

GSS/SSS NOVEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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**Government Statistics Section**

**NAT SCHENKER RECEIVES THE 2006 ROGER HERRIOT AWARD**

*By Daniel H Weinberg, Roger Herriot Award Committee*



Dr. **Nathaniel Schenker** of the National Center for Health Statistics has been awarded the *2006 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics*. The award is sponsored jointly by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS), and the Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA).

As his nomination letter makes clear, "Nat has made outstanding methodological contributions to the quality and analysis of statistical data for federal policy making, at the Census Bureau and at the National Center for Health Statistics." These methodological contributions include:

- statistical modeling (such as his work on bridging the transition from the 1977 single-race to the 1997 multiple-race standards for race reporting, including methods for estimating variability);

- the theory and practice of multiple imputation (such as his work on income for the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and on 1980-based industry and occupation codes for the 1970 decennial census);
- recall bias and optimal recall period (injury estimates from the NHIS);
- small area estimation (combining data from the NHIS and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System);
- coverage error estimation (for the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses);
- the assumptions behind bootstrap confidence intervals;
- handling missing predictors in survival analysis;
- inference based on confidence intervals.

Nat has also made important contributions to the statistical community in terms of editorial positions, conference planning, teaching at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, consulting for federal statisticians, service on panels and workshops, and service to ASA. One of his key qualities is the ability to produce innovative research while responding to real-world, time-sensitive problems faced by federal agencies. Nat received his Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Chicago in 1985.

Dr. Schenker will be presenting a seminar to the WSS at a later date.

The members of the 2006 selection committee were Lawrence Cox (chair), Brian Harris-Kojetin, and Daniel Weinberg. The call for 2007 nominations is below.

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HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

By Daniel H Weinberg, Roger Herriot Award Committee

Nominations are sought for the 2007 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career:

- Dedication to the issues of measurement;
- Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
- Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals at all levels within Federal statistical agencies, other government organizations, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2007 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with and strongly supportive of these organizations during his career. The award consists of a \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2007. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

The previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award are Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (NCHS), Constance Citro (CNStat), Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (Census Bureau), Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau), and Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS).

Nominations for the 2007 award will be accepted beginning in February 2007. Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that should include references to specific examples of the nominee's contributions to innovation in Federal statistics. These contributions can be to methodology, procedure, organization, administration, or other areas of Federal statistics, and need not have been made by or while a Federal employee.
- Up to six additional letters in support that demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
- A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for the 2006 award, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Daniel Weinberg, Chair, 2007 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301 763-5791 or Daniel.H.Weinberg@census.gov. Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2007. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are encouraged.

Alternately, nominations may be mailed to:

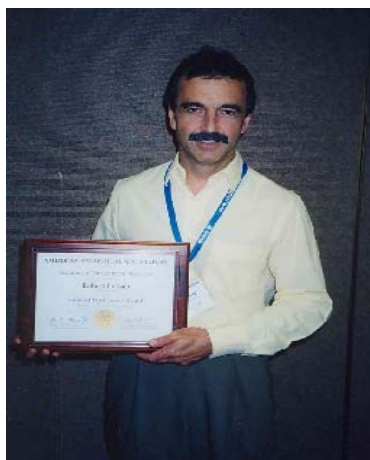
Dr. Daniel H. Weinberg
Chief, Center for Economic Statistics
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-6300

ROBERT LUSSIER RECEIVES THE PAT DOYLE AWARD IN 2006

By Stephanie Shipp, Government Statistics Section Chair

The Executive Committee of the Government Statistics Section (GSS) created the Pat Doyle Award in 2005 as a tribute to Pat's dedication to the statistical field and the GSS during her lifetime. Pat died slightly more than a year ago and left her imprints on an astonishingly wide range of projects and activities in the U.S. federal statistical community. The award is given to a person who contributes to the GSS in a way that leaves a lasting impact on GSS and ASA.

A panel, made up of Stephanie Shipp, current chair; Chet Bowie, past GSS chair; and Steve Cohen, in-coming GSS chair, selected **Robert Lussier** as the second recipient of the award.



Robert, who works at Statistics Canada, is the Publications Officer for GSS. In this position, he did an extraordinary job in organizing GSS to submit articles to every issue of *Amstat News* during 2005 and 2006. He created an electronic newsletter and worked closely with the GSS Newsletter editor, Pat Melvin, and with the Social Statistics Section (SSS) publications officer, Beth Kilss, to ensure that an up-to-date and interesting newsletter was sent out every month to all GSS and SSS members.

