GSS/SSS December 2007 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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Don't forget these upcoming events ~~

- **2008 Student Paper Competition: Applications due December 31, 2007**
  Send applications to jana@asher-resnick.us
- **JSM Topic Contributed Paper and Panel Sessions: Abstract Submissions due February 4, 2007**
  Contact Michael Davern – GSS (daver004@umn.edu) or Jana Asher – SSS (jana@asher-resnick.us)

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2008 Student Paper Competition
Sponsored by a Consortium of Sections
Submitted by Jana Asher

The Social Statistics, Government Statistics, and Survey Research Methods Sections are pleased to announce a competition for student and postgraduate papers to be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Denver, Colorado on August 3-7, 2008. Up to 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 2008 expenses.

To be eligible to participate in the competition you must be a current undergraduate or graduate student at any level or be a 2007 graduate who presents research conducted as a student.

Papers entered in the Student Competition must involve either a new statistical methodology or a creative application of statistical analysis to a problem, policy question, or other issue in the subject area of one of the sponsoring sections.

Research for the submitted papers does not have to be complete, but competitors must be able to submit an abstract prospectus describing the planned research, including the nature of the intended innovations.

Applications should include:
(1) a cover letter including name, current affiliation and status, and contact information (address, telephone, e-mail) of the applicant,
(2) an abstract of up to 300 words,
(3) a draft paper if available, or otherwise a 3-page research prospectus, and
(4) a letter from the adviser certifying student status (or completion of degree within the past year) and describing plans for the completion of the research.

Faculty members are urged to encourage students to apply for these awards.

Send applications to jana@asher-resnick.us. If you do not have access to email, please call Jana Asher, 2008 Program Chair for the Social Statistics Section, at (301) 920-0068 to make arrangements.

Applications must be received by December 31, 2007. Winners will be notified mid-January 2008 and must register for the meetings by January 31, 2008.

A student who receives an award from more than one section must immediately inform both sections, and will be asked to decline one of the awards.

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Abstract Submissions Due: Organize a Topic-Contributed Session for the 2008 JSMs
Submitted by Jana Asher and Mike Davern

Calling all GSS and SSS members! Do you have an idea for a topic-contributed session for the Joint Statistical Meetings next year? If so, now is the time to start organizing - abstract submission has just begun and is closing on February 4th. The basic formats and rules for Topic-Contributed Sessions at the Joint Statistical Meetings are summarized below:

TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED PAPER Sessions – Five 20-minute presentations arranged in advance by an organizer or a discussant. There also may be four paper presentations with a discussant.

TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED PANEL Sessions – Three to five panelists provide commentary on a topic arranged in advance by an organizer. Panel presentations each require one abstract submitted by the organizer. All panelists will be listed as presenting and corresponding authors.

If you would like to organize a session, please contact Michael Davern (daver004@umn.edu, 2008 Program Chair for GSS) or Jana Asher (jana@asher-resnick.us, 2008 Program Chair for the SSS) with your idea. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Seminar On Survey Respondent Incentives: Research and Practice, March 10, 2008

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) announces an upcoming seminar on survey respondent incentives to be held in Washington, DC at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel. For those interested, the program and registration information follow.

Program
8:45-9:00   **Welcome and Introduction**
                      Edward Spar, COPAFS
                      Hermann Habermann, Consultant

9:00-10:30   **Session 1: A Public-Private Sector Overview**
                      Moderator: Edward Spar, COPAFS

1. Incentives in Federal Surveys
   Brian Harris-Kojetin, Office of Statistical Policy, OMB
   Diane Willimack, U.S. Census Bureau
2. Academic and Other Investigator-Initiated Grants
   Sandra Berry, RAND Corporation
3. Surveys In the Private Sector
   Barbara O'Hare, The Arbitron Company

10:30-11:00   Break

11:00-12:00   **Session 2: Part One, A Panel Discussion**
               Moderator: Michael Link, Nielsen Media Research
               Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How Do We Pay
                       David Cantor, Westat
                       Richard Kulka, Abt Associates
                       Eleanor Singer, University of Michigan
                       Paul Lavrakas, Consultant
                       Alison Ackermann, Abt Associates, Rapporteur
                       Diane Willimack, U.S. Census Bureau, Rapporteur

12:00-1:30   Lunch

1:30-2:30   **Session 2: Part Two, Panel and Floor Discussion**

2:30-3:00   Break

3:00-4:30   **Session 3: Integrating the Day and Personal Perspectives**
               Moderator: Judie Mopsik, Abt Associates
                       Robert Groves, University of Michigan
                       Daniel Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research
                       Jennifer Madans, National Center for Health Statistics
                       Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Registration
To register for the seminar, visit: <http://members.aol.com/copafs/REGISTRATIONFORM.htm>. The registration fee is $125. For further information/questions regarding registration, contact Edward Spar or Lee Ann Sklar at: 703-836-0404 or copafs@aol.com. Note that hotel reservations at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel are available by calling 202-484-1000.

