WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

Public SEMINAR

Committee on National Statistics
The National Academies of SCIENCES · ENGINEERING · MEDICINE

Taking Surveys to People's Technology: Implications for Federal Statistics and Social Science Research

Friday, October 21, 2016, 2:00–4:30 pm

National Academy of Sciences Main Building
2101 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC – Lecture Room

1:30	***Light refreshments for Seminar Guests (East Court)***
2:00	*Welcome* —**Lawrence Brown**, CNSTAT Chair and the University of Pennsylvania
2:05	*Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office* —**Katherine Wallman**, Chief Statistician of the United States
2:20	*Featured Topic:* ***Taking Surveys to People's Technology: Implications for Federal Statistics and Social Science Research*** —**Fred Conrad**, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan —**Michael Schober**, New School for Social Research
3:30	*Discussants:* —**Paul Beatty**, U.S. Census Bureau —**Courtney Kennedy**, Pew Research Center
4:00	Floor discussion
4:30	***Reception – East Court***
5:30	Adjourn

Register now!

Presentations will be available via WebEx—login information will be sent once available

For any questions, contact Eileen LeFurgy, CNSTAT Program Coordinator, at: elefurgy@nas.edu

Abstract: People's modes of communication and available communications technologies don't stand still. Correspondingly, survey methodology must never stand still, even though institutional constraints (and inertia) can lead survey organizations to maintain long-standing methods well beyond their peak utility. Fred Conrad and Michael Schober are involved in cutting-edge research on different ways, including texting, to conduct surveys via smartphones. They will discuss research findings on data quality and participation in interviews on smartphones carried out via voice (standard call center interviewing) versus text messaging, by human interviewers and by automated interviewing systems. They will also discuss findings on how giving respondents the choice of interview mode on their smartphone can affect costs, respondent burden, and the quantity and quality of data that can be collected. They will conclude by posing new tradeoffs that will be important to consider in multi-mode surveys on modern devices. Discussants will consider the implications for the future of federal statistical agency surveys and social science polling.

Title: **Improving the Diagnostic Accuracy of a Stratified Screening Strategy by Identifying the Optimal Risk Cutoff**

Date/Time: **October 26, 2016**
9:30–11:00 am

Speaker: Deborah H. Glueck, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Radiology,
The Colorado School of Public Health-UC Denver

Abstract:

Purpose: We give a novel approach for finding the optimal risk cutoff for additional breast cancer screening for women who have a high model-predicted risk of breast cancer.

Methods: The American Cancer Society (ACS) suggests a stratified screening strategy for breast cancer. The strategy includes assessing women's risk of breast cancer using a risk model, screening women at high risk of breast cancer with both contrast-enhanced breast MRI, and mammography, and screening women at low risk of breast cancer with mammography alone. The ACS used expert consensus opinion to choose the risk cutoff for additional screening.

Instead, we suggest a risk cutoff chosen to maximize the full area under the receiver operating characteristic curve for the strategy. We use three inputs to find the cutoff, including: 1) the distribution of five-year breast cancer risk scores, 2) the probability of breast cancer given the risk score, and 3) the diagnostic accuracy of digital mammography, and contrast-enhanced screening breast MRI.

No data was publically available for testing the performance of stratified screening strategies based on the ACS suggested risk models. Instead, we used publically available data to seek an optimal risk cutoff for the Breast Cancer Screening Consortium (BCSC) risk model. A previous study suggests that the BCSC risk model has similar predictive accuracy as the Tyrer-Cuzick and Claus models. For comparison, we used a hypothetical risk model with much better predictive accuracy than the BCSC model.

Results: For the BCSC risk model, the strategy with the highest diagnostic accuracy for the entire population is to screen almost all women with both digital mammography and contrast-enhanced breast MRI. With a hypothetical but much better performing risk model, there is a clear cutoff that maximizes diagnostic accuracy.

Conclusion: The results occur because the BCSC risk model does not accurately predict which women will or will not develop breast cancer. However, if there were a more accurate risk model, a stratified screening strategy would offer benefits for the entire population, by balancing the harms of breast cancer screening with the potential for improved breast cancer detection.

Location: Room 3E032/034,
NCI Shady Grove,
9609 Medical Center Drive; Rockville MD

Title: **Engaging Students in Statistical Investigations with Census at School and Other Projects**

Date/Time: **November 15, 2016**
4:00–5:30 p.m.
Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station.

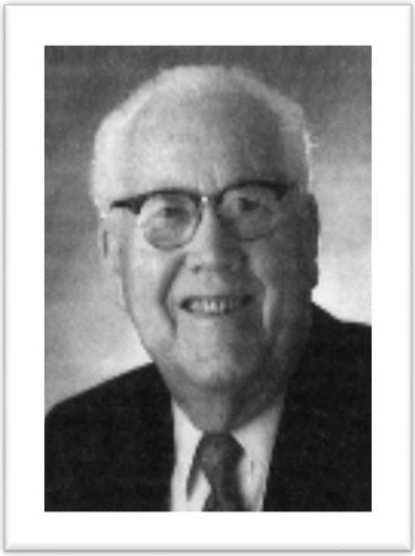
Speaker: Rebecca Nichols, Director of Education, American Statistical Association

Chair: Kathy Robens, Montgomery Blair High School

Sponsors: WSS Statistics Education Committee and Gonzaga College High School

Location: Gonzaga College High School - 19 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 - Ruesch Hall, Room 307. Please call (202) 336-7100 if you have trouble finding the building.

