-V)**

**Methods and Practices for Statistics on Business, Farms and Institutions**

**June 20-23, 2016**

**International Conference Center, Geneva, Switzerland**

**CALL FOR INVITED SESSIONS**

As the fifth in the series of international conferences on establishment surveys, ICES-V is designed to look forward at key issues and methods pertaining to establishment surveys. The program committee invites you to submit a proposal for an invited paper session by March 31, 2015. The ICES-V program committee will review the proposals and notify session organizers by the beginning of June 2015 to let them know whether their proposal has been accepted.

**Format of Invited Sessions**

The layout of invited sessions is flexible; the only constraint is that they will last 100 minutes, including floor discussion. The session organizer may choose the format that is considered most appropriate, but should leave time for a 10–15 minute floor discussion. It is not necessary to have a discussant, but session proposals with a discussant will be preferred over those without one. Some examples of possible formats are:

- 2 papers (35 minutes, or one longer and one shorter presentation) + discussant (15 minutes) + floor discussions (15 minutes)
- 3 papers (25 minutes)+ discussant (10–15 minutes) + floor discussions (10–15 minutes)
- 4 papers (20 minute sessions) + discussant (10 minutes) + floor discussions (10 minutes)
- 4 papers (20 minute sessions) + floor discussions (20 minutes)

**Submission of proposals**

Submission of invited session proposals will open January 1, 2015, and close March 31, 2015. Session organizers will be asked to submit a proposal describing in detail the session topic, why it is important or what has changed since ICES-IV, and include the names of session presenters/discussant, and short descriptions of each presentation. The proposal should be based on the template available at [www.portal-stat.admin.ch/ices5/invited-sessions](http://www.portal-stat.admin.ch/ices5/invited-sessions).

Session organizers will be notified by the beginning of June 2015 about the program committee's decision. If a session proposal is accepted, session organizers will be asked to upload final abstracts of each presentation to the conference system by September 30, 2015 and to submit draft versions of the corresponding invited papers by March 31, 2016. If a proposal is not accepted as an invited session, the organizer will be invited to resubmit the session as a topic contributed session. The deadline for topic contributed sessions/papers is June 30, 2015. Information about the differences between the invited and topic contributed sessions and their formats is available at [www.ices-v.ch](http://www.ices-v.ch).

**Criteria for Invited Sessions**

There is a limited number of slots for invited sessions. Therefore, the program committee is seeking sessions of a consistently high quality for ICES-V, so they request that organizers provide sufficient information to clearly demonstrate the importance of the topic and the quality of its contributions. The program committee encourages coherent proposals, addressing one or related topics but from various angles, and incorporating presenters and perspectives from different countries and organizations, e.g., with differences in the statistical infrastructure, as well as proposals from developing countries. The list below includes topics that the program committee considers to be highly relevant and need to be discussed at ICES-V.

**Suggested Topics for Invited Sessions** (ordered according to the survey process)

- Establishing and updating business registers, e. g., in developing countries, considering globalization issues
- Sample design and sample coordination challenges, including non-probability sampling
- Use of new technologies and methodologies for collecting data from businesses (incl. multi-mode, questionnaire design, adaptive and responsive survey designs using paradata, use of smartphones, gamification, electronic data interchange systems)
- Survey communication, respondent relations and motivation (incl. minimizing non-response, confidentiality, survey ethics, and disclosure protection)
- Data science – usage and integration of different data sources (incl. administrative and big data, re-use of survey data, record linkage) in establishment statistics
- New techniques regarding editing and imputation
- Estimation challenges (e. g. robust, model-based, small area and variance estimation, bias and non-response issues in estimation)
- Treatment of economic time series (seasonal adjustment, benchmarking, etc.)
- Quality issues and trade-off with costs, response burden, and timeliness of establishment statistics
- Management issues regarding running business surveys and producing business statistics (incl. generalized survey systems, IT issues, process monitoring, use of paradata)
- Producing establishment statistics in developing countries
- The impact of globalization on producing statistics (e. g. collecting data from businesses in a globalized world, defining the business population and business sample frame, estimation challenges, producing new statistics, etc.)
- Unit problem(s) – identification of statistical units and inference about the effects (of misidentification/misclassification) on estimates

- The position of an NSI in the modern information market (incl. changing relationships with respondents and other producers of statistics, producing new statistics, and dissemination issues)

### Timeline for Invited Sessions

- Invited proposal submission: January 1, 2015 - March 31, 2015
- Notification of acceptance to session organizers by June 1, 2015
- Invited abstract submission: July 1, 2015 - September 30, 2015
- Invited draft paper submission: February 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016
- Conference: June 20–23, 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland
- Submission of final paper for proceedings: September 30, 2016

Invited session proposal submissions and inquiries may be directed to [ices-v.invited@bfs.admin.ch](mailto:ices-v.invited@bfs.admin.ch).