A plaque was given to Robert during the GSS annual business meeting at the 2006 JSM in Seattle. In his acceptance remarks, Robert stated that he is honored to receive this award, and although he did not know Pat personally, he knew of her reputation and contributions to GSS and ASA.

Social Statistics Section

THE THREE R'S

by Beth Kilss, Publications Officer

It's fall, the leaves have turned, the air is crisp, and our children and grandchildren are well into the 2006-2007 school year. When I was a kid, I learned a song written in the early 20th century by Gus Edwards and Will Cobb called "School Days (When We Were a Couple of Kids)" with a verse that started out like this, "School days, school days, dear old golden rule days. Readin' and 'ritin', and 'rithmetic, taught to the tune of a hick'ry stick." The three R's – reading, writing, and arithmetic have long been considered the fundamentals of elementary education. During the Roosevelt administration and The New Deal, the three R's meant relief, recovery, and reform. Today, environmentalists promote their own three R's – reduce, reuse, and recycle. To me, the three R's will always be readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic, not only fundamentals of elementary education, but also of many academic and professional pursuits.

So what do the three R's have to do with this column, which provides information about the Social Statistics Section (SSS) of ASA? Well, I am borrowing the three R's to provide some reminders to our membership and all others who may read this column about upcoming section-sponsored activities and important deadlines.

Readin'

Nearly 2 years ago, my counterpart in the Government Statistics Section (GSS) suggested that our sections' joint semiannual newsletter be produced monthly and disseminated electronically instead of just in hardcopy. Since March 2005 when we launched this joint GSS/SSS effort, SSS members have been able to read the latest information about the activities the section sponsors, including, but not limited to, updates on plans for the annual Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM); announcements about other upcoming conferences, workshops and seminars; information on deadlines for award nominations or scholarships applications; and people news.

If you're reading this article and are not an SSS member, but are considering joining, current and back issues of our newsletter may be accessed from either the Social Statistics or Government Statistics Section Web sites at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/> and <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>, respectively.

And, of course, don't forget to check out this column each month in *Amstat News* (except September). We are committed to keeping you informed about our Section's activities and involvement in the annual Joint Statistical Meetings.

'Ritin'

Planning for JSM 2007 is well underway by our 2007 Program Chair Allen Schirm (aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com). In addition to Allen's efforts, it takes folks like you, our membership, to write the papers that get organized into invited, topic-contributed, or contributed sessions. Invited session proposals were submitted this past summer in June and July; invited session abstracts are currently being submitted online; and the invited program will be finalized in mid-December. Soon, online submission of contributed abstracts and speaker registration opens (**December 1**), with a mail-in deadline of **January 22, 2007**, and an online submission deadline of **February 1, 2007**. Those dates are rapidly approaching, so don't delay. If you're interested in organizing a topic-contributed session, please be sure to contact Allen! Also, see below for more information on topic-contributed poster presentations and topic-contributed paper and panel sessions.

Another important upcoming writing reminder is the **2007 Student Paper Competition**. The Social Statistics, Government Statistics, and Survey Research Methods Sections are co-sponsors of this annual competition for student and postgraduate papers, which will be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Salt Lake City, Utah, sometime during the conference dates of July 29 - August 2, 2007. At least five awards will be granted. Winning papers are presented by the authors at a session of the meeting and are recognized at the Sections' business meetings. A subsidy of up to \$800 is provided to each winner in order to cover JSM 2007 expenses. So don't delay -- **Apply by December 15, 2006**. For more information, go to <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>.

'Rithmetic

Whatever your profession in the field of Statistics, you know the importance of numbers. Many people rely on your understanding of them and continually honing your skills is central to your career. The Continuing Education (CE) courses offered at the Joint Statistical Meetings is one way to keep current in statistical theory, methods, applications, and much, much more.

At JSM 2006, the Social Statistics Section co-sponsored, along with the Government Statistics and Survey Research Methods Sections, its first Continuing Education course. The course, "Statistical Demography with Applications" was taught by Bruce D. Spencer, Northwestern University, and Juha M. Alho, University of Joensuu. When I contacted Dr. Spencer recently about teaching his first CE course at JSM, he was most enthusiastic about the experience and felt it was a great success.

With one CE course under our belt, the Social Statistics Section Board may sponsor or co-sponsor other courses in the future. But again, we need you, our members, to step forward and offer your talents to this worthwhile activity or recommend topics for courses you'd like to see offered. Your suggestions are most welcome! We also always encourage members to check out the CE course offerings each year at the Joint Statistical Meetings.

For more information on CE Courses for JSM 2007, check out the Continuing Education site at:
<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2007/index.cfm?fuseaction=ce>.

