

**GSS/SSS July 2013 NEWSLETTER**  
**Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections**  
**American Statistical Association**

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

UPCOMING JSM 2013 EVENTS <b>NEW!</b> .....	1
CALL FOR INVITED GSS SESSION SUBMISSIONS FOR 2014 JSM <b>NEW!</b> .....	4
COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ON FEDERAL STATISTICS: JUNE 2013 MEETING PRESENTATIONS <b>NEW!</b> .....	4
GSS/SSS MEMBERS SELECTED AS 2013 ASA FELLOWS <b>NEW!</b> .....	5
JEANNE E. GRIFFITH 2013 MENTORING AWARD WINNER <b>NEW!</b> .....	6
WRAY JACKSON SMITH 2013 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER <b>NEW!</b> .....	7
2013 ROGER HERRIOT AWARD WINNER <b>NEW!</b> .....	8

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>August 3-8</b>      | JSM 2013—Montreal, Quebec, Canada                                                     |
| <b>September 16-18</b> | 2013 ASA Biopharmaceutical Section FDA-Industry Statistics<br>Workshop—Washington, DC |
| <b>October 9-11</b>    | 10 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Health Policy Statistics—Chicago,<br>IL  |
| <b>November 4-6</b>    | 2013 FCSM Research Conference—Washington, DC                                          |

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**UPCOMING JSM 2013 EVENTS    **NEW!****

*Submitted by Eric Rancourt (GSS Program Chair) and Deborah Griffin (SSS Program Chair)*

The sessions begin on Sunday, August 4 at 2:00 pm and the final sessions are on Thursday, August 8 at 10:30 am. We've summarized the GSS and SSS-sponsored invited (I) and topic contributed (TC) sessions by date and time to help you plan your week. The

room location is bolded, CC is the convention center; I is the Intercontinental. In partnership with the Survey Research Methods Section, our sections sponsor a student paper competition each year. We also listed the winning student papers (SP) – try to stop by these sessions and show your support for their work. This calendar also reminds you of the section business meetings in **bold**. This is a great place to network with other section members.

Create your own program by going to [www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2013/onlineprogram](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2013/onlineprogram) where you can review the full set of sessions, including many interesting contributed paper and poster sessions sponsored by our sections.

#### **SUNDAY (August 4)**

**2:00** The Undercount of Young Children in the Official Statistics – *William P. O'Hare, National Science Foundation/ASA/Census Bureau* (I) – **CC-516b**

Matching for Balance, Pairing for Heterogeneity in an Observational Study of the Effectiveness of For-Profit and Not-For-Profit High Schools in Chile — *Jose Zubizarreta, The Wharton School, U. of Pennsylvania* (SP) – **CC-514c**

**4:00** The 2013 Current Population Survey ASEC Field Test – *Edward Welniak, Census Bureau* (TC) – **CC-520a**

Robust Inference in Social Science with Wrong but Useful Models – *David Ross Judkins, Abt Associates* (TC) – **CC-520c**

**8:30** Complex Data Analysis and High-dimensional Computing: Methods and Applications – *Joyee Ghosh, The University of Iowa; Mimi Kim, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Nancy J. Peterson, Department of Veterans Affairs* (I-Poster) – **CC-517cd**

#### **MONDAY (August 5)**

**8:30** Hurricanes, damned hurricanes, and statistics – *Allison Plyer, Greater New Orleans Community Data Center* (TC) – **CC-510a**

Enhancing Respondent Representativeness through Responsive Design and External Benchmarks — *Shin-Jung Lee, University of Michigan* (SP) – **CC-510c**

Aerial-Access Creel Surveys with Incomplete Matching of Aerial and Access Components — *Audrey Béliveau, Simon Fraser University* (SP) – **CC-512d**

**10:30** Design and Adjustment Challenges in Modern Surveys – *Denise A. Abreu, USDA/NASS* (TC) – **CC-515a**

Toward Better Statistical Methods for Causal Inference – *Zhiqiang Tan, Rutgers University* (I) – **CC-516a**

