

GSS/SSS NOVEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

**December**

- 1** JSM 2011: Abstract Submission Opens
- 14-15** FCSM Statistical Policy Seminar: "Beyond Our Traditions: Innovative Approaches to Longstanding and Emerging Challenges"
- 17** Deadline for Student Paper Competition (5 p.m. EST)

**February**

- 1** JSM 2011: Last Day To Submit An Abstract (11:59 p.m. EST)
- 16** Deadline for Submitting Proposals for NSF/Census Research Network Funding

**March**

- 1** Deadline for Submitting Invited Paper Session Proposal for ICES IV
- 25** Nominations Deadline for Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

**April**

- 1** Nomination Deadline for Herriot Award

**August**

- 31** Deadline for Submitting a Contributed Paper for ICES IV

**RESTRUCTURING RESEARCH AT THE CENSUS BUREAU   NEW!**

*Submitted by Roderick Little, Associate Director for Research and Methodology, Bureau of the Census, Richard D. Remington Collegiate Professor of Biostatistics, University of Michigan*

Government statistical agencies face challenging problems in meeting their missions in the modern world. To address these problems, the U.S. Census Bureau under the leadership of Robert Groves is forming a new Research & Methodology (R & M) Directorate. As its first director, I would like to describe for you some of the goals of this exciting venture.

The mission of government statistical agencies is to produce relevant, timely and credible statistics about key social and economic phenomena. Statistical agencies face increased demand for data products, and the questions asked by our society are becoming increasingly complex and hard to measure.

On the other hand, individuals and organizations are less willing to respond to requests for information, voluntary or not. Surveys and censuses are expensive and challenging to mount. Combining information from a variety of data sources is attractive in principle, but difficult in practice. Disseminating information for small areas is subject to the dangers from disclosure of confidential information from respondents. In short, the standard statistical approach of taking a random sample of the target population and weighting the results up to the population no longer meets our needs.

The United States has just conducted a census, and early evidence suggests that it was successful. However, the traditional design of the census is increasingly being questioned, because of difficulties in finding mobile populations, non-traditional families, rapidly changing dwelling structures, increased use of internet over “snail mail,” the expense of personal interviews, and the difficulty of including people who are hard to reach or reluctant to participate. New technology offers new data collection tools, and administrative records offer promise, but how should they be used? How can the quality of census results be measured?

The world of survey methods is also changing. Participation rates are declining, costs are rising, and true (fully-measured) probability samples are an admirable but unrealistic goal. New technology offers new data collection tools, but deploying them in an optimal way is tricky. The traditional survey should be increasingly seen as one of an array of data sources, including administrative records, and other information gleaned from cyberspace. Tying this information together to yield cost-effective and reliable estimates is not simple, and requires modern statistical analysis tools.

Meeting these challenges requires innovation; successful innovation requires scientific methods, with controlled comparisons of alternative approaches, sophisticated and creative cognitive research, economic and statistical modeling. In short, the Census Bureau needs a strong research directorate to remain relevant to the U.S. society.

The heart of the R & M Directorate is five centers, focused on economic studies, statistical research and methodology, survey measurement, disclosure avoidance, and administrative record research and applications. The twin goals of the directorate will be (a) excellent peer-reviewed methods research, aimed at finding generalizable knowledge that has application to government

statistics, and (b) collaborative research with the other directorates and external researchers to solve key agency problems, and move ideas from conception to production. Researchers need to bridge across the various directorates, allowing a solution discovered in one area to be applicable in others, and create real innovation within practical work processes, solving economic and social measurement problems. To be sustainable as an enterprise resource, the R& M Directorate must be a valuable and valued partner to program areas.

R&M Directorate will research process innovations to free up resources, such as better use of technology to improve efficiency/quality of data capture, editing, imputation and dissemination, and will work with program area to discover, refine, and implement process innovations. Resources saved through successful implementation are then available to apply towards the production of new data products and processes.