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2008 JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD: MARCH 28, 2008 DEADLINE

On receiving the Roger Herriot Award in June 2001, Jeanne E. Griffith said: "One of the most rewarding aspects (of Federal statistics) for me was the opportunity to promote creative activities and energies among my staff…When I have had the blessing to mentor young people in their careers, I have tried to emphasize…(that) only they, themselves, can make the most of (the)…chances that life presents."

Dr. Griffith 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.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award has been established to encourage mentoring of junior staff in the Federal statistical system. It is presented annually to a supervisor who is nominated by co-workers and supervisors, and chosen by the Award Selection Committee.

The award is co-sponsored by the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, the Council for Excellence in Government, the Washington Statistical Society, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics.

Nominations for 2008 will be accepted beginning in January 2008. The last date for submission of nominations is March 28, 2008, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 9, 2008. The award will consist of a $1,000 honorarium and a citation, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2008.

The winning mentor 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.

For further information on the award, contact Ed Spar, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) by phone: 703-836-0404; fax: 703-836-0406; or by e-mail at copafs@aol.com**. The nomination cover sheet and guidelines form-or a photocopy of it-should be attached to a nomination memorandum or letter. Forms can be obtained by contacting Ed Spar, or by downloading from the COPAFS website at** http://www.copafs.org**. All nominations should be returned to the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee, c/o COPAFS, 2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314 no later than March 28, 2008.**

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2008 ROGER HERRIOT AWARD: APRIL 1, 2008 DEADLINE

Nominations are now sought for the 2008 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics.

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 who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs. The award is meant 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 (from entry to senior), Federal employees, private sector employees, and employees of the academic community, may be nominated on the basis of the significance of the specific contribution.

The recipient of the 2008 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee of representatives of the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association and a representative of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with and strongly supportive of these organizations during his career. The award consists of an honorarium and a framed citation.

Past Award Winners:
1995 Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
1996 Monroe Sirken (NCHS)
1997 Constance Citro (CNStat)

1998 Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS)
1999 Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat)
2000 Donald Dillman (Washington State University)
2001 Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)
2002 Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau)
2003 David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
2004 Paula Schneider (Census Bureau)
2005 Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau)
2006 Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS)
2007 Nancy Kirkendall (DOE)
2008 Nominations due April 1, 2008

Nominations for 2008 must be submitted by April 1, 2008. Chair of the 2008 Herriot Award Committee is Brian Harris-Kojetin bharrisk@omb.eop.gov. Electronic submissions are permissible.

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2008 WRAY JACKSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP: APRIL 15, 2008 DEADLINE
Support for Work Towards a Career in Government Statistics

The Government Statistics Section (GSS) and the Social Statistics Section (SSS) of the American Statistical Association (ASA) are pleased to announce the availability of a scholarship in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a founding member of the Section and long-time contributor to Federal statistics. The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS), co-sponsored with the Washington Statistical Society, the Caucus for Women in Statistics, Harris-Smith Institutes, Mathematica Policy Research, and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence, thereby encouraging them to consider a future in government statistics.

Type of Project
The WJSS Award provides funding of $1,000 for use in exploring any of a broad number of opportunities for furthering the development of a career related to government statistics. Applicants are encouraged to be creative in seeking support for a wide variety of uses, including:

- Tuition, board, and books for courses or short courses
- Conference attendance
- Purchase of books, software, data sets, or other supporting materials for research projects related to government statistics.

Activities may relate to any level of government, including Federal, state, and local governmental units. They must be statistical in nature, focusing on data, methodology, analysis, or data presentation. Recent award winners have used the WJSS to fund attendance at the Joint Statistical Meetings, support continued public policy research, and to take short courses to better under-stand and analyze data for current research.

Application
The WJSS is targeted at students and persons early in their career in government statistics. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education. Membership in the Government Statistics Section, Social Statistics Section, or in the ASA is not required.

To apply for a WJSS Award, the following information must be sent to the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee by **April 15, 2008**:

- A completed WJSS Application Form (available at http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp08.doc for a MS Word version or http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp08.pdf for an Adobe pdf version)
- A proposal of activity to be funded
- Academic transcript (for current/recent students) or job performance reviews for the past 2 years (for nonstudents) or equivalent proof of superior academic and/or professional performance
- Two letters of recommendation.

