

GSS Newsletter

SSS

Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections
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SSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>
GSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>

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JSM Programs Ready to Go!

Nancy Bates, GSS Program Chair

I am pleased to announce that all the planning, hard work, and coordination between GSS members, program officers, and ASA staff has paid off dividends for the GSS this year. Our sessions for San Francisco represent an incredibly diverse set of topics, most of which deal with applied themes that are relevant to a broad audience, including government statisticians, survey methodologists, demographers, policy program officials, and economists.

The final GSS program boasts 3 invited paper sessions, 1 invited panel, 10 topic contributed paper sessions, 1 topic contributed panel, 3 regular contributed paper sessions, and several posters. See the "pull-out" section of this newsletter for the GSS/SSS events being offered this year.

My thanks go out to the organizers of our invited and topic contributed paper and panel sessions – you made my job easy! Thanks also to GSS members who volunteered to chair sessions. The GSS program for 2003 covers a broad spectrum of interests sure to attract ASA members from a variety of sections and disciplines. Arrive early and often!

Congratulations to New Fellows!

Congratulations to the GSS/SSS Section members who were elected Fellows of the American Statistical Association this year! The following will be among those honored at the Joint Statistical Meetings on Tuesday evening:

Mary Batcher
Lawrence Brown
John Czajka
Carol House
Sarah Nusser
Trivellore Raghunathan
Marilyn Seastrom
Nancy Spruill
Alan Tupek

SSS JSM Highlights

Susan Schechter, SSS Program Chair

For those of you who have not yet viewed the online JSM 2003 program, here is a preview of our section's program. First, this year we have two Invited Paper sessions and one Invited Panel. The first is *Exploring the New Frontier: Cross-Cultural Issues in Questionnaire Design*, which will be held Sunday, August 3rd at 2:00 p.m. The second, *How to Design a National Survey of the Homeless*, will be on Monday, August 4th at 2:00 p.m. And on Tuesday, August 5th at 8:30 a.m. we will sponsor an Invited Panel, *How Can Statisticians Contribute to Homeland Security?*

There are two Social Statistics Roundtable Luncheon Topics—*Potential Uses of the American Community Survey* and *The Nuts and Bolts of a Data Security Program at a Federal Statistical Agency*. We are also the lead sponsor for the following six Topic Contributed Sessions:

- Causal Inferences in the Social Sciences;
- Evaluation of Observer Agreement for Continuous Measurement;
- Are the Rich Getting Richer and the Poor Getting Poorer—Three Viewpoints;
- Recent Advances in Educational Statistics;
- Measuring Economic Wellbeing Using the Survey of Income and Program Participation;
- Women Wealth and Health: Employment, Pensions and Poverty

In addition, Social Statistics is sponsoring many contributed sessions with relevant

topics to our membership, such as measurement of social issues, modeling, questionnaire design, data quality, editing, and survey design. Last, don't forget to come on Wednesday, August 6th at 8:30 a.m. to hear the Winning Papers from our Student Competition.

A word of thanks to all of the session organizers for this year's JSM program – you were great to work with and I appreciate your efforts to pull together excellent sessions. I look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco!

Thanks to Government Statistics Section's Corporate Sponsors!

Bureau of Economic Analysis
Energy Information Administration
Internal Revenue Service
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Social Security Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Transportation

Awards and Scholarships

Roger Herriot Award to be Given at JSM in San Francisco

The Social Statistics Section, along with the Government Statistics Section and the Washington Statistical Society, will present their 2003 recipient of the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Francisco. Session 348 at the JSM – *Towards the Integration of Demographic, Survey, and Modeling Methods* -- has been designated as this year's Herriot Award Session.

The annual award is presented to a statistician who exemplifies the qualities of Roger Herriot, who was the Associate Commissioner for Statistical Standards and Methodology at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) before he died in 1994. The award recognizes the recipient's unique contributions to solving difficult statistical problems in federal data collection efforts—a key trait of Roger's. Last year's recipient was Jeanne Griffith. The award committee consists of Sameena Salvucci (SSS), Phil Kott (GSS), and Jerry Gates (WSS, Chair).