**2:00** Graphical Approaches for Survey Data – *Wendy L. Martinez, Bureau of Labor Statistics (I)* – **CC-524a**

**5:30 Social Statistics Section Business Meeting (I - Les Huitres)**

**TUESDAY (August 6)**

**8:30** New Developments in the Use of Smartphones for Survey Research – *Robert Santos, The Urban Institute (I)* – **CC-511f**

Bayesian Modeling of Populations – *Peter W. F. Smith, University of Southampton (TC)* – **CC-512e**

**10:30** Measuring Relationships in U.S. Federal Household Surveys – *Brian A. Harris-Kojetin, Office of Management and Budget (I)* – **CC-515b**

An Innovative Multiple Imputation Method to Accommodate Complex Sample Design Features — *Hanzhi Zhou, University of Michigan (SP)* – **CC-511f**

**2:00** Using School Lotteries to Evaluate the Value-Added Model — *Jonah Deutsch, University of Chicago (SP)* – **CC-512f**

**5:30 Government Statistics Section Business Meeting (I-Saint Louis)**

**WEDNESDAY (August 7)**

**8:30** Elicitation of Data Users' Utility Functions and Prior Information in Work with Large-Scale Data Collection for Government Agencies – *John Eltinge, Bureau of Labor Statistics (I)* – **CC-511a**

Administrative Records Use for Health Insurance Research – *Sonya Rastogi (TC)* – **CC-514b**

**10:30** Administrative Records Quality, Coverage, and Applications for Surveys and Censuses – *Sonya Rastogi, Census Bureau (TC)* – **CC-518**

**2:00** Would the Real Steve Fienberg Please Stand Up: Getting to Know a Population from Multiple Incomplete Files – *Rebecca C. Steorts, Carnegie Mellon University (I)* – **CC-520d**

Record linkage Research and Applications – *Michael D. Larsen, The George Washington University (TC)* – **CC-520f**

**THURSDAY (August 8)**

**8:30** Evolution of Federal Statistical Agency Disclosure Review Boards – *Eve E. Powell-Griner, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC (TC)* – **CC-525a**

New Paradigms for Missing Data Methods in Social and Economic Surveys – *Yves Thibaudeau (TC)* – **CC-520b**

Real-World Approaches to the Knotty Problems of Outliers, Faulty Values and Covariates in Complex Sampling Designs – *Andrea Lamas, USDA/NASS (TC)* – **CC-522bc**

**10:30** Dynamic Modeling in Tobacco Control Policy –*Antonio Paredes, Food and Drug Administration (TC)* – **CC-512c**

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**CALL FOR INVITED GSS SESSION SUBMISSIONS FOR 2014 JSM**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Grace O'Neill (GSS Program Chair-Elect)*

Government and Social Statistics Sections issue a Call for Invited Session Submission for 2014 Joint Statistical Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

With JSM 2013 only a month away, it is time to start thinking about invited sessions for next year's JSM in Boston. Invited sessions focus on broad topics in the field of statistics that are of interest to members of the different sections, including Government and Social Statistics.

Invited sessions are 110 minutes in length and can be panel discussions or talks. **Invited Panel** sessions consist of three to six people who provide commentary, discussion, and engaging debate on a particular topic. **Invited Paper** sessions consist of two to six people, including speakers and discussant.

A Call for Invited Sessions will appear in the July issue of Amstat News and online submission will run from July 18-September 5, 2013.

Most invited sessions start from proposals put together by members, like you. So think big and submit your proposal including a title, brief abstract or rationale for the session and a list of participants by September 5<sup>th</sup>!

Please email Grace O'Neill ([Grace.ONeill@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:Grace.ONeill@samhsa.hhs.gov)) or Mike Sinclair ([Sinclair-Mike@NORC.org](mailto:Sinclair-Mike@NORC.org)) with any questions or suggestions.

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**COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ON FEDERAL STATISTICS: JUNE 2013 MEETING PRESENTATIONS** **NEW!**

*Submitted by Steven Paben (COPAFS Representative-GSS)*

On Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, COPAFS held their quarterly meeting.

