

GSS/SSS MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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SSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

**March**

- 15 ASA election begins: Don't forget to vote!
- 25 Nominations Deadline for Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award
- 31 H2R 2010: Invited Call for Submission Closes

**April**

- 1 H2R 2010: Contributed Call for Submissions Begins
- 1 Nominations Deadline for Herriot Award
- 15 Application Deadline for Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship
- 28 JSM 2011: Registration Opens

**May**

- 3 ASA election ends: Don't forget to vote!
- 6 FCSM Research Conference: Abstracts Are Due
- 26 JSM 2011: Early-Bird Registration Ends
- 31 H2R 2010: Contributed Call for Submissions Closes

**August**

- 31 Deadline for Submitting a Contributed Paper for ICES IV

## INTRODUCING STATIPEDIA – A NEW COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR FEDERAL STATISTICIANS **NEW!**

*Submitted by Michael Messner (Mathematical Statistician, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and Peter Meyer (Research Economist, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).*



Federal statisticians (employees of the U.S. government) now have a new platform for collaboration on statistical issues. Statipedia, a wiki built on the popular MediaWiki platform, was launched at a small barn-raising event in January. With only 50 registered users, the young wiki already includes hundreds of content pages on subjects ranging alphabetically from A-Space (a collaborative space for intelligence agencies) to WishList (a place to share ideas on wanted pages, categories, and features for Statipedia).

**What's a wiki?** Think of it as a collection of linked web pages that are created and edited without special software. Only a browser, keyboard and mouse are needed. Content can be easily searched and organized (by category) and a complete history is available for every page. Because access is restricted and not on the open internet, there are no "internet police" telling you what you can and cannot post. Of course, rules of engagement vary from agency to agency, so we have special pages where you can view (or describe) your agency's rules and compare them with others. We think that Statipedia will help reduce both between- and within-agency variability, as we learn best practices from each other.

**What's there now?** The statistics change every day, but now (as we write this) the Special: Statistics page shows that we have nearly 600 pages and 50 uploaded files. Since start-up, there have been 2,000 page-edits and 11,000 page-views. Our ten most-popular pages have each been viewed more than 150 times. Popular pages include:

- **Barn-Raising**—A detailed agenda for the Barn-Raising event, with many useful links;
- **At the agencies: Permissions**—A page for sharing agency-specific policy & practice for collaborating on Statipedia;
- **Category: At the agencies**—Lists all pages with agency-specific information that have the "At the agencies" category tag attached. Examples include pages on seasonal adjustment, Paperwork Reduction Act, use of nonstandard software, cloud computing, source code control, and sensitive information.

**Main Page**

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**Welcome to Statipedia - A Platform for Collaboration Across Statistical Agencies** [edit]

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**Most Recent Milestone:** 10,000 Page Views, 2/16,2011.

**New Feature:** Able to upload new filetypes (txt, csv, and svg).

| Getting Started                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Wanted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | New & Popular Pages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permissions (what various agencies require for engaging in inter-agency collaborations like Statipedia)</li> <li>Create your own personal page</li> <li>Rules of Behavior</li> <li>Consult the MediaWiki <a href="#">User's Guide</a> for information on using the wiki software.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NEW</b> Draft AMSTAT News Article</li> <li><b>NEW</b> JSM Panel Abstract</li> <li>Wanted Pages</li> <li>Wanted Categories</li> <li>Agency-specific "Permissions" information</li> <li>Agency-specific requirements for use of Open Source Software</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCOPE Presentation 2/17/2011</li> <li>Barn-Raising (our "kick-off" event)</li> <li>Guidelines for Statistical Practice</li> <li>In the News</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                   |
| Wiki Matters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Upcoming Events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Useful External Links                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wiki Statistics</li> <li>Wanted Extensions and Features</li> <li>Rules of Behavior</li> <li>Version (extension list, etc.)</li> <li>Sandbox</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminars around Washington DC</li> <li>JSM Session on Statipedia 7/30-8/4/2011</li> <li>FCSM Research Conference, November 2011, at ???</li> </ul>                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MAX (Max Federal Community)</li> <li>OpenGOV (on Wikispaces)</li> <li><a href="http://colab.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl/">http://colab.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl/</a> "ColabWiki" Hosted by GSA Intergovernmental Solutions - Linking people. Sharing knowledge. Serving citizens</li> </ul> |

## How do I join or register?

Currently, registration is limited to employees of the federal government. To register,

1. Go to <http://portal.epa.gov> and click on "Request Access to the EPA Portal."
2. Fill out the form.
3. Specify Michael Messner as your EPA Sponsor. Mike's email address is [messner.michael@epa.gov](mailto:messner.michael@epa.gov). His phone number is 202-564-5268.
4. From the "Select the Community of Application for which you are requesting access," select "General Portal Access."
5. Enter and confirm a password in the appropriate fields. (This will be your initial password once your account is established.)
6. Check the box for "I accept the EPA Privacy and Security Notice."
7. Click on Submit.