THIS SEMINAR IS CANCELLED BUT COULD POTENTIALLY BE RESCHEDULED AT A LATER DATE.



26th Annual Morris Hansen Lecture

Hard-to-Survey Populations and the U.S. Decennial Census

Speaker: Nancy Bates

Senior Researcher for Survey Methodology
U.S. Census Bureau

Discussants:

***Brad Edwards**, Vice President*
Westat, Rockville, MD

***Linda Jacobsen**, Vice President, U.S. Programs,*
Population Reference Bureau, Washington, DC

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
3:30 – 5:30 pm
Jefferson Auditorium, US Department of Agriculture
Independence Avenue (between 12th and 14th Streets)
At the Smithsonian Metro Station (Blue/Orange/Silver lines)

A reception will follow at 5:30 pm in the Whitten Building Patio.
Please pre-register for this event to help facilitate access to the building on line at http://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/

Abstract: This presentation will profile historically hard-to-survey populations in the U.S. Decennial Census. The talk will emphasize methods for locating these populations and the emergence of social marketing campaigns as a means to encourage participation. Drawing upon experience from the 1990, 2000 and 2010 censuses, I will discuss why a population may be hard to survey using the framework set forth by Tourangeau (2014), i.e. hard to identify, locate, persuade, or interview. The lecture will describe methods used in previous Censuses to define and locate hard-to-count segments of the population and describe techniques the agency has employed to overcome the challenges. The talk will include results from a recent test of a new response platform planned for the 2020 Census (digital advertising). The presentation will also discuss the Low Response Score (LRS), a new metric to identify Census tracts and block groups containing a high proportion of hard-to-survey households. The presentation will also demonstrate a prototype LRS mapping application designed to help field staff, Census managers, partnership specialists, local officials, and other community stakeholders locate, map, and more easily describe hard-to-survey areas under their jurisdiction.

Nancy Bates is Senior Researcher for Survey Methodology at the U.S. Census Bureau. Her research interests include hard-to-survey populations, survey nonresponse, measurement error, and the collection and analysis of survey paradata. She co-chaired the International Conference on Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Count Populations and is a co-editor of the conference monograph Hard to Survey Populations. She developed the audience segmentation for the 2010 Census social marketing campaign and more recently helped produce a new metric to locate hard-to-survey populations (the Low Response Score). Nancy Bates is a fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), Associate Editor of the Journal of Official Statistics, and past president of the Washington Statistical Society. She has served on the Executive Council of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the Board of the Government Statistics Section of the ASA, and is a member of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. She is a distinguished alumna of the University of Oklahoma College of Arts and Sciences.

Sponsored By:

Westat

Washington Statistical Society

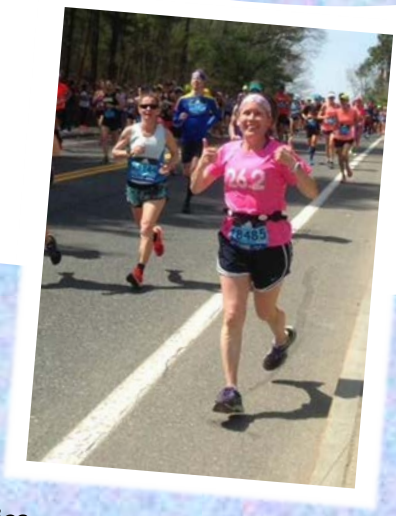
NASS

WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

Introducing your fellow members and showcasing the diversity of the WSS membership



Meet WSS Past-President Jill (Montaquila)DeMatteis…

1. Where do you work and what do you do?

I'm a senior statistician and Associate Director at Westat. In that position, I have some administrative duties, but most of my work is still technical in nature. Like other statisticians at Westat, at any given point in time, I work on a variety of projects. This variety and the team oriented nature of the project work at Westat make work exciting and enjoyable to me.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

As an early-career statistician at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, I attended (in person) numerous WSS seminars, including several given by Westat statisticians. I recall having a great deal of respect for Westat and its work, and thinking (in an "I am not worthy" sense) I would never be able to work there. I took a 2-semester sampling course at American University taught by Mike Brick (a Westat senior statistician and Vice President), and that course eventually led me to pursue a Ph.D. at American and to join Westat!

3. Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to…"

… become part of a larger community. WSS has given me so many wonderful opportunities, and has led to so many wonderful professional connections. The feeling of being part of a larger community has been a very important aspect of fulfillment in my career.

