

GSS/SSS April 2007 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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**GSS and SSS Invited Sessions at JSM 2007**

*Compiled from the April AmStat articles by Robie Sangster, 2007 GSS Program Chair, and Allen Schirm, 2007 SSS Program Chair*

Mark your schedules! There are eight GSS and SSS Invited Sessions planned for the 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings in Salt Lake City (July 29-August 2). For details, see the highlights on each session below.

**Sunday, July 29, 2:00 pm – 3:50 pm**

***Measuring and Improving Data Quality: A Prerequisite to Harnessing the Power of Information***

**SSS Invited Session**

*Organizer:* Nancy Gordon, U.S. Census Bureau

*Chair:* Nancy Gordon, U.S. Census Bureau

- *Assessing the Effectiveness of Using Panel Respondent Mode*—Thomas B. Hoffer, NORC, University of Chicago; Karen Grigorian, NORC, University of Chicago; Ron Fecso, National Science Foundation
- *Look and Listen, But Don't Stop: Interviewers and Data Quality in the 2007 SCF*—Arthur B. Kennickell, Federal Reserve Board
- *Survey Quality and Quality Metrics: An Economic Approach*—Julia Lane, NORC, University of Chicago; Suzanne Bard, NORC, University of Chicago; Judith Petty, NORC, University of Chicago
- *Discussant:* Cheryl R. Landman, U.S. Census Bureau

**Monday, July 30, 8:30 am – 10:20 am**

***Administrative Records and Data Integration***

**GSS Invited Session**

*Organizer:* Jeremy Wu, U.S. Census Bureau

*Chair:* Al Tupek, U.S. Census Bureau

- *Synthetic Data for Administrative Record Applications at LEHD (Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Program)*—Jeremy Wu, U.S. Census Bureau; John Abowd Cornell University Ithaca

- *Maintaining Confidentiality in Administrative and Integrated Databases*—Jerome P. Reiter, Duke University; Satkatar Kinney, Duke University
- *Missing Data and Disclosure Control: Applications of Synthetic Data and Multiple Imputation to Group Quarters Data in the American Community Survey (ACS)*—Rolando Rodríguez, U.S. Census Bureau

**Monday, July 30, 2:00 pm – 3:50 pm**

***Rising from the Ashes of the SIPP: Opportunities and Challenges of the New Dynamics of Economic Well-being System***

**SSS Invited Session**

*Organizer:* Daniel Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research

*Chair:* Daniel Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research

*Panelists:*

- David Johnson, U.S. Census Bureau
- Constance F. Citro, National Academy of Sciences
- Howard Iams, Social Security Administration
- Martin David, University of Wisconsin
- John Czajka, Mathematica Policy Research

**Tuesday, July 31, 2:00 pm – 3:50 pm**

***Investing In Our Youth As Future Users Of Statistics And Future Respondents***

**GSS Invited Session**

*Organizer:* Robert Lussier, Statistics Canada

*Chair:* Robert Lussier, Statistics Canada

- *Statistics Canada's Education Outreach Program: Fostering a Data and Knowledge Culture in Canadian Youth*—Mary Townsend, Statistics Canada
- *Web Services as an Aid in Promoting Statistical Knowledge within Educational Institutions*—Reiha Helenius, Statistics Finland
- *How to Make the Census Exciting for Educators and K-12 Students*—Kimberly Crews, U.S. Census Bureau

**Tuesday, July 31, 2:00 pm – 3:50 pm**

***Causal Inference in Education Research***

**SSS Invited Session**

*Organizer:* Elizabeth A. Stuart, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

*Chair:* Elizabeth A. Stuart, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

- *Random Assignment Designs, Issues of Implementation, and Analytic Challenges Faced in Education Settings*—David Myers, American Institutes for Research
- *Causal Inference and Accountability in NYC Public Schools*—Jennifer Hill, Columbia University
- *Regression Discontinuity Analyses of the Effects of NCLB Accountability Provisions on Student Achievement*—John R. Lockwood, RAND; Brian P. Gill, RAND; Claude Setodji, RAND; Francisco Martorell, RAND
- *Discussant:* Audrey Pendleton, U.S. Department of Education

**Wednesday, August 1, 10:30 am – 12:20 pm**

***Estimating Nonresponse Bias In Light of the New OMB Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys***

**GSS Invited Session**

*Organizer:* Robie Sangster, Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Chair:* Michael P. Battaglia, Abt Associates Inc.

*Panelists:*

- Bob Groves, University of Michigan
- Mike Brick, Westat
- Brian Harris-Kojetin, Office of Management and Budget
- Michael P. Battaglia, Abt Associates Inc.