You will know that you are IN when you receive a "Welcome to Statipedia" message from Mike, notifying you that your account has been established. If you do not receive the welcome message in a reasonable time or have difficulty logging onto the wiki, contact Mike at [messner.michael@epa.gov](mailto:messner.michael@epa.gov).

The URL for Statipedia is <https://wiki.epa.gov/statipedia>. We hope you'll join us soon!

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GSS AND SSS CANDIDATES FOR 2011 ELECTION NEW!

Submitted by Natalya Verbitsky-Savitz, GSS/SSS Newsletter Editor

It's that time of the year: the ASA election of officers is fast approaching! The election **opens on Tuesday, March 15, 2011** and **closes on May 3, 2011**. The list of candidates for Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections is shown below.

Look for election ballot to be sent via email. For those without email addresses on file with the ASA, the ballot will be sent by mail.

The Government Statistics Section would like to announce the following candidates for 2011 election:

Chair-elect:	Michael P. Cohen, Independent statistical consultant Lisa M. Blumerman, U.S. Census Bureau
Program Chair-elect:	Eric Rancourt, Statistics Canada Mark Harris, U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Social Statistics Section would like to announce the following candidates for 2011 election:

Chair-elect:	Warren Brown, University of Georgia Linda A. Jacobsen, Population Reference Bureau
Program Chair-elect:	Michael D. Sinclair, NORC at the University of Chicago Deborah H. Griffin, U.S. Census Bureau
Secretary/Treasurer:	Natalya Verbitsky-Savitz, Mathematica Policy Research Anthony Tersine, Jr., U.S. Census Bureau

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**JSM 2011: DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR ROUNDTABLES!   NEW!**

*Submitted by Elizabeth Stuart, 2011 Program SSS chair-elect, and Daniell Toth, 2011 Program GSS chair-elect*

Joint Statistical Meetings 2011 (JSM 2011) will be held July 30-August 4 in Miami Beach, Florida. The Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections have five lunchtime roundtables lined up; register for any of them when you register for JSM. Further details (such as dates) will be available with the full JSM program and in the subsequent issues of this newsletter.

**1. Can Statisticians Add Value to Teacher Value-Added? (Dan McCaffrey, RAND).**

Measuring teachers' performance using "value-added," estimated from their students' longitudinal achievement test score data, is the center of education policy and controversy. It is the centerpiece of the \$4 billion US Department of Education Race to the Top Grant Program and a \$500 million study by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a part of growing number of state and school district accountability programs, and the source of controversy in Los Angeles and New York, where local newspapers reported or went to court for the right to report individual teacher's value-added. What role are statisticians playing in the estimation of value-

added? What are the key statistical issues in the estimation of value-added? And what role can our profession play in the coming years to make the data most useful for improving the education of our country's children?

**2. Who is Poor? A New Look with the Supplemental Poverty Measure. (Kathleen Short, US Census Bureau)**

For many years, there have been critiques of the official poverty measure in the U.S. On March 2, 2010, the Commerce Department announced plans for the development of a Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) "that will use the best new data and methodologies to obtain an improved understanding of the economic well-being of American families and of how federal policies affect those living in poverty." This roundtable will discuss many of the elements recommended by the Interagency Technical Working Group to include in a preliminary Supplemental Poverty Measure. Measurement issues, updating methods, and plans for future research on poverty estimates at the Census Bureau will be described and discussed.

**3. American Community Survey Data Products - Past and Future. (J. Trent Alexander US Census Bureau)**

Since there was no long-form census in 2010, American Community Survey (ACS) data have become the most relevant and timely source for a broad range of social and economic statistics, especially for small geographic areas. In December 2010, the Census Bureau released the first-ever 5-year estimates from the ACS. This roundtable will discuss the potential uses of these data, as well as the ways in which the Census Bureau could change or improve ACS data products in the next few years.

**4. Career Development for Statisticians: Making Creative Use of Future Opportunities and Challenges (John Eltinge, Bureau of Labor Statistics)**

Over the next decade, all statisticians working with the federal statistical system will encounter an extraordinary range of opportunities and challenges arising from the increasing need for sophisticated statistical information. This roundtable discusses career development for statisticians within the context of these opportunities and challenges, with emphasis on the development and use of skills to do the following:

- a. Understand the societal and scientific context in which we carry out statistical work. Of special importance are the professional norms and perceived utility functions of primary stakeholders.
- b. Exercise well-informed judgment on where and how sophisticated statistical methodology can add substantial value to areas in which stakeholders need high-quality information.
- c. Develop a rigorous understanding of the balance among benefits, costs and risks encountered in development, implementation and operation of the methodology identified in (b).
- d. Articulate all of the ideas above in ways that are clear, accessible and tuned to the norms and perceived utility functions of the statistical profession, primary stakeholders, and the public

## 5. Balancing Data Quality and Data Confidentiality (Larry Cox, National Institute of Statistical Sciences)

This roundtable will discuss the challenges of releasing data to the public while protecting confidential micro-data. A discussion of current methods will address the benefits and drawbacks of the methods as well as experiences from the participants. We will discuss the goal of releasing high-quality disclosure-protected data from both qualitative and quantitative standpoints.