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

Jana Asher, Chair
Pat Doyle

Sameena Salvucci

Congratulations to Ms. Yun Li of Bowling Green State University, winner of the 2nd annual Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS) Award! The Government Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA) sponsors a scholarship in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a founding member of the section and long-time contributor to federal statistics. The WJSS, co-sponsored with the Social Statistics Section of ASA, the Washington Statistical Society, the Caucus for Women in Statistics, Mathematica Policy Research, and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence, thereby encouraging them to consider a future in government statistics. Ms. Li will use the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship to fund continued public policy research at the Bowling Green State University Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service. Her work was recently presented at the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

Nominations for the WJSS are accepted each Spring. Look for announcements in the *Amstat News* and through this newsletter – and help us spread the word. Individuals and organizations interested in contributing to this very worthy effort should contact the WJSS Committee at asher@stat.cmu.edu. Contributions to the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Fund are tax deductible.

Richard D. Allen to Receive the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee is pleased to announce that its first award has been given to Richard D. Allen, Deputy Administrator for Program and Products for the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Rich Allen is recognized for his impact on the lives and careers of junior staff. The Griffith Mentoring Award was established to encourage the mentoring of younger staff in the federal statistical system. The award is co-sponsored by the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, the Council of Excellence in Government, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, the Washington Statistical Society, and the Social and Government Statistics Sections of the ASA.

Winners of the 2003 Student Paper Competition

Susan Schechter, Social Statistics Section

Nancy Bates, Government Statistics Section

Howard Hogan, Survey Research Methods Section

The Social Statistics, Government Statistics, and Survey Research Methods Sections are pleased to announce the five winners of the student and postgraduate paper competition. These papers will be presented at a specially organized Topic Contributed Session sponsored by the three sections – Session #321, on Wednesday, August 6, at 8:30 a.m.

Each of the following winners will receive a subsidy of \$800 to cover JSM 2003

expenses:

- Jessica Kohlschmidt, Ohio State University: *Handling Missing Data: Union Formation Issues and Those Lost to Follow-Up*
- Markus Prior, Stanford University and visiting fellow at Princeton University: *More Than a Thousand Words? Visual Cues and Visual Knowledge*
- Xiang Ling, Ohio State University: *A Bayesian Hierarchical Approach to Modeling Spatial Variation of the Ohio Debt Stress Index with Missing Addresses*
- Guanglei Hong, University of Michigan: *Causal Inference for Multi-level Observation Data with Application to the Kindergarten Retention Study*
- David Friedenber, Miami University: *A Multivariate Statistical Analysis of the Free World*

We received excellent papers this year and selecting the winners was a challenge. We encourage all students to watch for the Competition 2004 announcement and apply. To be eligible to participate in the competition, you must be a current undergraduate or graduate student at any level or be a 2003 graduate who presents research conducted as a student.

Thanks again to all the students who submitted papers to this year's competition. Let's show support to our JSM '03 winners with good attendance to their Special Contributed Topic Session on August 6th !

Let's Do Lunch with GSS at JSM

Jana Asher, 2004 Program Chair

The Government Statistics Section is sponsoring four timely roundtable luncheon discussions on a diverse range of topics at the Joint Statistical Meetings this year –

- David Banks, of the Food and Drug Administration, will focus on Government Statistics in Homeland Defense. Come discuss some of the ways that federal statisticians can and do work across agencies to contribute to the war on terrorism. Potential topics are classification rules, risk analysis, biometric identification, biosurveillance, and confidentiality protection.
- Speaking of confidentiality, Steve Fienberg of Carnegie Mellon University will lead a second roundtable discussion on Keeping Government Data Confidential. This discussion will focus on a wide range of confidentiality and disclosure limitation issues for government data, including data that may be used for homeland security and bioterrorism detection.
- Not a federal statistician? Not a problem! You too can contribute to the federal statistical system through contract work. A third roundtable discussion, led by David Morganstein of Westat, will discuss Contracting for the Federal Government. Come speak with experienced contractors about how they became

involved in government work and what types of projects may become available for statisticians employed outside of the government.

- Last but not least, Diane Willimack of the U.S. Census Bureau and Jacqui Jones of the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom will lead a discussion titled Establishment Survey Questionnaire Development and Design: Is It Time for a Book? The discussion leaders will outline their ideas for such a book and ask attendees for input and ideas.

Seats are still available, the price is down, and a hot lunch will be served this year – no box lunches! The luncheons will be spread over three days, so that those who are interested can attend more than one. Sign up on the ASA Web site; reserve your seat now!

GSS Co-Sponsors Strategic Initiative

The GSS is pleased to announce that it co-sponsored a successful submission for funding from the ASA's Strategic Initiative Fund. The proposal that was funded is for a two-day conference on Statistical Issues in Counterterrorism, developed by Nancy Spruill and David Banks. For more information on their plans, check out the luncheon discussion and invited paper session on the same subject.