We also envisage more collaborative research with outside academic institutions, in conjunction with increased development of the Census Research Data Centers. As a first step, the recently-announced NSF/Census Research Network will fund 8 to 12 interdisciplinary academic research proposals to the amount of \$18.5 million over the next five years. **Deadline for submissions is February 16, 2011.**

It is an exciting time to be a statistician, and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to advance this exciting development in government statistics.

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NSF-CENSUS RESEARCH NETWORK: CALL FOR PROPOSALS NEW!

Submitted by Cheryl L. Eavey, Program Director, Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics, National Science Foundation

In collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has issued a solicitation for the NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN). The NSF and the U.S. Census Bureau invite proposals from teams of researchers to conduct long-term interdisciplinary research and educational activities on methodological questions of interest and significance to the broader research community and the Federal Statistical System, particularly the U.S. Census Bureau. The activities will be expected to advance fundamental and applied knowledge and to contribute to the training of the next generation of researchers in research skills of relevance to the measurement of economic units, households, and persons. **The deadline for submission of proposals is February 16, 2011.**

The NCRN seeks to support a set of research nodes that will conduct long-term, interdisciplinary methodological research and educational activities on issues relevant for the production of data and related statistics. The goals of this funding opportunity are as follows:

1. Establish a set of complementary research programs that advance the development of innovative methods and models for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences.
2. Relate fundamental advances in methods development to the problems of the Federal Statistical System, particularly the U.S. Census Bureau.

3. Facilitate the collaborative activities of scientists from across multiple disciplines, including the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, the statistical sciences, and the computer sciences.
4. Foster the development of the next generation of researchers in research skills of relevance to the measurement of economic units, households, and persons.

To accomplish these goals, NSF and Census seek proposals for research nodes that will produce new knowledge and a new cohort of researchers conducting interdisciplinary research on issues related to data collection, analysis, and dissemination. The size, structure, collaborative arrangements, and operation of each node should be appropriate for the proposed research, education, and outreach activities.

Two types of research nodes will be supported as a result of the FY 2011 NCRN competition:

- **Small Nodes.** Awards will require efforts up to a level roughly comparable to: 2-months support for two or three investigators with complementary expertise; a post-doctoral researcher; two or three graduate students; and their collective research needs (e.g. materials, supplies, travel, small data collection activities) for three to five years. The integrative contributions of the node should exceed the sum of the contributions of each individual member of the team. The maximum available for a Small Node is \$1,200,000 in total costs over the length of the award.
- **Medium Nodes.** Awards for Medium Nodes will require efforts up to a level roughly comparable to: 2-months support for three or more investigators with complementary expertise; three or more graduate students; relevant senior personnel (including post-doctoral researchers and staff); and their collective research needs (e.g. materials, supplies, travel, small data collection activities) for five years. The integrative contributions of the node should clearly be greater than the sum of the contributions of each individual member of the team. The maximum available for a Medium Node is \$3,000,000 in total costs over the length of the award.

In FY 2011 NSF expects to make 8 to 12 awards with anticipated spending of \$18,500,000 subject to the availability of funds. In FY 2014, research nodes may request renewal awards for up to an additional five years of support from FY 2016 to FY 2020. Supplements may be available for additional work within the scope of the project as defined by the proposal.

The full solicitation is available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2010/nsf10621/nsf10621.htm>. For more information, contact Cheryl Eavey at ceavey@nsf.gov or 703-292-7269.

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2010 COPAFS MEETING    NEW!**

*Submitted by Carol House, COPAFS Representative, 2010-2011*

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) will host the Federal Committee On Statistical Methodology's Statistical Policy Seminar on December 14-15, 2010. The seminar, the tenth in a series hosted by COPAFS, is entitled: *Beyond Our Traditions: Innovative Approaches to Longstanding and Emerging Challenges*. The seminar is geared to statisticians, economists, and managers, as well as other professionals in the broader statistical community who share an interest in keeping current on issues related to federal data. Topics discussed at the seminar will include: Examining the Costs of Federal Surveys; External Peer Reviews of Major Statistical Programs; Data Quality of Administrative Records; Emerging Challenges in Federal Statistics; and much more. Location: Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, Washington, DC 20001. For registration information, see the COPAFS website [www.copafs.org](http://www.copafs.org).

