

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

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

|                        |                                                      |                  |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>September 3</b>     | JSM 2016 Invited Session Proposals                   | <b>DEADLINE!</b> |
| <b>September 16-18</b> | ASA Biopharmaceutical Section Statistics Workshop    |                  |
| <b>September 19-22</b> | International Total Survey Error Conference          |                  |
| <b>October 7-9</b>     | International Conference on Health Policy Statistics |                  |
| <b>December 1-3</b>    | FCSM Research Conference                             |                  |

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**ICES-V Call for Topic-Contributed Sessions, Contributed Papers, and Posters** **NEW!**  
*Submitted by Polly Phipps (ICES-V Program Committee)*

ICES-V, the fifth in the series of International Conferences on Establishment Surveys, is designed to look at the key issues and methods pertaining to establishment surveys. We

invite you to submit a proposal and abstracts for a topic-contributed session, an abstract for a contributed paper, or an abstract for a poster. Submissions are due 25 September 2015. All submissions will be reviewed and submitters notified by 31 October 2015 whether their submissions have been accepted.

#### *Types of Contributed Sessions*

Topic contributed paper sessions generally consist of four 20-minute oral presentations on related topics, arranged by a session organizer, followed by a 15–20-minute floor discussion. Variations on the format are allowed (e.g., four 20-minute oral presentations, a 10-minute formal discussion in which a discussant draws out the main themes and addresses questions to the authors, and a 5–10-minute floor discussion). Any variation from standard structure should be explained in the submission template.

Regular-contributed papers are single 20-minute oral presentations. They are organized by the ICES-V Program Committee into sessions consisting of four 20-minute oral presentations followed by a 15–20-minute floor discussion.

Poster presentations are organized by the ICES-V Program Committee into sessions consisting of a set of topic-related posters. Presenters will be designated a time to present their poster to interested conference attendees. Regular-contributed paper abstracts not placed in a regular-contributed paper session will be considered for a poster presentation session. Authors will be notified if this occurs.

#### *Submission of Proposals and Abstracts*

Submission for topic-contributed sessions, contributed papers, and posters opens on 1 June 2015 and closes 25 September 2015. The ICES-V website provides detailed instructions and guidelines for submissions: <http://www.portal-stat.admin.ch/ices5/submission/>.

Regular-contributed paper and poster presentation submitters need to submit an abstract. To assist the ICES-V Program Committee in grouping contributed papers and poster presentations into cohesive sessions, submitters will need to choose a topic from the topic list in the online submission process that best describes their presentation.

Organizers of topic-contributed sessions are asked to submit a proposal describing in detail the session topic, why it is important, and include all the names of session presenters/discussant. The Program Committee requests topic-contributed session organizers provide sufficient information to clearly demonstrate the importance of the topic and the session contribution. We strongly encourage topic-contributed session proposals that incorporate presenters and perspectives from different countries, data collection agencies or departments.

The proposal should be based on the Contributed Topic Session Proposal Template available at the link above and should be submitted to: [ices-v.contributed@bfs.admin.ch](mailto:ices-v.contributed@bfs.admin.ch). In addition, each topic-contributed presenter in the session needs to submit an abstract through the online submission process.

#### *Possible Topics for Topic-Contributed Sessions, Contributed Papers, and Posters*

- Creating and maintaining business registers
- Measuring the informal economy
- Questionnaire design for establishment surveys
- Maximizing establishment survey participation
- New technologies and methods for data collection
- Using administrative data in establishment surveys
- Sample design and estimation challenges
- Survey processing systems for establishment surveys
- Nonresponse, editing and imputation
- Confidentiality issues in establishment data
- Data science – usage and integration of different data sources
- Treatment of economic time series
- Quality, costs and timeliness of establishment statistics
- Management of business surveys and production of business statistics
- Producing establishment statistics in developing countries
- Globalisation and effects of establishment data collections

*Timeline for Topic-Contributed Sessions, Contributed Papers, and Posters*

<b>1 June 2015</b>	Submissions open
<b>25 September 2015</b>	Submissions close
<b>31 October 2015</b>	Notification of acceptance or rejection of submission
<b>20-23 June 2016</b>	ICES-V conference, Geneva, Switzerland
<b>30 September 2016</b>	Closing date for submission of final paper for proceedings

Contributed session inquiries may be directed to: [ices-v.contributed@bfs.admin.ch](mailto:ices-v.contributed@bfs.admin.ch).

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**CALL FOR 2016 JSM INVITED SESSIONS**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Craig Hill (2016 SSS Program Chair) and Morgan Earp (2016 GSS Program Chair)*

Now that you have returned home from Seattle and shaken off the jetlag, it's time to begin building our program for next year... The theme for JSM 2016 is "The Extraordinary Power of Statistics," so we hope to have some sessions that speak to the extraordinary power of social statistics.

Each of our sections have been allotted three invited sessions for next year. Invited sessions are 110 minutes in length, have a session chair, and typically include 2–6 participants (including the chair). Two of the most popular and successful formats are: 2–3 speakers with a discussant OR a panel discussion with 3–5 panelists. For more information about invited sessions at JSM 2016, you can refer to the call:

<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2015/07/01/jsm-2016-invited-session-proposals-sought/>.

To have your session proposal considered, submit online at

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2016/invitedsessions.cfm>. The submission site is open now through Thursday, September 3, 2015 (11:59 p.m. Eastern, 9:59 p.m. Pacific). Note: All

invited session proposal submissions for our ASA section should be submitted as “competition.”