**Wednesday, August 1, 10:30 am – 12:20 pm**

***Understanding and Measurement of Human Capital***

**SSS Invited Session**

*Organizer:* Juanita Tamayo Lott, U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: Chet E. Bowie, Market Strategies

- *The Whole Is Greater than the Sum of Its Parts: The U.S. Census Bureau Human Capital Management Information System*—Juanita Tamayo Lott, U.S. Census Bureau; Tyra D. Smith, U.S. Census Bureau; Mark Holdrege, U.S. Census Bureau
- *Measuring a Blended 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce: Lessons from NASA*—Stephen E. Chesley, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Craig Conlin, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- *Accurately Measuring a Creative Economy*—Steven W. Pedigo, Greater Washington Initiative
- *Water, Water Everywhere and Not a Drop to Drink: Higher Education Access and Success Among America's Growing Population of Under-Represented Students of Color*—Walter R. Allen, University of California, Los Angeles; Derek Mitchell, Stupski Foundation; Gloria Gonzalez, University of California, Los Angeles
- *Discussant*: Ivan P. Fellegi, Statistics Canada

**Thursday, August 2, 8:30 am – 10:20 pm**

***Innovative Designs and Analysis in Clinical Trials – Fully Harnessing Patient Information***

***Accrued During a Trial***

**GSS Invited Session**

Organizer: Yi Cheng, Indiana University South Bend

Chair: Yi Cheng, Indiana University South Bend

- *Adaptive Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials*—Yu Shen, The University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; Yi Cheng, Indiana University South Bend
- *Adaptive Dose-finding Designs for Single and Dual Agent Combinations Using Accumulated Data from All Patients*—Sumithra J. Mandrekar, Mayo Clinic; Daniel J. Sargent, Mayo Clinic
- *Progress in Using Adaptive Designs for Clinical Trials of Clinical Trials*—Yu Shen, The University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; Yi Cheng, Indiana University South Bend

**What Can You Do For Your Section?**

**Attend Invited Sessions in 2007.** Please consider attending one or more of these sessions. Come to all of them if you can! Each year, the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section officers strive to strengthen the GSS and SSS portions of the JSM program. But, we need you, our members, to support these efforts by attending GSS- and SSS-sponsored sessions and encouraging your colleagues to do so as well.

**Help Plan Invited Sessions for 2008.** We also want you to know that it's not too early to be thinking about topics for invited sessions for JSM 2008 in Denver. We'll have more information available on this in a future *Amstat News* article and in our monthly electronic newsletter. Until then, if you have any specific ideas or general suggestions, contact the 2008 SSS Program Chair, Jana Asher ([jana@asher-resnick.us](mailto:jana@asher-resnick.us)), or the 2008 GSS Program Chair, Michael Davern ([daver004@umn.edu](mailto:daver004@umn.edu)).

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JPSM Distinguished Lecture

JPSM is sponsoring a Distinguished Lecture by Roderick J. Little on Friday, April 13. The title is "Wait! Should We Use the Survey Weights to Weight?" The talk will begin at 3:30 pm at 2205 Lefrak Hall on the University of Maryland, College Park Campus. There will be a reception immediately afterwards. The lecture will discuss the use of weights in survey inference. A fundamental idea in survey sampling is to weight cases by the inverse of their probabilities of inclusion, when deriving survey inferences. The weight indicates the number of population units the included case represents, and thus can be seen as a fundamental feature of the design-based survey inference. Modelers, on the other hand, seem more ambivalent about weighting, and argue that (at least in some settings) weighting is unnecessary. Dr. Little will discuss various perspectives and myths about survey weights. He will argue that, from a robust Bayesian perspective, weights are a key feature of the data that cannot be ignored, but weighting may not be the best way to use them.

Dr. Little is Richard D. Remington Collegiate Professor and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, where he is also Professor of Statistics and Research Professor in the Institute for Social Research. Prior to that, he held faculty appointments at the University of California at Los Angeles and University of Chicago, an ASA/Census/NSF research fellowship at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and non-academic positions at the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the World Fertility Survey. He was Coordinating and Applications Editor of the

Journal of the American Statistical Association from 1992-1994. Actively interested in federal statistical issues such as census undercount, he has served as a member of the Committee on National Statistics and a number of other National Research Council committees. In 2005, he was awarded the American Statistical Association's Wilks Medal, and gave the President's Invited Address at the Joint Statistical Meetings. He has over 150 publications, notably on methods for the analysis of data with missing values and model-based survey inference, and the application of statistics to diverse scientific areas, including medicine, demography, economics, psychiatry, aging, and the environment.

