

GSS/SSS November 2016 NEWSLETTER  
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections  
American Statistical Association

GSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgov/>  
SSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>

GSS Publications Officer: Sylvia Dohrmann  
([SylviaDohrmann@westat.com](mailto:SylviaDohrmann@westat.com))

SSS Publications Officer: Matt Jans  
([MJans@ucla.edu](mailto:MJans@ucla.edu))

Newsletter Editor: Aneesah N. Williams  
([Aneesah.N.Williams@census.gov](mailto:Aneesah.N.Williams@census.gov))

**IN THIS ISSUE**

SSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS	<b>NEW!</b>	.....	1
SUCCESSFUL SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT PRACTITIONERS WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION (GSS) AND THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC SECTION (BES)		.....	<b>NEW!</b> 2
DATA CHALLENGE 2017	<b>NEW!</b>	.....	2
2017 ASA STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION	<b>NEW!</b>	.....	3
2016 HERRIOT AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN FEDERAL STATISTICS PRESENTATION ON SUPPLEMENTAL POVERTY MEASURES		.....	<b>NEW!</b> 5

~~~~~  
**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

- October 20 – 22** Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference; Charlotte, NC
- November 9-13** QDET2; Miami, FL
- February 23-25** Conference on Statistical Practice; Jacksonville, FL

~~~~~  
**SSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS** **NEW!**  
*Submitted by Jennifer Cheeseman Day (SSS Chair-Elect)*

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

- Chair-Elect 2018
- Program Chair-Elect 2018
- Secretary/Treasurer 2018-2019

Candidates should be members of ASA and SSS.

Please send nominations to Jennifer Day (SSS Chair-Elect and Chair of the Nominations Committee) by email at [Jennifer.Cheeseman.Day@census.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Cheeseman.Day@census.gov) writing “ASA-SSS nominations” in the subject line.

~~~~~  
**SUCCESSFUL SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT PRACTITIONERS WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION (GSS) AND THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC SECTION (BES) NEW!**

*Submitted by Jenny Thompson (Council of Sections Rep) and Wendy Martinez (GSS Past Chair)*

The first Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop was held on November 4, 2016 at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Approximately 130 people participated in the all-day event, with presenters coming from the Department of Transportation, the U.S. Courts, the Federal Highway Administration, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Statistics Canada, and other private organizations as well as from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This workshop was proposed by the GSS as a service to their constituency, specifically users or developers of official statistics. Because of the topic’s importance in economic analysis, the BES partnered in sponsoring the workshop.

Brian Monsell, Kathy McDonald Johnson, Demetra Lytras, and Wendy Martinez did an outstanding job as the Organizing Committee/Program Committee. We heard a lot of very positive feedback on the utility and organization of the program over the breaks. GSS and BES provided the coffee and snacks, which were greatly appreciated.

Clearly, the workshop responded to a need in the professional community to learn more about this important topic. All of the sessions were well attended, and question and answer sessions were lively. People took advantage of the networking opportunity, and we had several inquiries about the ASA and the sponsoring sections. Planning is already underway for another workshop, with attendees volunteering to serve on the next program committee.

~~~~~  
**DATA CHALLENGE 2017 NEW!**

*Submitted by Wendy Martinez (GSS Past Chair)*

Three ASA sections (Computing, Government, and Graphics) are proud to sponsor the Data Challenge 2017 to take place at the JSM 2017 meetings. The contest is open to anyone who is interested in participating, including college students and professionals from the private or public sector. This contest challenges participants to analyze a government dataset using statistical and visualization tools and methods. There will be two award categories – Professional (one level) and Student (three levels). Award amounts will be announced later.

Contestants will present their results in a speed poster session at the JSM and must submit their abstracts to the JSM online system in the usual manner. Presenters are responsible for their own JSM registration and travel costs, and any other costs associated with JSM attendance. Group submissions are acceptable. To enter, contestants must do the following by February 1, 2017.

- Submit abstract for Speed Poster session to the JSM 2017 website (<http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2017/index.cfm>). Specify the Government Statistics Section (GSS) as the main sponsor. Abstraction submission starts December 1, 2016.
- Forward the JSM abstract to Wendy Martinez (Martinez.Wendy@bls.gov).

The dataset for the GSS Data Challenge 2017 will be the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) data. Public Use data files and documentation (file structure, data dictionary, sample code, etc.) are available here: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/pumd.htm>. Contestants must use some portion of the CE data and can also combine other data sources in the analysis.

