

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

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

**December**

- 1** JSM 2012 abstract submission opens
- 15** Deadline for JSM 2012 student paper competition

**January**

- 10-12** Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) research conference

**February**

- 1** JSM 2012 last day to submit an abstract (11:59 pm EST)
- 28** Nominations are due for 2013 Waksberg award

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PLANNING FOR JSM 2012: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS AND TO SUBMIT CONTRIBUTED SESSION ABSTRACTS **NEW!**

Submitted by Elizabeth Stuart, SSS 2012 Program Chair, and Daniell Toth, GSS 2012 Program Chair

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS

If you are going to attend the 2012 Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego (July 28 - August 2, 2012), you are invited to volunteer as a contributed session chair for SSS or GSS-sponsored sessions. To volunteer, please contact Elizabeth Stuart (SSS 2012 Program Chair, estuart@jhsph.edu) or Daniell Toth (GSS 2012 Program Chair, toth.daniell@bls.gov).

CALL TO SUBMIT CONTRIBUTED SESSION ABSTRACTS

The 2012 SSS and GSS program chairs encourage you to organize a contributed session and submit an abstract for the 2012 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). The theme of JSM 2012 will be “Statistics: Growing to Serve a Data-Dependent Society.” You can find a link to the JSM website here: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2012/index.cfm>.

There are two types of contributed sessions: regular and topic-contributed. Before you submit an abstract to ASA for a topic-contributed session, please contact Elizabeth Stuart (SSS 2012 Program Chair) or Daniell Toth (GSS 2012 Program Chair) at the email addresses above. They will keep track of the sessions SSS or GSS may either sponsor or co-sponsor. More information on the program is here: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2012/program.cfm>.

An important change this year is that registration for JSM will be required at the time you submit a contributed abstract (regular or topic-contributed).

TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSIONS

These sessions consist of a collection of contributed talks and discussions (if desired) that share a common topic. The sessions are 110 minutes in length. There must be five presentations (including discussants) of 20 minutes each, with 10 minutes at the end for floor discussion and concluding remarks by the session chair. There are three (3) format options for a topic-contributed paper session:

1. Five (5) papers
2. Four (4) papers and one (1) discussant
3. Three (3) papers and two (2) discussants

All speakers in a topic-contributed paper session **MUST** submit an abstract to the ASA office by February 1, 2012. On the abstract form, speakers should indicate that they are speaking in a topic-contributed session and give the name of the session organizer.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In the past, a few Sections have organized some topic-contributed sessions after the February 1st deadline using Regular Contributed submissions. This will **NOT** be permitted for 2012. Consequently, it is essential to begin organizing topic-contributed sessions well before the February 1, 2012 deadline. The period between October and December 2011 is the ideal time to organize such sessions.

TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED PANEL SESSIONS

These sessions are 110 minutes in length. The traditional panel discussion format is used, wherein a minimum of three and a maximum of five panelists provide commentary on a particular topic. Panels each require **ONE ABSTRACT** submitted by the organizer and received by February 1, 2012. As with any topic-contributed session, the topic-contributed panel organizer must coordinate efforts through the appropriate JSM Program Committee member.

TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED POSTER SESSIONS

Starting with JSM 2003, contributed poster sessions may include topic-contributed poster clusters. A topic-contributed poster cluster will contain approximately three to six posters on a given topic, with roughly the same degree of intellectual cohesion as as expected of a topic-contributed paper session. Either application, methodological, or theoretical themes may define the topics for a given cluster. Examples include:

- Analysis of Phase III Clinical Trials
- Seasonal Adjustment of Economic Time Series
- Analysis of Point Source Pollution Data
- CUSUM Charts
- Sequential Analysis
- Application of MCMC Methods to the Analysis of Complex Survey Data
- Calibration and Related Inverse Problems
- Empirical Processes

Topic-contributed poster clusters can provide a nice format in which several colleagues can present different perspectives on a statistical controversy, or can present side-by-side analyses of an especially challenging dataset. The posters within a cluster will be presented at the same time. Organization and submission of a topic-contributed poster cluster will follow the same pattern and timeline as used for a topic-contributed paper session.

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## **JSM 2012 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION    NEW!**

*Submitted by Eric Rancourt (GSS 2012 Program Chair-elect), Deborah Griffin (SSS 2012 Program Chair-elect), and Frauke Kreuter (SRMS 2012 Program Chair-elect)*

The Government Statistics, Social Statistics, and Survey Research Methods sections are pleased to announce a competition for student and post-graduate papers. Winning papers will be presented by the authors at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego, CA the week of July 28 - August 2, 2012. Approximately five awards will be granted. A subsidy of \$800 will be provided to each winner to cover JSM 2012 expenses.

To be eligible to participate you must be a current undergraduate or graduate student at any level, or a 2011 graduate who presents research conducted as a student. Faculty members are urged to encourage students to apply for these awards.