Concerned about Federal funding for statistics? Read about the 2011 Budget outlook for the major Federal statistical agencies on the COPAFS website [www.copafs.org](http://www.copafs.org).

COPAFS held its latest quarterly meeting on September 24, 2010 at the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Postal Square Building in Washington, DC. Judie Mopsik, Chair of COPAFS, provided a report for the Board of Directors. Ed Spar, Executive Director, provided an update on recent developments and council activities. Following these remarks on the Council, there were several presentations related to the Federal statistical system. William Wiatrowski, Bureau of Labor Statistics, gave a presentation on "*National Compensation Trends*." Hermann Habermann, Committee on National Statistics, discussed "*Facilitating Innovation in the Federal Statistical System*." Barbara O'Hare, U.S. Census Bureau, and Jennifer Madans, National Center for Health Statistics, gave a joint presentation on "*Survey Cost Savings for the National Health Interview Survey*." A more detailed summary of this meeting can be found on the COPAFS website [www.copafs.org](http://www.copafs.org).

The next quarterly meeting of COPAFS is scheduled for December 3, 2010.

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD **NEW!**

Submitted by Carol House, 2011 Chair, Griffith Award Selection Committee

It is time to start thinking about nominating an outstanding supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of a governmental statistical staff who encourages mentoring of junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical system for the 2011 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. **Nominations must be submitted no later than March 25, 2011.**



Jeanne Griffith

This year marked the 8th year that the award has been presented and the second time the ASA's Government Statistics Section oversaw the award selection process. **Deborah H. Griffin**, a mathematical statistician at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and currently special assistant to the Chief, American Community Survey Office, received her award at a ceremony held on June 23, 2010, in Washington, D.C.



Caption for picture: From left: Bob Groves, Beth Kilss, Deborah Griffin, Katherine Wallman, Andy Orlin, Susan Schechter, and Carol House. Photo courtesy of Tim Ware (Ideal Vision, LLC, idealion@verizon.net).

If you're not familiar with the award or would like more information about the current honoree and the history of the award, see the excellent article (including some pictures from the ceremony) in the August 2010 issue of *Amstat News* or go to <http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2010/08/01/governmentstataug10/>.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was established to honor Dr. Griffith who died in August 2001 after working for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her latter 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 younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

Sponsors of the Award: The Government Statistics Section (GSS) of the American Statistical Association manages the award. GSS would like to thank our co-sponsors:

- National Opinion Research Center (NORC),
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS),
- American Institutes for Research (AIR),
- American Educational Research Association (AERA),
- and
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP).

Please contact Stephanie Shipp (sshipp@ida.org), if you would like to contribute to the award.

Nominations for 2011 will be accepted beginning in **January 2011**. The last date for submission of nominations is **March 25, 2011**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 22, 2011**. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium (to be split if there is more than one awardee), a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in **June 2011**.

The nomination packages are reviewed by a committee comprising six members who each serve a six-year term. Andy Orlin, Jeanne Griffith's husband, serves as emeritus member, thus providing continuity and historical perspective.

The recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award previous to this year's awardee are Rich Allen (National Agriculture Statistical Service), 2003; Beth Kilss (Internal Revenue Service), 2004; Renee Miller (Energy Information Administration), 2005; Martin O'Connell (U.S. Census Bureau), 2006; Stephanie Shipp (National Institute of Standards and Technology – at the time of the award), 2007; Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008; Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service) and Lillian S. Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 2009.