- **Qualitatively:** For a given data set (tabular or microdata), how should quality and confidentiality be defined, and evaluated? What does it mean to "balance" quality and confidentiality--is one more important than the other? Are these dual objectives always in conflict?
- **Quantitatively** (you may wish to bring paper and pencil): How effective is complementary cell suppression for achieving high-quality disclosure-protected tabular data? How effective are controlled tabular adjustment and rounding, and pre-tabulation perturbation of underlying microdata? How effective is microaggregation for achieving high-quality disclosure-protected microdata? How effective is synthetic microdata? Contributions to the discussion of actual participant experiences will be welcome.

Please contact Elizabeth Stuart, [estuart@jhsph.edu](mailto:estuart@jhsph.edu), or Daniell Toth, [Toth.Daniell@bls.gov](mailto:Toth.Daniell@bls.gov), with any comments, questions, or suggestions for future roundtables. We look forward to seeing you in Miami!

### ~~~~~ 2011 WRAY JACKSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP **NEW!**

*Submitted by John Czajka, Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee Member*

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 who 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. Materials should be submitted to:

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee  
c/o Mark Harris  
3251 Old Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22030

or electronically to [mark.harris@nass.usda.gov](mailto:mark.harris@nass.usda.gov). The application deadline for this year's award is **April 15, 2011**.

Members of the 2011 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee are Mark Harris (chair), Polly Phipps, and John Czajka. 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 award winner will be announced by **June 1, 2011**. All applicants will be notified by e-mail.

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD

Submitted by Carol House, 2011 Chair, Griffith Award Selection Committee

It is time to start thinking about nominating an outstanding supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of a governmental statistical staff who encourages mentoring of junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical system for the 2011 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. **Nominations must be submitted no later than March 25, 2011.**

If you're not familiar with the award or would like more information about the current honoree and the history of the award, see the excellent article (including some pictures from the ceremony) in the August 2010 issue of *Amstat News* or go to <http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2010/08/01/governmentstataug10/>.

Nominations for 2011 will be accepted beginning in January 2011. The last date for submission of nominations is **March 25, 2011**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 22, 2011**. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium (to be split if there is more than one awardee), a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in **June 2011**.

The nomination packages are reviewed by a committee comprising six members who each serve a six-year term. Andy Orlin, Jeanne Griffith's husband, serves as emeritus member, thus providing continuity and historical perspective.

The recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award previous to this year's awardee are Rich Allen (National Agriculture Statistical Service), 2003; Beth Kilss (Internal Revenue Service), 2004; Renee Miller (Energy Information Administration), 2005; Martin O'Connell (U.S. Census Bureau), 2006; Stephanie Shipp (National Institute of Standards and Technology – at the time of the award), 2007; Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008; Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service) and Lillian S. Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 2009.

The winning mentor(s) will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing, analysis, presentation and organizational skills and knowledge;
- Encouraging junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self confidence through feedback on their efforts, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

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 staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers.
- Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. **These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.**
- The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice ... counsels with long-term goals in mind ... thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts ... encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach ... a teacher.
- Photo copies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

For more information about the nominating process for the 2011 award, please go to:

<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.doc> or
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.pdf>.

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org or 703-684-1221, and **Carol House** at housca@gmail.com or 703-989-1334.

The nomination package may be mailed or emailed **no later than March 25, 2011**, to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee
c/o The American Statistical Association
732 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
rick@amstat.org

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#### **NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HERRIOT AWARD**

*Submitted by Robert Fay, Chair of the Herriot Award Committee and Social Statistics Section Representative, 2010-2011*

Nominations are sought for the 2011 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career:

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

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

The recipient of the 2011 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 2011. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

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

Nominations for the 2011 award will be accepted beginning in February 2011. Nomination packages should contain:

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

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information. For more information, contact Robert Fay, Chair, 2011 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 240-314-2318 or [bobfay@westat.com](mailto:bobfay@westat.com). Completed packages must be received **by April 1, 2011**. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged. Please contact the chair if you need to make arrangements to fax or mail a nomination.