Detailed information needed to submit an invited session proposal is provided below. If you encounter any problems with the online system, please contact Naomi Friedman at [naomi@amstat.org](mailto:naomi@amstat.org). You will need to have the following information to submit your session proposal online:

1. Session Type (invited)
2. Session Subtype (e.g., paper or panel)
3. Primary Sponsor (Select Social Statistics Section from the pull-down menu provided)
4. Title of Session
5. Session Description – please provide the following information in this field:
  - Short description of session, including focus, content, timeliness, and appeal
  - Invited speakers/panelists, including affiliation and email address for each participant and tentative title for each presentation
  - Format of session (e.g., chair, three speakers, and discussant)
  - No abstracts are required for submission at this time
6. Theme (yes or no): Designate if the session has topics relevant to the JSM theme
7. Applied (yes or no): Designate if the session has topics relevant, or will have special appeal, to applied statisticians
8. Estimated audience size: Select the estimated audience size the session will attract
9. Session organizer, including affiliation and email address
10. Session chair, including affiliation and email address
11. Discussant (if any), including affiliation and email address

Please contact potential participants before submitting a proposal, as they already may have committed to participating in another session at JSM 2016. There are participation guidelines and restrictions regarding the number of times and in what capacity one can participate in the program: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2016/guidelines.cfm>.

We may request further details about the session by mid-September 2015 and ask that you adhere to all subsequent deadlines for invited sessions.

Should you have questions or wish to have further discussions regarding JSM and invited sessions, please contact the appropriate program chair at [chill@rti.org](mailto:chill@rti.org) or [earp.morgan@bls.gov](mailto:earp.morgan@bls.gov). Thank you for your interest, and we hope to hear from you with a submission by **September 3, 2015**.

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**GSS DATA CHALLENGE 2015 WINNERS**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Wendy Martinez (GSS Section Chair)*

The Government Statistics Section sponsored their first Data Challenge in 2015, and it was a huge success! The contest was open to anyone, including college students and professionals from the private or public sector. Participants were challenged to analyze

the U.S. Census Bureau's tract and block Planning Databases using any statistical and/or visualization tools and methods.

We had eight contestants for the Data Challenge 2015, and we want to thank all of them for participating. All of the entries were very good, which made it very difficult to choose the winners. Congratulations to our winners who are listed below.

*Professional Contestant:* Tailoring Outreach to Boost Mail Self-Response in Geographic Areas with Similar Low Response Rates, Darryl Creel, RTI.

*Student Contestants:* Census Tract-Level Disparities: Examining Food Swamps and Food Deserts, Lucy D'Agostino McGowan and Alice Toll, Vanderbilt University.

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**JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD WINNER**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Lillian Lin and Carol House (Jeanne E. Griffith Award Selection Committee)*

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring award recognizes individuals working in federal, state, and local government statistical agencies for their efforts in mentoring junior staff. Dr. Aldo "Skip" Vecchia, a senior statistician at the US Geological Survey, is the 2015 winner. Read all about the award ceremony, which was held at the Bureau of Labor Statistics in June.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring award honors Dr. Griffith who died in 2001, after working for more than 25 years in the federal statistical system. The award acknowledges supervisors, technical directors, and other team members who make unique efforts to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities. The award includes a plaque and a \$1000 honorarium.

The award committee will begin accepting nominations for the 2016 award this fall. Anna Nevius and Kevin Cecco will co-chair the committee. Watch this space and the GSS website for details. Consider nominating someone who has made a difference in your professional development!

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**STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION WINNERS**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Matt Jans (SSS Publications Officer)*

The 2015 winners are:

- Peng Ding, Harvard University, "Randomization Inference for Treatment Effect Variation"
- Maryclare Griffin, University of Washington, "Assessing Feasibility of Respondent Driven Sampling Using Pilot Data with an Application to Older Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Adults"
- Jingchen Monika Hu, Duke University, "Dirichlet Process Mixture Models for Nested Unordered Categorical Data"

- Dandan Liao, University of Maryland, “Adapting Threshold Regression to Analyzing Survival Data Collected in Complex Surveys”
- Yenny Webb-Vargas, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, “An Imputation-Based Solution to Using Mismeasured Covariates in Propensity Score Analysis”

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**2015 ELECTION RESULTS**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Matt Jans (SSS Publications Officer) and Wendy Martinez (GSS Section Chair)*

**SSS**

Chair-elect: Jennifer Cheeseman Day (U.S. Census Bureau)  
Program Chair-elect: Melissa Scopilliti (U.S. Census Bureau)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Margaret Kelly (UIUC)  
SSS Representative: Brian Harris-Kojetin (NAS)

**GSS**

Chair-elect: Amy O’Hara (U.S. Census Bureau)  
Program Chair-elect: Michael Hawes (Department. of Education)  
COS Representative: Katherine (Jenny) Thompson (U.S. Census Bureau)

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**GSS DATA CHALLENGE 2016**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Wendy Martinez (GSS Section Chair)*

The Government Statistics Section will be sponsoring another data challenge for 2016. It will follow the same general format that we had in 2015 and will be open to college students and professionals. We will specify a public data set for analysis in September. Notifications for the contest will be sent to the GSS ASA community, and the information will also be published on the GSS website.

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**EXPANDING SOCIAL MEDIA USE**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Matt Jans (SSS Publications Officer)*

Follow our new Twitter feed [@SocStat\\_AMSTAT](#) and look for a Facebook group over the next year. As always, check our website for updated newsletters and other information.

## 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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