The winning mentor(s) will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing, analysis, presentation and organizational skills and knowledge;
- Encouraging junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self confidence through feedback on their efforts, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee:

- The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers.
- **Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.**
- The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice...counsels with long-term goals in mind...thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts...encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach...a teacher.
- Photo copies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

For more information about the nominating process for the 2011 award, please go to:

<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.doc> or
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.pdf>.

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org (703) 684-1221, and **Carol House** at housca@gmail.com 703-989-1334.

The nomination package may be mailed or emailed **no later than March 25, 2011**, to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee
c/o The American Statistical Association
732 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
rick@amstat.org

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## **NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HERRIOT AWARD**

*Submitted by Robert Fay, Chair of the Herriot Award Committee and Social Statistics Section Representative, 2010-2011*

Nominations are sought for the 2011 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 2011 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 2011. 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), Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS), Nancy Kirkendall (EIA), Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau), Lynda Carlson (NSF), and Katharine Abraham (U of MD).

Nominations for the 2011 award will be accepted beginning in February 2011. 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 prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information. For more information, contact Robert Fay, Chair, 2011 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 240-314-2318 or [bobfay@westat.com](mailto:bobfay@westat.com). Completed packages must be received **by April 1, 2011**. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a “pdf” file are strongly encouraged. Please contact the chair if you need to make arrangements to fax or mail a nomination.

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PLANNING FOR JSM 2011: STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION NEW!

Submitted by Nancy Clusen, SSS 2011 Program Chair

The Government Statistics, Social Statistics, and Survey Research Methods Sections are pleased to announce a competition for student and post-graduate papers to be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami, on July 30 - August 4, 2011. At least five awards will be granted. Winning papers are presented by the authors at a JSM session and recognized at the Sections' business meetings. A subsidy of up to \$800 is provided to each winner to cover JSM 2011 expenses.

To be eligible to participate you must be a current undergraduate or graduate student at any level, or a 2010 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 Elizabeth Stuart (SSS 2011 Program Chair Elect, estuart@jhsph.edu), Daniell Toth, (GSS 2011 Program Chair Elect, Toth.Daniell@bls.gov), or Paul Beatty (SRMS 2011 Program Chair, pbb5@cdc.gov) 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 17, 2010. Winners will be notified by mid-January 2010.

If a student receives an award from more than one section, he/she must immediately inform the other cosponsoring sections and decline one of the awards.

Please refer to the section websites below for updates:

Social Statistics Section	http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/
Government Statistics Section	http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/
Survey Research Methods Section	http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html

PLANNING FOR JSM 2011: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS AND TO SUBMIT CONTRIBUTED SESSION ABSTRACTS

Submitted by Nancy Clusen, SSS 2011 Program Chair, and Iris Shimizu, GSS 2011 Program Chair

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS

If you are going to attend the 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami (July 30 - August 4, 2011), you are invited to volunteer as a contributed session chair for SSS or GSS-sponsored sessions. To volunteer, please contact Nancy Clusen (SSS 2011 Program Chair, NClusen@Mathematica-Mpr.com) or Iris Shimizu (GSS 2011 Program Chair, IShimizu@cdc.gov).

CALL TO SUBMIT CONTRIBUTED SESSION ABSTRACTS

The 2011 SSS and GSS program chairs encourage you to organize a contributed session and submit an abstract for the 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). The theme of JSM 2011 will be “Statistics – An All-encompassing Discipline.” 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 Nancy Clusen (SSS 2011 Program Chair) or Iris Shimizu (GSS 2011 Program Chair) at the email addresses above. They will keep track of the sessions SSS or GSS may either sponsor or co-sponsor.

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, 2011**. 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 2011. Consequently, it is essential to begin organizing Topic-Contributed sessions well before the **February 1, 2011** deadline. The period between October and December 2010 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, 2011**. 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

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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ANNOUNCEMENT:

**Federal Committee On Statistical Methodology  
Statistical Policy Seminar**

***Beyond Our Traditions: Innovative Approaches to  
Longstanding and Emerging Challenges***  
**December 14-15, 2010**

**The Tenth in a Series of Seminars Hosted by COPAFS  
(The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics)**

Participants will include statisticians, economists, and managers, as well as other professionals in the broader statistical community who share an interest in keeping current on issues related to federal data.