Join Us at the GSS and SSS Business Meetings and Receptions ...

SSS Business Meeting and Reception
Mon, Aug 4th 5:30-7:00 PM H Union Sq 9

GSS Business Meeting and Reception
Tues, Aug 5th 5:30-7:00 PM H Union Sq 14

The Election Results Are In...

The Government Statistics Section is pleased to welcome:

- Chair (2005) -- Chet Bowie, U.S. Census Bureau
- Program Chair (2005) -- Brian Harris-Kojetin, Office of Management and Budget
- Council of Sections Rep -- Dan Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research

The Social Statistics Section winners are:

- Chair (2005) -- Gerald W. Gates, U.S. Census Bureau
- Program Chair (2005) -- Renee H. Miller, Energy Information Administration
- Secretary/Treasurer -- Susan M. Hinkins, University of Chicago
- Council of Sections Rep -- Trivellore E. Raghunathan, University of Michigan

Congratulations to you all!

Historical *Proceedings* Index

Last fall SSS completed its electronic index of all its past *Proceedings* from 1958 to 1999. These are available in a fully searchable format on the Section's web page for general use. The index is being updated with papers from later *Proceedings*.

For most of this period the volumes contain all the papers for what are now three sections: Government, Survey Research and, of course, Social Statistics. This makes the index invaluable to a wide range of practitioners and we look forward to its general use. One project that members of Social Statistics are considering is to use the index to collect and republish papers on selected topics that have continuing interest. A volume on Human Rights issues, broadly conceived, is already available on the section's web site.

We would welcome further ideas and proposals at any time, but especially at the business meeting in San Francisco in August.

2002 JSM *Proceedings* Are Out...

You didn't get your publication of the 2002 *Proceedings* for the Sections on Government Statistics and Social Statistics? The CD-Rom contains the *Proceedings* for the Sections on Government Statistics and Social Statistics, as well as ALL other sections, and is very moderately priced at \$35. If you haven't ordered your copy, it is not too late. Order your copy today by going to the ASA Web site at <http://www.amstat.org/publications/>.

Join the GSSLIST

GSS has established a listserve for GSS members. The GSSLIST provides an opportunity to communicate with other list members easily – ask a question, seek a reference, publicize a conference... It's our own Chat Room!

To join,

- Send an e-mail message to: listproc@inet.ed.gov
- Leave the subject line blank
- In the message type: *Subscribe GSSLIST (first name) (last name)*.

The computer will then process the subscribe command using the sender's e-mail address. (To unsubscribe send the message *SIGNOFF GSSLIST* to listproc@inet.ed.gov.)

2003 JSM Sessions Sponsored by GSS and SSS

Activity	Title	Sponsor	Type	Date/ Time
2	Exploring the New Frontier: Cross-Cultural Issues in Questionnaire Design	Social Statistics Section, Section on Government Statistics, Section on Survey Research Methods	Invited Papers	08/03/2003 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM
13	* Research on American Community Survey Methods	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/03/2003 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM
45	* Causal Inference in the Social Sciences	Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/03/2003 4:00 PM to 5:50 PM
46	* Synthesis of Census 2000 Evaluation Results	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/03/2003 4:00 PM to 5:50 PM
58	* Measurement of Social Issues I	Social Statistics Section	Contributed Papers	08/03/2003 4:00 PM to 5:50 PM
79	* A Sampling of the Best of QDET: Questionnaire Evaluation Methods	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/04/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
91	* Modeling I	Social Statistics Section	Contributed Papers	08/04/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
109	* ! Charles H. (Chip) Alexander Invited Memorial Session Memorial,	Section on Survey Research Methods, Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Invited Papers	08/04/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM
117	* Evaluation of Observer Agreement for Continuous Measurement	Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/04/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM
120	* Retail Trade Statistics: Perspectives from the U.K., Australia, Canada, and the US	Section on Government Statistics	Topic Contributed Papers	08/04/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM
138	Section on Government Statistics Roundtable Luncheons (Fee Event)	Section on Government Statistics	Luncheons Roundtable Lnh	08/04/2003 12:30 PM to 1:50 PM
151	How to Design a National Survey of the Homeless	Social Statistics Section, Section on Government Statistics, Section on Survey Research Methods	Invited Papers	08/04/2003 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM
153	* Employment and Payroll: Concepts, Measurement and Measurement Error	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Invited Papers	08/04/2003 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM
166	* User Perspectives of Census 2000	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Panel	08/04/2003 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM
201387	Social Statistics Section Business Meeting	Social Statistics Section	Other Cmte/Business	08/04/03 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
195	* How Can Statisticians Contribute to Homeland Security?	Social Statistics Section, Section on Risk Analysis	Invited Panel	08/05/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
200	* Are the Rich Getting Richer and the Poor Getting Poorer - 3 Viewpoints	Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/05/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
201	Implications of the Recent E-Government Legislation	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/05/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM