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JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD

Submitted by Lillian Lin (2015 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee Chair)

Nominations are sought for the 2015 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. Established to encourage mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community in the Federal, State, or Local government, this recognition is awarded annually to a supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of Federal, State, or Local government statistical staff for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior statisticians.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was established to honor Dr. Griffith who died in August 2001 after working for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, especially in her later senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's highest priorities was to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

Nominations for 2015 will be accepted beginning in **January 2015**. Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee. The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior statisticians in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers. Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters from a supervisor and co-workers.

The last date for submission of nominations is **April 3, 2015**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 30, 2015**. The award will consist of \$1,000, a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in **June 2015**.

For more information about the award, including the nominating process for the 2015

award, please go to <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt> The nomination form will be available at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform15.pdf>.

If you have questions about the award, please contact Rick Peterson at rick@amstat.org (703) 684-1221, or Lillian Lin at lillian.lin@montana.edu.

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**2014 WRAY JACKSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Jenny Guarino (Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee)*

The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS) was created to honor the memory of a founding member of the GSS and a long-time contributor to federal statistics. Dr. Smith's federal career spanned four decades and included positions in the Office of Economic Opportunity, where he was responsible for the operational start-up of the Job Corps and evaluation of manpower development programs; the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in what was then the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, where he oversaw the policy research data center and directed the Income Survey Development Program (the predecessor to the Survey of Income and Program Participation); and the Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, where he directed energy modeling and data systems development and provided oversight of the Department's surveys of energy consumption in multiple sectors. After retiring from the federal government in 1983, Dr. Smith continued to play a role in federal statistics from the private sector, first as a visiting senior fellow at Mathematica Policy Research and then at Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., before founding Harris-Smith Research, an operations research/management science consulting group, with Carl Harris. In 1997, Dr. Smith established the independent, nonprofit Harris-Smith Institutes to provide statistical research and a range of other services to other nonprofit organizations and governmental entities. He served as president of the organization until his death at the age of 75, in May 2000.

The WJSS was established by the GSS in 2001, with several other organizations recognized as Founding Sponsors. These include the Social Statistics Section (SSS) of ASA, which joined the GSS in 2005 as a primary sponsor of the award; the Caucus for Women in Statistics; the Washington Statistical Society; and both Mathematica and Synectics. In addition, upon its disbandment in 2002, the Harris-Smith Institutes donated a substantial sum to the scholarship fund, which achieved a milestone in 2004 by reaching \$25,000, sufficient to establish an endowment through the ASA. The WJSS is intended to encourage young statisticians to consider a career in government service. The WJSS Award provides funding of \$1,000 to be used in ways that will advance the recipient's exposure to or experience with the application of statistics to problems relevant to any level of government. Past winners have used their awards to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings or other professional conferences; to take short courses or college classes on topics related to data analysis, measurement, or data quality; and to support aspects of their continued public policy research. Funds may be used for travel, board, tuition or registration fees, or for the purchase of books, software, data sets, or other supporting materials for research projects. The WJSS is targeted at students and others early in their careers that show an interest in government statistics. Applicants

must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education. Membership in the GSS, SSS, or the ASA is not required. Applicants are asked to submit a proposal for the activity to be funded and to complete an application form (found on the GSS website at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt>) and provide two letters of recommendation.

**All materials must be sent by March 1, 2015 to *JPark@omb.eop.gov* or:**

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee  
c/o Jennifer Park  
4 Olmstead Ct.  
Potomac, MD 20854

The award winner will be announced by mid-April, 2015. All applicants will be notified by e-mail.

**Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:**

- relevance of the proposed activity to government statistics,
- quality of the proposed activity,
- innovation/ingenuity of the proposed project,
- feasibility of completion of the activity,
- the applicant's career stage,
- and past performance as reflected in the letters of recommendation.

**The 2015 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee members are:**

Jennifer Park, U.S. Office of Management and Budget (Chair)  
Joseph Salvo, New York City Department of City Planning  
Jenny Guarino, U.S. Department of Transportation

## GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION

*The mission of the Government Statistics Section (GSS) is to promote the use of sound statistical theory and methods in the production of data at all levels of government--be it Federal, State, local, or international; assist in the broad dissemination of those data; and encourage good statistical practice by all users. Areas of interest for the Section include all that involve the production, dissemination, and application of governmental statistics, including concern with statistical policy issues, quality and usefulness of governmental data products, special problems of State and local data, comparability of data among different countries, and the role of professional statisticians in the public sector.*

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## SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION

*The Social Statistics Section seeks to advance research in social statistics, both in areas which involve the use of methods of statistical inquiry, and in those which involve the use of statistical data and the development of statistical measurement. This section will also plan for active participation in the affairs of the American Statistical Association by those interested in these matters and for representation of activities in this major field in the program of the ASA.*

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