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**SOCIAL STATISTICS MEMBERS: Don't forget these deadlines ~~**

- **2007 ASA Fellows Nomination Package:** Contact: Dan Weinberg ([daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov](mailto:daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov))  
**Deadline: March 1, 2007, to ASA**
- **Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award:** Contact: Ed Spar at COPAFS ([copafs@aol.com](mailto:copafs@aol.com))  
**Deadline: April 1, 2007**
- **Roger Herriot Award:** Contact: Dan Weinberg ([daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov](mailto:daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov))  
Completed packages must be received by **April 1, 2007**
- **Wray Jackson Smith Memorial Award:** Contact: Juanita T. Lott ([juanita.t.lott@census.gov](mailto:juanita.t.lott@census.gov))  
**Deadline: April 15, 2007**

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**CONSIDER ORGANIZING A GSS OR SSS TOPIC CONTRIBUTED SESSION FOR JSM 2007:
ALSO NEW CHANGES FOR POSTER SESSIONS!**

By Robie Sangster, 2007 GSS Program Chair, and Allen Schirm, 2007 SSS Program Chair

It is time to think about your options for presentations for JSM 2007 in Salt Lake City, July 29 - August 2, 2007 at the Salt Palace Convention Center. We would like to encourage you to think about organizing a topic contributed poster presentation or a topic contributed paper and panel session. **Online submissions begin December 1, 2006, and close on February 1, 2007.**

The first option is to organize a **topic contributed poster presentation**. This year the goal is to change how we think about the poster sessions. Here are some of the new features:

- Posters will remain on display for an entire day, from 8am to 6pm on Monday and Tuesday, and from 8am to 2pm on Wednesday. Poster presenters will be expected to be present at the poster during an assigned 110-minute time slot, but attendees can see the poster at any time during the day.
- Posters will be displayed in a prominent, easy-to-access location, adjacent to the exhibit hall.
- The JSM program will refer to these as poster *presentations* rather than as simply posters, in an effort to emphasize that presenters really do present and not simply prepare their posters, and also to advertise poster presentations as equally prestigious to paper presentations.

The second option is to organize a **topic contributed session (panel or papers)**. This option allows for a themed session and provides more time for the speakers. Topics contributed sessions tend to be well attended since they focus on a single or a set of related topics. It is also a great way to meet people working in an area of interest to you. The instructions for topic contributed sessions are listed below.

Please let us know if we can be of any help (Sangster_R@bls.gov, Phone: 202-691-7517); aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com, Phone: 202-484-4686).

TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS

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:

- a) Five (5) papers
- b) Four (4) papers and one (1) discussant
- c) Three (3) papers and two (2) discussants

Topic-Contributed sessions can be organized as early as Invited sessions. Proposed invited sessions that do not receive invited sessions slots can be converted into Topic-Contributed sessions.

All speakers in a Topic-Contributed paper session **MUST** pre-register and submit an abstract to the ASA office by **February 1, 2007**. On the abstract form, speakers should indicate that they are speaking in a Topic-Contributed session and give the name of the session organizer. In addition, speakers must submit a draft manuscript by **May 10, 2007**, or risk being removed from the program.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In the past, a few Sections have organized some Topic-Contributed sessions after the February 1 deadline using Regular Contributed submissions. The JSM now actively discourages this practice, which will be allowed only under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., to fill out a proposed Topic-Contributed session that is missing only one required paper or discussant). Consequently, it is essential for Sections to encourage their members to begin organizing Topic-Contributed sessions well before the **February 1, 2007**, deadline. The period between October and December 2006 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 be received by **February 1, 2007**. All panelists must be registered first in order to be added to the abstract. All panelists will be listed as presenting and corresponding authors. As with any Topic-Contributed session, the Topic-Contributed panel organizer must coordinate efforts through the appropriate JSM Program Committee member.

TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED POSTERS: Effective since 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 is 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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## **FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY (FCSM) STATISTICAL POLICY SEMINAR -- EIGHTH IN A SERIES**

**Seminar Eight:** Keeping Current: What We Know - What We Need To Learn

**Hosted by:** The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)

**When:** November 28-29, 2006

**Keynote Address:** Kenneth Prewitt, Columbia University

Location and Cost: L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington D.C. 20024  
To Reserve a Room Call: 202-484-1000

Seminar Registration Cost: \$195.00 per person

Registration Form can be downloaded from our site at: [www.copafs.org](http://www.copafs.org)

**For Further Information, Contact the COPAFS Office at:** Phone: 703-836-0404; Email: [copafs@aol.com](mailto:copafs@aol.com)

Full article is available in the *October 2006 Newsletter* at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>

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THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESTABLISHMENT SURVEYS (ICES-III)*

The Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III) will be held in Montréal, Québec, Canada, June 18-21, 2007. ICES-III will explore the current state of the art in survey methodology. In 1993, ICES-I brought together more than 400 survey experts in the areas of businesses, farms, and institutions. ICES-II, in 2000, took a forward look at survey methods.