Papers entered in this competition must involve either a new statistical methodology, or a creative application of statistical analysis to a problem, issue, or policy question pertinent to the subject area of one of the sponsoring sections. The research does not have to be complete, but competitors must be able to submit an abstract prospectus that describes the planned research and nature of the intended innovation(s).

To apply, please send the materials requested below to:

- Eric Rancourt, (GSS 2012 Program Chair Elect, [Eric.Rancourt@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:Eric.Rancourt@statcan.gc.ca)),

- Deborah Griffin (SSS 2012 Program Chair Elect, [Deborah.H.Griffin@census.gov](mailto:Deborah.H.Griffin@census.gov)), and
  - Frauke Kreuter (SRMS 2012 Program Chair Elect, [Frauke.Kreuter@iab.de](mailto:Frauke.Kreuter@iab.de)),
- at the email addresses listed.

The application must include:

1. A cover letter with the applicant's name, current affiliation and status, and contact information (address, telephone, e-mail);
2. An abstract (300 words maximum);
3. A draft paper (if available); otherwise, a 3-page research prospectus; and
4. A letter from his/her adviser that certifies the applicant's status (e.g., current student or new graduate who completed the degree within the past year), and describes plans to complete the research.

All materials must be received by **5 PM EST, December 15, 2011**. Winners will be notified by mid-January 2012. Students may submit papers to no more than two (2) sections and may accept only one (1) section's award. Students must inform both sections applied to when he or she wins and accepts an award, thereby removing the student from the award competition for the second section.

More than twelve sections of ASA sponsor Student Paper Competition/Travel Awards to assist students with travel expenses to attend JSM. Beginning this year, the submission dates have been uniformly standardized. The submission deadline for all of the section competitions is December 15. ASA has created a portal page where students can see which sections sponsor Student Paper Competitions and links to the guidelines for each.

<http://www.amstat.org/sections/studentpaperawards.cfm>

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2013 WAKSBERG AWARD NEW!

Submitted by Mary Thompson, Chair, 2013 Waksberg Awards Committee

The journal *Survey Methodology* has established an annual invited paper series in honor of Joe Waksberg to recognize his contributions to survey methodology. Each year a prominent survey statistician is chosen to write a paper that reviews the development and current state of an important topic in the field of survey methodology. The paper reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterized Joe Waksberg's work.

The recipient of the Waksberg Award will receive an honorarium and give the 2013 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium to be held in the autumn of 2013. The paper will be published in a future issue of *Survey Methodology*.

The author of the 2013 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the American Statistical Association. Nomination of individuals to be considered as authors or suggestions for topics should be sent **before February 28, 2012** to the chair of the committee, Mary Thompson (methomps@uwaterloo.ca).

Previous Waksberg Award honorees and their invited papers are:

- 2001 Gad Nathan, "Telesurvey Methodologies for Household Surveys-A Review and Some Thoughts for the Future." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp.7-31.
- 2002 Wayne Fuller, "Regression Estimation for Survey Samples." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 5-23.
- 2003 David Holt, "Methodological Issues in the Development and Use of Statistical Indicators for International Comparisons." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 5-17.
- 2004 Norman Bradburn, "Understanding the Question-Answer Process." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 5-15.
- 2005 J.N.K Rao, "Interplay Between Sample Survey Theory and Practice: An Appraisal." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 117-138.
- 2006 Alastair Scott, "Population-Based Case Control Studies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 123-132.
- 2007 Carl-Erik Särndal, "The Calibration Approach in Survey Theory and Practice." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 99-119.
- 2008 Mary Thompson, "International surveys: Motives and Methodologies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 131-141.
- 2009 Graham Kalton, "Methods for Oversampling Rare Subpopulations in Social Surveys." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 35, No. 2, pp. 125-141.
- 2010 Ivan Fellegi, "The organisation of statistical methodology and methodological research in national statistical offices." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 36, no. 2., pp. 123-130.
- 2011 Danny Pfeffermann. "Modelling of complex survey data: Why is it a problem? How can we approach it?"
- 2012 Lars Lyberg, Manuscript topic under consideration

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY (FCSM)  
RESEARCH CONFERENCE    **NEW!****

**Dates:** January 10-12, 2012

**Location:** Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
801 Mount Vernon Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

The advance program for the upcoming FCSM Research Conference is set and registration is now open. The conference will consist of a plenary session with keynote speaker, Dr. Don Dillman from Washington State University, 36 paper sessions, and two technical demonstration sessions. The conference provides a forum for experts from around the world to discuss and exchange current statistical research and methodological issues. To register and to view the advance program, please visit the FCSM Web site: [www.fcsm.gov/events](http://www.fcsm.gov/events)

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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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2010 GSS CORPORATE SPONSORS

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor
Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS), National Science Foundation (NSF)
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Statistics of Income Division, Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
U.S. Census Bureau
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Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (formerly SRS), NSF

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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