There will be two discussants-John Eltinge from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Richard Valliant from the JPSM faculty. Please join us on the 13th. The talk is open to the public, but please let us know you are coming by sending a note to Rupa Jethwa Eapen at RJEapen@survey.umd.edu.

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### **Nominations Sought For 2007 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship: April 15, 2007 Deadline**

Nominations are now being sought for the 2007 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship. The award is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence and encourage them to consider a future in government statistics. The 2007 recipient of the scholarship will be chosen by a committee of representatives of the Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections (GSS and SSS). Applicants are not required to be members of GSS, SSS or ASA. Dr. Smith was strongly supportive of these organizations during his career and actively mentored younger statisticians. The scholarship of \$1,000.00 can be used for activities like the following:

- Attendance at a conference, short course, or long course
- Travel to a conference
- Purchase of government data
- Costs associated with research

The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Eligibility Requirements include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Participation in the advancement of government statistics, whether as a government employee, researcher under government contract or using government statistics, or a student involved with government statistics

To apply, you will need to complete and submit the following:

- The original copy of an application (available in MS Word format: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp07.doc> and Adobe pdf format: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp07.pdf>)
- Original transcripts, performance reviews, or alternate proof of superior job performance
- Project proposal
- Two reference letters

For more information, contact Juanita Tamayo Lott, 2007 Chair of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee, 301.763.3127 or [juanita.t.lott@census.gov](mailto:juanita.t.lott@census.gov). The other committee members are Michael P. Cohen and Bob Kominski. **All necessary materials must be submitted by April 15, 2007.** Electronic submissions are permissible.

All materials should be mailed before April 15, 2007, to:

Juanita Tamayo Lott  
Human Resources Division  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, D.C. 20233-1400

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Start Thinking About JSM 2008 Invited Sessions

Please start thinking about GSS and SSS Invited Sessions for the 2008 JSM meeting in Denver. Submissions will be due sometime in June or July of 2007. The GSS and SSS memberships are doing a great variety of innovative things and now

is the opportunity to organize a session to let everyone know about it at JSM in 2008. The guidelines from the JSM web site say that "Invited sessions are **110 minutes in length**, can take a variety of formats, and **typically include from two to six participants**." GSS and SSS will each receive an allocated number of invited sessions plus members will have the opportunity to compete for a selected number of open invited sessions to be chosen by the JSM 2008 program committee. Feel free to contact Michael Davern (daver004@umn.edu) or Jana Asher (jana@asher-resnick.us) for more information.

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### **ICES-III: The Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys: Focuses on Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions**

ICES-III will take place June 18–21, 2007 in central Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The conference promises to be a stimulating and full examination of the current state of the art for surveying businesses, farms, and institutions. Both the invited and contributed programs cover a spectrum of interesting and applicable subjects.

The invited program includes the following 23 sessions: Steps To Provide Quality Industrial Coding for a Business Register, Surveys of Environmental Protection: Experiences and Challenges, Efficient Use of Administrative Data in Business Surveys Commodity Flow Surveys, Editing & Imputation Strategies to Improve Statistics Using Tax Data, The New Direction of Business Surveys: the Integrated Approach, Advances in Disclosure Protection – Releasing More Business and Farm Data to the Public, Outliers and Influential Observations in Establishment Surveys, Use of Metadata for Establishment Surveys, Targeting Intensive Follow-up of Nonrespondents in Establishment Surveys, Building and Updating Establishment Registries in Developing Countries, The Influences of K.R.W. Brewer on Establishment Surveys, Collecting Data Electronically from Businesses: the Dream and the Reality, Improving Statistics on the Subnational Public Sector, Challenges and Strategies in Implementing Quality Management Programs, A Global Path to Standards in Questionnaire Design, Methods Addressing Agricultural Statistics Issues, Goals and Issues in the Development of the Services Producer Price Index, Getting Response: the Respondent's Perspective, Usage of Linearization Variance Estimators for Survey Estimates, Improving the Measurement of Service Sector Statistics: Challenges and Achievements, Generalized Survey Processing Systems – An Update, and Towards a Better Understanding of the Response Process in Surveys of Businesses and Organizations

Introductory overview lectures cover topics not included in the invited program to fully round out the invited schedule. Housing registration through the ICES III web page is also open. The entire program along with additional information is available on the ICES III web site: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/index.cfm>

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Happy 50th Anniversary, National Health Interview Survey

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) in 2007; the NHIS has been fielded continuously since 1957. To mark the occasion, NCHS is holding a one-day conference on June 25, 2007 at its home site in Hyattsville, Maryland (in Metropolitan Washington, D.C.). Watch the NHIS Web site for further information on registering for the anniversary celebration: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis/nhis_fifty.htm

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## 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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