Standard tables, showing expenditures and related information for various demographic groups are available here: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/tables.htm>. An experimental table showing extremely detailed average annual expenditures and other information for all consumer units (similar to a household or family) in the U.S. is available here: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/2014/research/allcuprepub.pdf>. For more information, see the CE homepage (<http://www.bls.gov/cex/>).

Examples of research using the CE data are also available.

- Monthly Labor Review articles: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxart.htm>
- "Beyond the Numbers" series: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxwebarticles.htm>
- "Spotlight on Statistics" and other series: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxspotlight.htm>; <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxisssus.htm>

~~~~~  
**2017 ASA STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Asaph Young Chun (SSS Program Chair-Elect)*

**Sponsored by a Consortium of Sections (SRMS/GSS/SSS)**

The Survey Research Methods (SRMS), Government Statistics (GSS), and Social Statistics Sections (SSS) are pleased to announce a competition for student and post-graduate papers. Competition winners will present their papers at a topic-contributed session during the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), July 29 through August 3, 2017 at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Competition winners will also be highlighted during the 2017 SRMS, GSS, and SSS business meetings at JSM. A subsidy of \$800 is provided to each winner to cover JSM 2017 expenses, and approximately five awards will be granted. We ask faculty members, as well as supervisors and mentors of the recently hired graduates, to encourage students and mentees to apply for these awards.

Applications are due at 5:00 p.m. EST December 15, 2016, and winners will receive notification by January 10, 2017.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate you must be a current undergraduate or graduate student at any level, or a recent 2016 graduate who presents research conducted as a student. 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).

More than twelve sections of ASA sponsor Student Paper Competition/Travel Awards to assist students with travel expenses to attend JSM, and the submission dates for all section competitions is December 15, 2016. Students may submit papers to *no more than two* competitions and may accept *only one section's* award. Students must inform all sections applied to when s/he wins and accepts an award, thereby removing the student from the award competition for the other section. Students can see the sections that sponsor JSM Student Paper Competitions and links to guidelines for each here: [www.amstat.org/asa/education/...](http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/...)

### **Application Process**

Applications 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); or otherwise a 3-page research prospectus;
4. and 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.

To apply, please email the package containing the first three items (the adviser letter should be sent separately by the adviser) to the section officers listed below:

- Asaph Young Chun (SSS 2017 Program Chair-Elect, [asaph.young.chun at census.gov](mailto:asaph.young.chun@census.gov) ),
- Stas Kolenikov (SRMS 2017 Program Chair-Elect, [skolenik at gmail.com](mailto:skolenik@gmail.com) ),
- Gina Walejko (GSS 2017 Program Chair-Elect, [gina.k.walejko at census.gov](mailto:gina.k.walejko@census.gov) )

### **Deadlines**

Please note tight turnaround times in January 2017 for notifications and submissions, and plan to be available and responsive.

1. Applicants email application package to the three Program Chairs-Elect by **5:00 p.m. EST on December 15, 2016.**

2. Competition winners are notified by **January 10, 2017**.
3. Competition winners must confirm their acceptance of the award, and immediately inform other sections they applied to by **January 15, 2017**. *Failure to confirm the award may lead to removal from the list of winners.*
4. Competition winners submit winning paper abstract through the regular JSM submission process by **February 1, 2017**. (Winners will be provided with the ID number of the topic-contributed session at which they will deliver your presentation.)
5. Competition winners come to the JSM in Baltimore **July 29 through August 3, 2017** to present their winning papers!

The applicants can address the program chairs-elect listed above with their questions. Good luck, and see you in Baltimore!

~~~~~  
**2016 HERRIOT AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN FEDERAL STATISTICS PRESENTATION ON SUPPLEMENTAL POVERTY MEASURES** **NEW!**

*Submitted by Dave Hubble*

**Title:** 2016 Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics  
Presentation on Supplemental Poverty Measures

**Date/time:** December 5, 2016; 10:00-11:30 a.m.

**Speakers:** Connie Citro (Committee on National Statistics),  
Kathy Short (award recipient; Census Bureau, retired),  
Thesia Garner (award recipient; Bureau of Labor Statistics)

**Chair:** Dave Hubble, Westat

**Sponsors:** WSS, GSS, SSS

**Abstract:** The 2016 recipients of the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics, Kathleen S. Short and Thesia I. Garner, have been recognized for their important and extensive work in developing and refining alternative measures of poverty used to better understand the nature and scope of poverty in America that has now resulted in the annual release of the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).