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H2R|2012

Survey Methods for Hard-to-Reach Populations

Invited Call for Submissions closes March 31!!
Contributed Call for Submissions opens April 1 – May 31

International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Reach Populations

October 31–November 3, 2012

Marriott New Orleans at the Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

The H2R 2012 conference will bring together survey methodologists, sociologists, statisticians, demographers, ethnographers, and other professionals from around the world to present new and innovative techniques for surveying hard-to-reach populations. Addressing both the statistical and survey design aspects of including hard-to-reach groups, researchers will report findings from censuses, surveys, and other research related to the identification, definition, measurement, and methodologies for surveying and enumerating undercounted populations.

Identifying, Defining, and Measuring the Hard-to-Reach (H2R)

- Defining H2R populations
- Measuring undercounts for H2R groups
- Improving measurement with administrative records
- Sampling H2R populations

Techniques and Methodologies

- Recruitment methods
- Targeting the H2R
- Use of social marketing and outreach campaigns
- Overcoming language and literacy barriers
- Use of community-based organizations
- Dealing with complex living and housing situations
- Tracking and tracing H2R populations

H2R Subpopulations

- Racial minorities
- Immigrant populations
- Indigenous populations
- Highly mobile and migrant populations
- Homeless and refugee populations
- Sexual minorities
- Populations affected by natural disasters
- Populations in zones of armed conflict
- Stigmatized populations
- Cross-cultural similarities and differences in H2R populations
- Linguistic and cultural minorities

For information, visit www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012 or email H2R2012@amstat.org.



RESEARCH CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PAPERS

January 10-12, 2012

Washington, DC

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is planning a research conference to be held at the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC on January 10-12, 2012. The conference will feature mostly contributed papers with formal discussion and software demonstrations on topics related to a variety of statistical research issues. Papers and demonstrations should address methodology, empirical studies, relevant issues, or needs for statistical research. Papers must be original and not previously published or disseminated. All conference information can be accessed at the FCSM Web site: www.fcsm.gov/events.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

Survey design and data collection

- Questionnaire design issues
- Improving coverage and response rates
- Instrument design and pretesting
- Survey integration and cross-survey planning
- Treatment of missing data / imputation methods
- Uses of innovative methods for data collection, processing, and dissemination
- Responsive survey design
- Advances in frame development
- Model-based survey estimation adjustment
- Innovative methods in sample design and estimation
- New edit and imputation methodologies
- Multi-mode and web data collection
- Survey redesign

Estimation and analysis

- Bayesian statistical methods
- Variance estimation
- Small area estimation
- Exposure analysis and modeling
- Forecasting, time series, and seasonal adjustment
- Methods of statistical / econometric modeling
- Meta-analysis
- Application of microdata techniques to economic data
- Estimation of immigration / emigration
- Collection and analysis of survey paradata
- Analysis of complex surveys

Evaluation

- Census and survey evaluation methodologies
- Evaluating mode effects
- Identifying and reducing sources of survey error
- Measuring process and data quality
- Nonsampling error: estimation and evaluation
- Innovative approaches to program evaluation
- Nonresponse and measurement error research

Cross-cutting topics

- Impact of the global economy on national statistics
- Statistical issues in national security, healthcare reform, housing, financial well-being, and the environment
- Special issues related to establishment surveys
- Confidentiality, privacy, and disclosure issues in data dissemination and linkage
- Data mining, warehousing, and metadata
- Design and analysis of longitudinal studies
- Measurement issues and bridging changes in classification systems
- Use of data for policymaking
- Statistical uses and quality of administrative records
- Data sharing and linking
- Usability testing
- Quality standards, best practices, and guidelines
- Geospatial statistics
- Economic measurement concepts and techniques
- Development of economic statistical indicators
- Statistical literacy and communication of results

To submit a paper or demonstration for consideration, submit the abstract via email to fcsm@census.gov as soon as possible but no later than **May 6, 2011**. Use the template found at www.fcsm.gov/events/ for your submission. The maximum length of abstracts is 300 words and should include up to five key words. Please note that authors/presenters are responsible for their travel expenses, but the registration fee is waived for one presenter per paper.

To obtain conference information or to be included on the mailing list, contact:

Anna Halaus, Conference Coordinator
Email: fcsm@census.gov
Phone: 301-763-2308
Fax: 301-763-3682

For questions about abstracts contact:

Kevin Cecco, Program Chair
Email: Kevin.Cecco@irs.gov
Phone: 202-874-0464

Tentative Schedule of Activities

Activity	Date
Abstracts due	May 6, 2011
Papers selected/Authors notified	June 22, 2011
Advance program ready	September 2011
Conference registration open	October 3, 2011
Draft paper due to Organizers/Chairs	November 16, 2011
Final program ready	December 2011
Conference dates	January 10-12, 2012
Final paper due (FCSM Web site)	March 2012

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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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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