Please send materials to:

> **Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee**
> **c/o Michael P. Cohen**
> **1615 Q Street NW #T-1**
> **Washington DC 20009-6310 USA**

or electronically to: *mpcohen@juno.com*.

Selection Process
The WJSS Committee, consisting of a total of three GSS and SSS members, will review each proposal, based on an established rating scheme, and select the awardees. Each application will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Stage in Career
- Past Performance
- Quality of the Proposed Activity
- Relevance of Activity to Government Statistics
- Innovation/Ingenuity of the Proposed Project
- Feasibility of Completion of Activity
- Two Letters of Recommendation

Announcements of the awardees will be made by June 1, 2008. All applicants will be notified by e-mail.

Sponsors
Government Statistics Section
American Statistical Association
Social Statistics Section
American Statistical Association
Washington Statistical Society
American Statistical Association
Caucus for Women in Statistics
Harris-Smith Institutes
Mathematica Policy Research
Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc.

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee
Michael P. Cohen (Chair) -- *mpcohen@juno.com*
Robert A. Kominski -- *kominski@census.gov*
Stephen Campbell -- *Stephen.Campbell@nist.gov*

Applications:
http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp08.doc for a MS Word version or
http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp08.pdf for an Adobe pdf version

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JSM 2007 Plenary Sessions Webcasts Now Available

Webcasts from the following Plenary Sessions in Salt Lake City are available to view **FREE**:

- ASA President's Invited Address, Grace Wahba
- The Deming Lecture, Douglas C. Montgomery
- ASA Awards
- ASA President's Address, Mary Ellen Bock
- COPSS Awards
- The Fisher Lecture, Marvin Zelen

If you missed the Plenary Sessions in Salt Lake City, were unable to attend JSM 2007, or if you want to learn more about JSM, go to <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2007/webcasts/index.cfm?Fuseaction=main> to view the webcasts.

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Workshop on Privacy and Security - Artificial Intelligence (PSAI 2008)
Barcelona, Spain, March 4-7, 2008
Submitted by Steve Cohen

http://crises-deim.urv.cat/psai/

I. AIMS AND SCOPE

In this workshop, we aim to convene researchers in the areas of Security, Data Privacy and Artificial Intelligence. We seek to collect the most recent advances in artificial intelligence techniques (i.e. neural networks, fuzzy systems, multi-agent systems, genetic algorithms, image analysis, clustering, etc.), which are applied to the protection of privacy and security.

Individual privacy protection is a hot topic and it must be addressed to guarantee the proper evolution of a modern society based on the Information and Communication Techniques (ICTs). However, security policies could invade individual privacy, especially after the appearance of the new forms of terrorism. These two concepts (i.e. security and privacy) are somehow opposite because, most of the time, security is achieved by means of privacy invasion.

Statistical agencies and the like are collecting large amounts of personal information that has to be protected before its publication. Different forms of evolutionary computation and clustering have been proposed to tackle this problem. Moreover, the protection of critical infrastructures such as airports has invigorated the study of more efficient techniques for pattern recognition, image analysis, etc.

This workshop will consider all the artificial intelligence techniques that are used to address these problems. It will be focused on real applications and theoretical contributions. The workshop will be held in conjunction with ARES 2008.

II. TOPICS COVERED

- Statistical Disclosure Control
- Location-based services
- Statistical databases
- Homeland security
- Robotics
- Cryptography and security protocols
- Intrusion detection systems
- Denial of service attacks
- Pattern recognition
- Image analysis
- Evolutionary computation
- Neural networks
- Multi-agent systems
- Clustering
- Case-based reasoning
- Fuzzy logic

III. IMPORTANT DATES

December, 21st 2007 -> Authors Notification
January, 2nd 2008 -> Authors Registration
January, 2nd 2008 -> Proceedings Version
March, 4th - March, 7th 2008 -> Conference

IV. MORE INFORMATION

For more information, see the conference web site at <http://crises-deim.urv.cat/psai/>.

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Privacy In Statistical Databases 2008 (PSD 2008) - Call for Papers
Istanbul, Turkey, Sep. 24-26, 2008
Submitted by Steve Cohen

http://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat/psd2008

I. AIMS AND GOALS

Privacy in statistical databases is about finding tradeoffs to the tension between the increasing societal and economical demand for accurate information and the legal and ethical obligation to protect the privacy of individuals and enterprises (which are the respondents providing the statistical data). The motivation for respondent privacy is one of survival for statistical databases: statistical agencies or survey institutes cannot expect to collect accurate information from individual or corporate respondents unless they feel the privacy of their responses is guaranteed.

