

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

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

|                     |                                                                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>December 1-3</b> | FCSM Research Conference                                              |
| <b>Dec 1-Feb 1</b>  | JSM online abstract submission ( <u>except</u> invited papers/panels) |
| <b>January 4</b>    | Application email for GSS Data Challenge <b>DEADLINE!</b>             |
| <b>January 14</b>   | JSM online submission (topic-contributed sessions)                    |
| <b>February 18</b>  | 2016 Conference on Statistical Practice; San Diego, CA                |
| <b>June 20</b>      | ICES-V; Geneva, Switzerland                                           |
| <b>July 30</b>      | JSM 2016; Chicago, Illinois                                           |

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NOMINATIONS FOR ROGER HERRIOT AWARD

Submitted by Sylvia Dohrman (GSS Publication Officer)

Roger Herriot was the Associate Commissioner of Statistical Standards and Methodology at the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) when he died in 1994. Prior to his service at NCES, he also held several positions at the U.S. Census Bureau, including Chief of the Population Division. Soon after his death, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA) along with the Washington Statistical Society (a chapter of ASA) established the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to recognize individuals or teams who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs.

Nominations are sought for the **2016 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics**. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

- 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 or teams 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. As innovation often requires or results from teamwork, team nominations are encouraged. Team innovations often are more lasting, resulting in real paradigm shifts, not just one-off improvements. For an example, see the 1998 Herriot (team) award.

The recipient of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprised of 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 2016. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past Award Recipients:

- 1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
- 1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)
- 1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- 1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)
- 2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)

- 2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)
- 2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)
- 2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
- 2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)
- 2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)
- 2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
- 2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
- 2012 – Paul Biemer (RTI International)
- 2013 – Exact Match Team (Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, and Internal Revenue Service)
- 2014 – Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics study; Abowd, Haltiwanger, Lane
- 2015 – Jennifer Madans (National Center for Health Statistics)

Nominations for the 2016 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2016**.

Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that includes 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 with current contact information. For team nominations, the vitae of all team members should be included.

The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Dave Hubble, Chair of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-610-8814 or davidhubble@westat.com. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2016.** Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a .pdf file are strongly encouraged.

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**DATA.GOV: A GREAT RESOURCE FOR DATA**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Jill Montaquila (GSS-Past Chair)*

Looking for data? Data.gov is a one-stop-shopping resource for the U.S. Government's open data--Federal, state, local government, and university-collected data on topics ranging from agriculture to energy to public safety. There is a general search box (useful in situations in which the name of the target dataset is known), as well as the ability to filter by location, topic, topic category, dataset type, tag words, format, organization type, organization, and/or publisher. The website provides metadata on each dataset, along

with links to the data and to the agency/organization providing the dataset. It also contains a list of (and links to) apps that use the U.S. Government open data, including, for example, the Alternative Fueling Station Locator, the College Affordability and Transparency Center, the Home Energy Saver app, and a Product Recalls app. So, if you are searching for data, information about datasets, or apps that use these datasets, data.gov could be a valuable resource!

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SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

NEW!

Submitted by Guillermina Jasso (SSS Chair-Elect)

The Social Statistics Section invites nominations for candidates for three positions on the SSS Executive Committee:

- Chair-Elect 2017
- Program Chair-Elect 2017
- Publications Officer 2017-2018

Candidates should be members of ASA and SSS.

Please send nominations to Guillermina Jasso (SSS Chair-Elect and Chair of the Nominations Committee) by email (gjl@nyu.edu), writing “ASA-SSS nominations” in the subject line.

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**PLANNING FOR JSM 2016**

**NEW!**

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

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS**

If you are going to attend the 2016 Joint Statistical Meetings in Chicago (July 30 – August 4, 2016), you are invited to volunteer as a contributed session chair for SSS- or GSS-sponsored sessions. To volunteer, please contact Morgan Earp (GSS 2016 Program Chair, [Earp.Morgan@bls.gov](mailto:Earp.Morgan@bls.gov)) or Craig Hill (SSS 2016 Program Chair, [CHill@rti.org](mailto:CHill@rti.org)).

**CALL TO SUBMIT CONTRIBUTED SESSION ABSTRACTS**

The 2016 GSS and SSS program chairs encourage you to organize a topic-contributed session or to submit a contributed abstract for the 2016 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). The theme of JSM 2016 will be “The Extraordinary Power of Statistics.” There are two types of contributed sessions: regular and topic-contributed. Before you submit a proposal to ASA for a topic-contributed session, please contact Morgan Earp (GSS 2016 Program Chair) or Craig Hill (SSS 2016 Program Chair) at the email addresses above. They will keep track of the sessions GSS or SSS may either sponsor or co-sponsor. Submission period of proposals for topic-contributed sessions (paper or panel) will open on December 1, 2015 and close on January 14, 2016. For more information on topic-contributed sessions, refer to: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2016/topiccontributed.cfm>

**TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSIONS**

These sessions consist of a collection of contributed talks and discussions (if desired) that share a common topic. 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

Once the session is officially accepted, all speakers in a Topic-Contributed paper session **MUST** submit an abstract to the ASA office by **February 1, 2016**. On the abstract form, speakers should indicate that they are speaking in a Topic-Contributed session and provide the name of the session organizer.

#### ***TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED PANEL SESSIONS***

The traditional panel discussion format is used, wherein a minimum of three and a maximum of five panelists provide commentary on a particular topic. Panel sessions each require **ONE ABSTRACT** submitted by the organizer and must be received by **February 1, 2016**. The Topic-Contributed panel organizer must coordinate efforts through the appropriate JSM Program Committee member.

**Key Dates for JSM 2016 (check JSM 2016 website at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org) for current information)**

#### **December 1, 2015 – February 1, 2016**

Online submission of abstracts, invited posters, introductory overview lectures, topic-contributed, and contributed abstracts open.

#### **January 14, 2016**

Online submission of topic-contributed session proposals deadline

#### **March 31, 2016 – April 18, 2016**

Online abstract editing open

#### **May 2, 2016**

Registration and housing open

#### **May 17, 2016**

Draft manuscript deadline

#### **June 1, 2016**

Early registration deadline

#### **June 2, 2016 – June 30, 2016**

Regular registration

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GSS DATA CHALLENGE 2016

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. 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**

*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.

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SEEKING FEEDBACK ON SSS WEBSITE

NEW!

Submitted by Matt Jans (SSS Publications Officer)

Publications Officer Matt Jans (mjans@ucla.edu) and Webmaster Matt Brault (mbrault@g.harvard.edu) are seeking feedback and ideas for re-designing and updating the website (<http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>). Please email them both with any suggestions, ideas, or opinions about the site. These could include **visual layout/design ideas**, suggestions of **new content to include** (or content to remove), or anything else. Thanks in advance.

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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