**Support Provided by:**

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \* Bureau of Economic Analysis \* Bureau of Justice Statistics \* Bureau of Labor Statistics \* Economic Research Service \* Energy Information Administration \* Environmental Protection Agency \* National Agricultural Statistics Service \* National Center for Education Statistics \* National Center for Health Statistics \* Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics of the Social Security Administration \* Statistics of Income Division of the Internal Revenue Service \* Science Resources Statistics/National Science Foundation \* U.S. Census Bureau

**Topics Will Include:**

- Examining the Costs of Federal Surveys
- External Peer Reviews of Major Statistical Programs
- Future Directions in Questionnaire Testing
- Data Quality of Administrative Records
- Addressing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Surveys
- Gaining and Tracking Participation in the 2010 Decennial Census
- Emerging Issues in Disclosure Avoidance
- Emerging Challenges in Federal Statistics
- Metadata and Paradata

**Keynote Address:** John Thompson, President  
National Opinion Research Center

**Location and Seminar Cost:**

Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, Washington, DC 20001

**Cost: \$195.00 per person**

**For Further Information, Contact the COPAFS Office at:**

Phone: 703-836-0404      Email: [copafs@aol.com](mailto:copafs@aol.com)      Fax: 703-836-0406

The registration form is available at the COPAFS web site at: [www.copafs.org](http://www.copafs.org)

# ICESIV



## Call for Invited Paper Session Proposals

As the fourth in the series of international conferences on establishment surveys, ICES-IV is designed to look forward at key issues and methods pertaining to establishment surveys. We invite you to submit a proposal for an invited paper session by March 1, 2011. The ICES-IV program committee will review the proposals and notify session organizers by the end of May 2011 to let them know whether their proposal has been accepted.

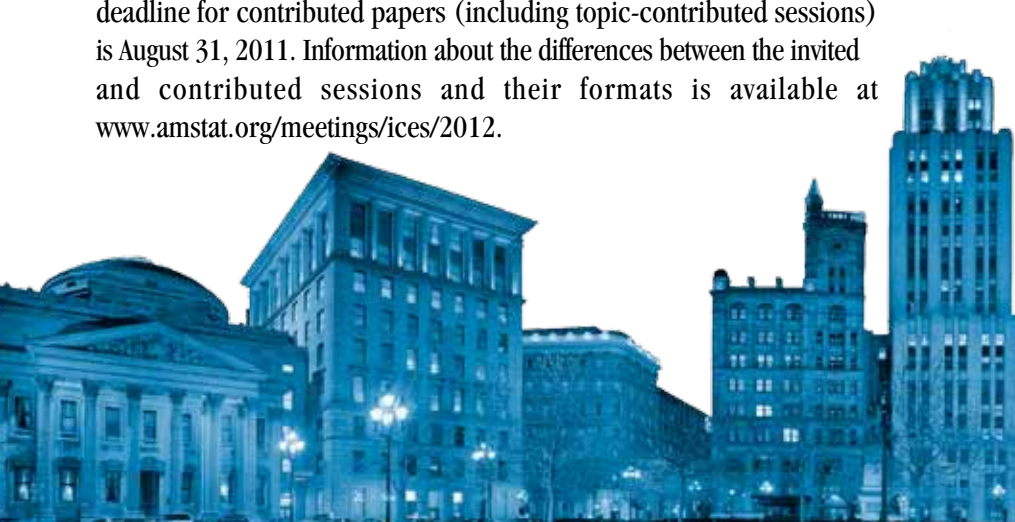
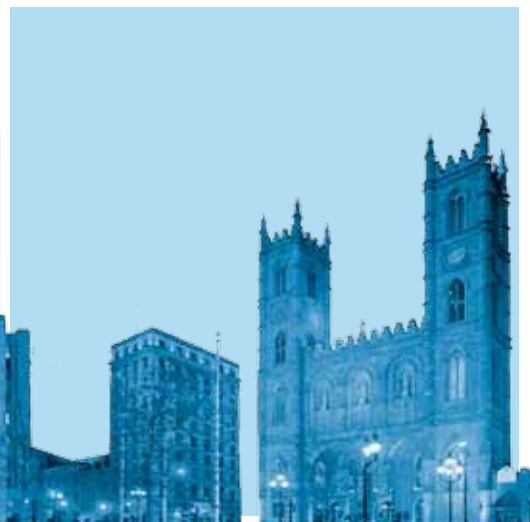
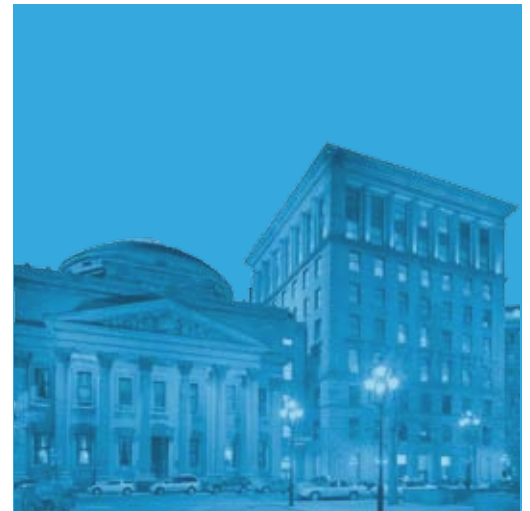
Invited sessions will have three 25-minute presentations, a 15-minute formal discussion in which a discussant draws out the main themes of the session and asks questions of the authors, and a 5–10-minute floor discussion.