Beyond respondent privacy, there are two additional privacy dimensions to be considered: privacy for the data owners (organizations owning or gathering the database, who wouldn't like to share the data they have collected at great expense) and privacy for the users (those who submit queries to the database and would like their analyses to stay private).

"Privacy in Statistical Databases 2008" (PSD 2008) is a conference sponsored and organized by the UNESCO Chair in Data Privacy (http://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat) and the CONSOLIDER ARES project (http://crises-deim.urv.cat/ares), with proceedings published by Springer-Verlag in Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Its purpose is to gather world-wide, high-level research in statistical database privacy. PSD 2008 is a successor to PSD 2006 (Rome, Dec. 13-15, 2006, http://crises-deim.urv.cat/psd2006) and PSD 2004 (Barcelona, June 9-11, 2004, http://crises-deim.urv.cat/psd2004), both with proceedings published by Springer in LNCS 4302 and LNCS 3050, respectively.

Those three PSD conferences follow a tradition of high-quality technical conferences on Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) which started with "Statistical Data Protection-SDP'98", held in Lisbon in 1998, with proceedings published by OPOCE. It continued with the AMRADS project SDC Workshop, held in Luxemburg in 2001, with proceedings published in Springer LNCS vol. 2316.

Like the aforementioned preceding conferences, PSD 2008 originates in Europe, but wishes to stay a worldwide event in database privacy and SDC. Thus, contributions and attendees from overseas are welcome.

II. ORGANIZATION

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

John Abowd (Cornell University and Census Bureau, USA); Elisa Bertino (CERIAS, Purdue University, USA); Jordi Castro (Polytechnical University of Catalonia); Lawrence Cox (Nat. Center for Health Statistics, USA); Josep Domingo-Ferrer (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Mark Elliot (Manchester University, UK); Elena Ferrari (University of Insubria, Italy); Stephen Fienberg (Carnegie Mellon University, USA); Luisa Franconi (ISTAT, Italy); Sarah Giessing (Destatis, Germany); Anco Hundepool (Statistics Netherlands); Ramayya Krishnan (Carnegie Mellon University, USA); Julia Lane (NORC/University of Chicago, USA); Jane Longhurst (Office for National Statistics, UK); Bradley Malin (Vanderbilt University, USA); Josep M. Mateo-Sanz (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Krish Muralidhar (University of Kentucky, USA); Silvia Polettini (University of Naples, Italy); Yosef Rinott (Hebrew University, Israel); Gerd Ronning (University of Tuebingen, Germany); Juan Jose Salazar (University of La Laguna, Spain); Maria Joao Santos (EUROSTAT); Yucel Saygin (Sabanci University, Turkey); Eric Schulte-Nordholt (Statistics Netherlands); Francesc Sebe (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Natalie Shlomo (University of Southampton, UK); Julian Stander (University of Plymouth, UK); Vicenc Torra (IIIA-CSIC, Catalonia); William E. Winkler (Census Bureau, USA); and Laura Zayatz (Census Bureau, USA).

PROGRAM CHAIR

Josep Domingo-Ferrer (UNESCO Chair in Data Privacy, Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia)

GENERAL CHAIR

Yucel Saygin (Sabanci University, Turkey)

III. TOPICS OF INTEREST

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- New SDC methods for tabular data
- New SDC methods for microdata
- Best SDC practices for tabular data
- Best SDC practices for microdata
- Balancing data quality and data confidentiality in SDC
- Onsite access centers
- Remote access facilities
- SDC software
- Estimating disclosure risk in SDC
- Record linkage methods
- Real-life disclosure scenarios in EU-member states and abroad
- Privacy preserving data mining
- Private information retrieval
- Privacy in web-based e-commerce
- Privacy in healthcare
- Privacy in official and corporate statistics

IV. IMPORTANT DATES

Submission deadline: May 25, 2008
Acceptance notification: June 27, 2008
Proceedings version due: July 11, 2008
Conference: September 24-26, 2008

CD-only submission deadline: July 15, 2008; CD-only acceptance notification: July 31, 2008; CD-only proceedings version
due: Aug. 10, 2008.

V. SUBMISSIONS, VENUE, REGISTRATION, etcetera.

For information on submissions, proceedings, registration, and other information see:
<http://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat/psd2008>.

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GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION

The mission of the Government Statistics Section (GSS) is to promote the use of sound statistical theory and methods in the production of data at all levels of government - be it Federal, State, local, or international; assist in the broad dissemination of those data; and encourage good statistical practice by all users. Areas of interest for the Section include all that involve the production, dissemination, and application of governmental statistics, including concern with statistical policy issues, quality and usefulness of governmental data products, special problems of State and local data, comparability of data among different countries, and the role of professional statisticians in the public sector.

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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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