Panel of Statistical Agency Officials on 2013 and 2014 Budget Implications

Tom Mesenbourg, Acting Director, Bureau of the Census

John Galvin, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics

William Sabol, Acting Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Marilyn Seastrom, Chief Statistician, National Center for Education Statistics

Joe Reilly, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Thomas Williams, Assistant Administrator, Energy Information Agency

Charles Rothwell, Acting Director, National Center for Health Statistics

The morning had a panel of statistical agency officials that discussed the effects of sequestration on the 2013 budgets for their agencies and the outlook for their agencies in the President's budget request for 2014.

Panel of Congressional Staff on the Use of Federal Statistics and Outlook for Statistical Agencies

Kim Kowalewski, Deputy Assistant Director for Macroeconomic Analysis, Congressional Budget Office

Jeffrey Post, Professional Staff, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

This was followed by the use of federal statistics by the CBO and congressional staff. Jeffrey Post, professional staff member for Chairman Darrel Issa for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, quickly depressed the room when he opened by stating he "did not think sequestration would end any time soon."

The Committee on National Statistics *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency - Fifth Edition* – **Connie Citro**, Committee on National Statistics, The National Academies

In the afternoon, Connie Citro provided a brief history and overview of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Committee on National Statistics, which conducts workshops and convenes panels of experts to address statistical matters.

On the Census Undercount of Young Children – **Bill O'Hare**, O'Hare Data and Demographic Services

This was followed by Bill O'Hare analyzing why young children have been historically undercounted in the Census.

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**GSS/SSS MEMBERS SELECTED AS 2013 ASA FELLOWS    NEW!**

*Submitted by Rick Peterson (ASA Staff Liason)*

**Patrick J. Cantwell**, *U.S. Census Bureau*

For outstanding contributions to the design of household, business and coverage-evaluation surveys and for service to the profession

**Thomas E. Love**, *Case Western Reserve University*

For exemplary service and significant leadership in the statistical community, for notable contributions to statistical education, and for extensive collaborative efforts in clinical and health services research

**Alfredo Navarro**, *U.S. Census Bureau*

For significant contributions to the production of estimates of major national importance for monitoring the social and economic status of the U.S. population through the management,

statistical design, and operation of the American Community Survey and for notable leadership contributions to educating the public on the use of the American Community Survey data

**Susan M. Paddock, *RAND Corporation***

For excellence in statistical consulting on public policy research, for integrating innovative statistical methodology with substantive problems of national healthcare policy, and for noteworthy service to the profession

**Polly Phipps, *Bureau of Labor Statistics***

For outstanding contributions to statistical methodology and survey design in the areas of nonresponse and bias reduction, for pioneering development and use of response analysis surveys and survey paradata, and for extensive service to the ASA

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**JEANNE E. GRIFFITH 2013 MENTORING AWARD WINNER    NEW!**

*Submitted by Kevin Cecco (Griffith Award Selection Committee)*

**The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award**

Jeanne E. Griffith worked for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her 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 junior staff to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along. After her death from breast cancer, the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was set up to honor Jeanne. The purpose of the Jeanne E. Griffith Award is to encourage mentoring of junior staff in the Federal statistical system. This is the eleventh year that the Jeanne E. Griffith award has honored mentors across the government. It is also the fifth year of transferring the oversight of the award selection to the ASA Government Statistics Section. This year's awardee is **Brian Harris-Kojetin** from the Office of Management and Budget.

**The Award Winner: Brian Harris-Kojetin, Office of Management and Budget**

Brian is a senior statistician in the Statistical and Science Policy office at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President. Brian has received degrees from the University of Denver and the University of Minnesota where he studied psychology and statistics. Prior to working at OMB, Brian spent several years teaching psychology and then as a research psychologist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and as a senior project leader at the Arbitron Company. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, Chair of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, and has held leadership roles in several other professional associations.

At the OMB, Brian has the unique ability to see across the Federal statistical community and identify mid-career staff to teach, coach, and mentor about their role in that community. Whether it is a new position, a detail, or a new interagency committee, Brian is always identifying connections between interests and individuals and helping them to connect successfully. As a mentor, Brian seems to know instinctively when to apply pressure and when to offer an encouraging smile.