### Proposal Submission

Online submission of invited session proposals will open December 1, 2010, and close March 1, 2011 at [www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012). Session organizers will be asked to submit a proposal describing the session topic and why it is important or what has changed since ICES-III in 2007 and include the names of session presenters and abstracts for each presentation. If a session proposal is accepted, session presenters will be asked to upload an abstract to the conference system by September 30, 2011.

There are limited invited sessions, and the program committee is seeking sessions of a consistently high quality for ICES-IV, so we request that organizers provide sufficient information to clearly demonstrate the importance of the topic and the quality of its contributions. We encourage proposals that incorporate presenters and perspectives from different countries and agencies/departments.

If a proposal is not accepted as an invited session, the organizer will be invited to resubmit the session as a topic-contributed session. The deadline for contributed papers (including topic-contributed sessions) is August 31, 2011. Information about the differences between the invited and contributed sessions and their formats is available at [www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012).





# ICESIV



## Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions

*June 11–14, 2012, at the Sheraton Centre Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada*

The ICES series of conferences serves an important role in the world of survey methodology. Few other conferences focus on methods and applications for establishment surveys.

The first three conferences held in 1993, 2000 and 2007 were successful, with more than 400 attendees per conference. The conferences covered a spectrum of survey methods for businesses, farms, and institutions. The fourth conference will continue along this path. Examples of potential topics include the following:

- Updating business registers
- Sample design challenges
- Questionnaire design for establishment surveys
- Collecting data electronically from establishment surveys
- Issues of multi-mode data collection
- Factors that affect establishment survey participation
- Generalized survey processing systems for establishment surveys
- Measuring nonresponse bias
- Variance estimation
- Advances in disclosure protection
- Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
- New directions in establishment surveys

The conference will include short courses, a keynote speaker, poster sessions, software demonstrations, and invited and contributed paper sessions.

Online solicitation for invited papers opens December 1, 2010, and will continue until March 1, 2011. Online solicitation for contributed papers will occur June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011. Inquiries may be directed to [ices4@amstat.org](mailto:ices4@amstat.org).



**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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