The conference will include:

- A selection of invited, topic-contributed, and contributed sessions
- Short courses on June 18
- A keynote speaker and reception on the evening of June 18
- Poster sessions and software demonstrations
- A closing dinner with a panel presentation on the evening of June 21

Approximately 500 participants are expected. Following the conference, a collection of conference papers on CD-ROM will be sent to all participants.

Conference activities will be held at the Hyatt Regency Montréal. The Hyatt Regency Montréal web site is <http://montreal.hyatt.com>. (Hotel reservations can be made starting on March 1, 2007.)

For further information, please send an email message to ices3@census.gov. The official language of the conference is English. Translators will not be provided.

***CALL FOR ICES-III SESSION CHAIRS:**

In order to encourage global participation in the upcoming Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-3), the Program Committee requests volunteers to serve as session chairs.

A session chair is responsible for running a contributed paper session, introducing presenters, and ensuring that the session stays on schedule by monitoring the timing of each presentation. In addition, the session chair should also serve as the moderator for the question and answer period of each session, engaging participation and encouraging discussion. The session chair may also assist with coordinating presentation slides and materials, if needed.

Please volunteer by e-mailing the Program Committee at ICES3@census.gov by Wednesday, December 20, 2006. Preference in assignments will be given to volunteers who are not participating elsewhere on the ICES-3 program.

Thank you. On behalf of the ICES-III Program Committee,

Frank Yu
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Diane Willimack
U.S. Census Bureau

***CALL FOR SOFTWARE DEMONSTRATIONS AT ICES-III
DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2006**

The Demonstrations: Since 2000, when the second ICES was held, many processing systems have been developed by statistical agencies or software organizations around the globe. Therefore, ICES III is setting aside a room for demonstrating software used in establishment surveys. These demonstrations should target live processing of data and be able to adapt to the interests of specific audiences. Inflexible slide shows or presentations are discouraged. Proposed software packages should be in use for one or more establishment surveys already and be designed to automate survey processes such as:

- Sample design and selection
- Data collection, instrument design, capture and coding
- Record linkage and matching
- Editing and imputation
- Survey data analysis
- Weighting, estimation, and tabulation
- Time series and seasonal adjustment
- Disclosure analysis
- Data dissemination and presentation

Schedule and Equipment: Demonstrations will take place during regular conference sessions from June 19-20. They will be split into four groups, with a dedicated half day for each. ICES III will provide participants with high-speed internet connections, 18" flat-panel monitors, tables, and chairs. Participants must provide their own computers with demonstration software set up.

How to send your proposal: Submit a 200-word abstract by **December 1, 2006**, and include a description of the software package, potential applications in other survey organizations, and special equipment required for the demonstration. A registration fee and completed form will be required later. Registration forms and details may be obtained on the registration page of this web site later in the year. **Proposals and questions should be sent to Dale Atkinson at dale.atkinson@nass.usda.gov or (703) 877-8000, ext. 130.**

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## **SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN SURVEY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

The European Survey Research Association (ESRA) has been established to provide coordination in the field of survey research in Europe. Through its activities ESRA encourages communication among substantive researchers, methodologists, and statisticians working in the field of survey research.

The first conference was held in Barcelona in 2005; more than 300 people from many different countries participated in this event. This year ESRA is pleased to announce the

### **Second Conference of The European Survey Research Association**



to be held June 25-29, 2007 in Prague, Czech Republic.

A large variety of topics will be discussed, among which are sampling, nonresponse, measurement of social science concepts, evaluation of survey quality, cross-cultural research, research designs, analysis of survey data, missing data, data collection, mode effects in surveys, etc.

ESRA welcomes suggestions for sessions; please send your suggestion(s) with a short description to [esra@sqp.nl](mailto:esra@sqp.nl).

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference, please send your proposal to [esra@sqp.nl](mailto:esra@sqp.nl). Include the name, email address, and affiliations of all the authors, the name of the person who will be presenting the paper, the title of the presentation, and an abstract of around 250 (max. 500) words. If possible, please suggest a session or topic to which you think your paper belongs.

Further information about ESRA, the 2007 conference, and the new journal *Survey Research Methods* can be found on the ESRA website <http://esra.sqp.nl/>.

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Government Statistics Section Mission Statement

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 Mission Statement**

*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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