### Sponsoring the Award

The GSS continues looking ahead to the long term and expanding our sponsorship. The National Opinion Research Center (NORC), Westat, COPAFS, the American Educational Research Association, and the American Institutes for Research joined the GSS in providing financial support for the award. Our other sponsors for 2013 include the ASA Social Statistics Section, the Washington Statistical Society, and the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy. We are seeking corporate sponsors in order to promote this outstanding award for years to come. Please contact Kevin Cecco at [kevin.cecco@irs.gov](mailto:kevin.cecco@irs.gov) if you would like to be a supporter.

For more information about the nominating process for the 2013 award, please go to: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform13.doc> or <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform13.pdf>. If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at [rick@amstat.org](mailto:rick@amstat.org) or (703) 684-1221, and **Kevin Cecco** at [kevin.cecco@irs.gov](mailto:kevin.cecco@irs.gov) or 202-874-0464.

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**WRAY JACKSON SMITH 2013 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER      NEW!**

*Submitted by Polly Phipps (Wray Jackson Smith Award Selection Committee)*

Yuning (Jess) Chen, a doctoral student in Economics at American University, is the winner of the 2013 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship.

Jess earned her Bachelors in English at Southwestern Christian University in 2009. She then attended the University of Oklahoma, where she studied advanced math and statistics. In August 2010, she began her PhD program in Economics at American University. Her advisors applaud her statistical skill, hard work, initiative, and professionalism.

Jess has contributed her knowledge of mathematical statistics, survey design and data analysis to several on-going international economic research projects. As a research fellow at the International Economic Development Council, Jess conducts economic development research funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Energy Foundation. As a research assistant at American University, she digitizes data from Depression-era bankruptcy records stored at the National Archives of Atlanta through funding from the National Science Foundation.

Her dissertation employs spatial analysis methods to detect possible geographic clusters of Hodgkin's lymphoma in the United States. To do this, she proposes to derive and implement a new test statistic, or local indicator of spatial association, to detect local clusters of Hodgkin's disease using data from the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). A restricted-use dataset, Jess will access these data through an onsite data user agreement with the National Center for Health Statistics.

Jess plans to use the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship to defray some of the costs of her graduate school tuition as she completes her dissertation.

Members of the 2013 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee are: Polly Phipps (Chair), Linda Gage, and Jennifer Park. Join us in congratulating Jess on her accomplishment.

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**2013 ROGER HERRIOT AWARD WINNER      NEW!**

*Submitted by Jill Montaquila (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.

The 2013 recipient of the Roger Herriot Award is The 1973 Current Population Survey (CPS)-Internal Revenue Service (IRS)-Social Security Administration (SSA) Exact Match Study. The 1973 Exact Match Study was a joint undertaking of the SSA and the Census Bureau that linked survey records for persons in the March 1973 CPS to their respective earnings and benefit information in SSA administrative records and to selected items from their 1972 IRS individual income tax returns. The following list recognizes some of the key contributors to this effort:

SSA: Bertram Kestenbaum, Fritz Scheuren, Wendy Alvey, Beth Kilss, Faye Aziz Miner, Ben Bridges, Linda delBene, Henry Ezell, Tom Jabine, Andy Novotny, H Lock Oh, Dorothy Projector, Cress Smith, Barbara Tyler, Denny Vaughan, Linda Vogel

IRS: Peter Sailer, Mike Strudler, Mike Weber

Census Bureau: John Coder, Doug Sater, Matt Jaro, Dick Irwin, Jerry Gates, Chuck Nelson, Ed Welniak, Bill Winkler

Other Federal/Non-Federal: Joan Turek, Terry Ireland, Eleanor Singer, Don Rubin, John Leyes, Martha Smith Fair

Deceased: Joe Steinberg, Roger Herriot, Jack Carroll, Warren Buckler, Wray Smith, Emmett Spiers, Richard Wehrly, Mollie Orshansky, Dan Radner, Joe Knott, Maria Elena Gonzalez



## 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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**2012 GSS CORPORATE SPONSORS**

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## 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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