222	* Was This the Best Census Ever?	Section on Government Statistics, Section on Survey Research Methods, Social Statistics Section	Invited Papers	08/05/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM
237	* Recent Advances in Educational Statistics	Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/05/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM
252	Research in Employment Statistics and Longitudinal Analysis	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Contributed Papers	08/05/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM
258	Section on Government Statistics Roundtable Luncheons (Fee Event)	Section on Government Statistics	Luncheons Roundtable Lnh	08/05/2003 12:30 PM to 1:50 PM
267	Social Statistics Section Roundtable Luncheon (Fee Event)	Social Statistics Section	Luncheons Roundtable Lnh	08/05/2003 12:30 PM to 1:50 PM
285	* Disclosure Analysis and Disclosure Risk	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/05/2003 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM
297	* Indicators, Questionnaire Design, and Measurement Issues	Social Statistics Section	Contributed Papers	08/05/2003 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM
201312	Section on Government Statistics Business Meeting	Section on Government Statistics	Other Cmte/Business	08/05/2003 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Activity	Title	Sponsor	Type	Date/ Time
321	Winners of the Student Competition	Social Statistics Section, Section on Government Statistics, Section on Survey Research Methods	Topic Contributed Papers	08/06/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
322	North American Migration	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/06/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
340	New Developments in Tax Statistics and Administrative Records Research	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Contributed Papers	08/06/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
341	Topic Contributed Posters	Social Statistics Section, Biometrics Section, Section on Statistics in Epidemiology	Topic Contributed Posters	08/06/2003 9:00 AM to 10:50 AM
348	Roger Herriot Award: * Towards the Integration of Demographic, Survey, and Modeling Methods	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section, Section on Survey Research Methods, Section on Health Policy Statistics, Business & Economics Statistics Section	Invited Papers	08/06/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM
360	Survey of Income and Program Participation - A New Instrument for 2004	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/06/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM
370	* Data Quality, Editing, and Survey Design	Social Statistics Section	Contributed Papers	08/06/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM
383	Section on Government Statistics Roundtable Luncheons	Section on Government Statistics	Luncheons Roundtable Lnh	08/06/2003 12:30PM to 1:50 PM
391	Social Statistics Section Roundtable Luncheon (Fee Event)	Social Statistics Section	Luncheons Roundtable Lnh	08/06/2003 12:30 PM to 1:50 PM
398	Federal, State, and Local	Cmte on Privacy and Confidentiality, Section	Invited Papers	08/06/2003 2:00

	Governments: Sharing Data to Better Serve the Public While Ensuring Privacy	on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section		PM to 3:50 PM
406	* Measuring Economic Wellbeing Using the Survey of Income and Program Participation	Social Statistics Section	Topic Contributed Papers	08/06/2003 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM
408	* Improving the Accuracy of Race and Hispanic Origin in Administrative Records	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section Topic	Contributed Papers	08/06/2003 2:00 PM to 3:50 PM
434	* Strategies for Addressing Issues Related to the Use of Administrative Records for Statistical Research	Section on Government Statistics, Section on Health Policy Statistics, Social Statistics Section, Section on Survey Research Methods	Invited Panel	08/07/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
438	Advances in Methods for Tabular Data	Section on Government Statistics	Topic Contributed Papers	08/07/2003 8:30AM to 10:20 AM
439	* Women, Wealth, and Health: Employment, Pensions, and Poverty	Social Statistics Section, Caucus for Women in Statistics, Cmte on Women in Statistics	Topic Contributed Panel	08/07/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
449	* Modeling II	Social Statistics Section	Contributed Papers	08/07/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
453	Census Around the World	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Contributed Papers	08/07/2003 8:30 AM to 10:20 AM
476	Measuring Quality	Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section	Contributed Papers	08/07/2003 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM

A * preceding a session name means that the session is an applied session.

A ! preceding a session name means that the session reflects the JSM meeting theme.

Please be sure to check your program for the most current information on sessions, times, and dates.

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The Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section express their thanks to Laurie Logan for publishing the *GSS-SSS Newsletter*.

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