The presentation will begin with Connie Citro (Committee on National Statistics) discussing and recognizing the historical context and importance of Dr. Short's and Dr. Garner's work in the development of alternative poverty measures and the SPM within the Federal Statistical System. Dr. Short (Census Bureau, retired) and Dr. Garner (BLS) will discuss their joint work over the past twenty years to define and calculate improved poverty measurements leading to the annual release of the SPM

jointly with the official U.S. poverty measure. Current ongoing work, especially on the setting of poverty thresholds, will also be discussed.

**Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 1  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov) by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

**WebEx:** Video Conferencing  
[https://dol.webex.com/mw3000/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=dol&nomenu=true&main\\_url=%2Fmc3000%2Ffe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddol%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D505437557%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAAN0N93usaAMtZWkipz0pyI6Sz6mSmyDVtVDw5O93QpGd-KPCSmqHZ5IOXLap34DCDp246ZVQ66JNgOs75NefCT0%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dmb9b069ad9202919507872e5140ed1915](https://dol.webex.com/mw3000/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=dol&nomenu=true&main_url=%2Fmc3000%2Ffe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddol%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D505437557%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAAN0N93usaAMtZWkipz0pyI6Sz6mSmyDVtVDw5O93QpGd-KPCSmqHZ5IOXLap34DCDp246ZVQ66JNgOs75NefCT0%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dmb9b069ad9202919507872e5140ed1915)  
Meeting number: 648 918 274  
Meeting password: Wss-051216

**For Audio:** Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048 (US)  
Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139 (US)  
(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2

**Note:** Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.

## 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.*

### OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

**Michael Davern**

Chair, 2016

[Davern-Michael@norc.org](mailto:Davern-Michael@norc.org)

**Jenny Thompson**

Council of Sections Representative, 2016-2018

[Katherine.J.Thompson@census.gov](mailto:Katherine.J.Thompson@census.gov)

**Amy O'Hara**

Chair-elect, 2016

[Amy.B.Ohara@census.gov](mailto:Amy.B.Ohara@census.gov)

**Sylvia Dohrmann**

Publications Officer, 2016

[SylviaDohrmann@westat.com](mailto:SylviaDohrmann@westat.com)

**Wendy Martinez**

Past Chair, 2016

[Martinez.Wendy@bls.gov](mailto:Martinez.Wendy@bls.gov)

**Aneesah Williams**

Newsletter Editor, 2016

[Aneesah.N.Williams@census.gov](mailto:Aneesah.N.Williams@census.gov)

**Morgan Earp**

Program Chair, 2016

[Earp.Morgan@bls.gov](mailto:Earp.Morgan@bls.gov)

**Bill Wong**

Assistant Editor, *Amstat Online*

[BJWG@yahoo.com](mailto:BJWG@yahoo.com)

**Michael Hawes**

Program Chair-elect, 2016

[Michael.Hawes@ed.gov](mailto:Michael.Hawes@ed.gov)

**Tai Phan**

GSSLIST Coordinator

[Tai.Phan@ed.gov](mailto:Tai.Phan@ed.gov)

**Jennifer Parker**

Secretary/Treasurer, 2015-2018

[JDParker@aol.com](mailto:JDParker@aol.com)

**Rick Peterson**

Staff Liaison

[Rick@amstat.org](mailto:Rick@amstat.org)

## 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.*

### OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

**Guillermina Jasso**

Chair, 2016  
[GJ1@nyu.edu](mailto:GJ1@nyu.edu)

**Kelly Margaret**

Secretary/Treasurer, 2016-2017  
[MSKelley@illinois.edu](mailto:MSKelley@illinois.edu)

**Jennifer Cheeseman Day**

Chair-elect, 2016  
[Jennifer.Cheeseman.Day@census.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Cheeseman.Day@census.gov)

**Brian Harris-Kojetin**

Council of Sections Representative, 2016-2018  
[BKojetin@nas.edu](mailto:BKojetin@nas.edu)

**Victoria Velkoff**

Past Chair, 2016  
[Victoria.A.Velkoff@census.gov](mailto:Victoria.A.Velkoff@census.gov)

**Matt Jans**

Publications Officer, 2016  
[MJans@ucla.edu](mailto:MJans@ucla.edu)

**Craig Hill**

Program Chair, 2016  
[CHill@rti.org](mailto:CHill@rti.org)

**Rick Peterson**

Staff Liaison  
[Rick@amstat.org](mailto:Rick@amstat.org)

**Melissa Scopilliti**

Program Chair-elect, 2016  
[Melissa.Scopilliti@census.gov](mailto:Melissa.Scopilliti@census.gov)