4. What was your first job?

My first job was as a waitress at a restaurant in my hometown, but my first statistical job was a mathematical statistician position in the Office of Compensation and Working Conditions (OCWC) at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Fortunately, as a statistician, I don't have to worry about accidentally spilling coffee on someone or dropping a tray full of dishes!

5. What skills are most important for the next generation of statistics professionals?

I would say the most important skills are the "soft skills" (the ability to communicate in written or verbal forms), the ability to focus (and truly give attention to just the task at hand), and the ability to collaborate as part of a team.

6. What is your favorite daily ritual?

My favorite daily ritual is my early morning walk with my two dogs (Malteses), Maddie and Lizzie. Being outside with them is very calming, and a great way for all of us to get the morning started.

7. Finish this sentence: "On an ideal Saturday, I would…"

…. start the day with a long run with my husband and friends, followed by breakfast with the same group. At some point in the afternoon, I would take the dogs for a walk. We would have my husband's homemade meatballs and pasta for dinner, and then spend the evening bowling or watching a movie (with family if possible). The wonderful thing is that many of my Saturdays include these activities (although not always the meatballs)! I'm very fortunate!

8. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

My favorite local restaurant is Dutch's Daughter, a seafood restaurant in Frederick, Maryland.

9. What is your favorite vacation spot?

All of the national parks I've visited rank high on my list, but I would have to say the Grand Canyon is the most special to me. For anyone planning a Grand Canyon vacation, I would highly recommend extending it to also include Glen Canyon, Canyonlands, and Arches National Parks.

10. Have you had any great career mentors? If so, what made them great?

Yes, I've had several great career mentors. When I was at BLS, Chester Ponikowski was instrumental in helping me "navigate" early in my career. Chester (who was my direct supervisor) was very supportive of professional development/growth and his support was instrumental in my decision to pursue a Ph.D. At Westat, many people (including statisticians and non-statisticians) have mentored me in various aspects of my career. Mike Brick has demonstrated, through his example, how to lead and how to conduct research, and has given me opportunities too numerous to count. David Morganstein has guided me through challenging situations, setting the example with his leadership and humility. And Leyla Mohadjer, who was the lead statistician on my first project assignment at Westat (NHANES), has promoted my professional growth by empowering me to take on more and more responsibility (at a pace that did not overwhelm me) while always keeping her door open. These individuals (as well as many others) have each played very significant roles in my career development.

SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!

Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program

The WSS Board of Directors has established a program to highlight members who have made or are making notable contributions to the work of their organization or their professional field of expertise. We know that WSS members are doing interesting work in the fields of statistics, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

This is our first request for nominations, to be featured in an upcoming issue of WSS News. We are interested in featuring members at all levels of the employment spectrum including recent graduates, mid-career employees, and those seasoned veterans.

Please feel free to nominate more than one person or a team working together. You may also nominate yourself as well. The nominees must be members of the WSS and not currently affiliated with the Board.

Please provide us with the following information about your nominee or nominees.

1. Your name, email address, and telephone number
2. Name or names of nominee(s)
3. Organizational affiliation
4. Job title
5. Their contact information including email address and telephone number
6. A brief narrative describing the reasons for your nomination
7. A photo of the nominee, although not required, would be great be greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to, Wendy Barboza (Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

STUDENT CORNER

In December 2015 when I submitted the application, I thought it would be a great experience even if I weren't selected at the end. One month later I received an email notification saying that I was the winner! I was very grateful for this travel support and started to look forward to my first JSM.

Everyone knows that JSM has been one of the largest statistical events in the world. I was new to almost everything, from registering a conference to submitting an abstract. I was told that besides attending the lectures and talks on different topics, there are tremendous opportunities to experience and learn different new things. Then I volunteered to be a session chair and also registered career services and uploaded my resume. Before heading to Chicago, I already had a very busy schedule booked.

On my first day after the first-time-attendee orientation, I served as a session chair for my first time with the topic on small area estimation. Fortunately, I collected many pieces of useful advice from my advisor, Dr. Eric Slud, a lady met on shuttle who works at FDA and has served as a session chair for many times, and also from the round table discussion during the first-time-attendee orientation. During May to June, I contacted each speaker to get "proof of evidence" requested by JSM. This time I was able to meet and talk to them in person. As the session chair, my primary job was to briefly introduce each speaker to the audience and carefully timed their presentation, making sure that each talk was completed on time. I felt a little nervous but the whole session went very well at the end.

My poster presentation was scheduled on Aug 1st. My poster, titled as "Misspecified sampling weights in weight-smoothing methods" is a part of my dissertation studies. . At the beginning when every speaker including me was setting up, there were not many audiences passing by. So I had time watching and talking to my neighbors. One of them traveled from German. We introduced and explained our own research and posters to each other. During the two-hour period, I had many great discussions with other statisticians and my advisor also came. Their valuable questions and insightful suggestions inspire me to think about my research in deeper ways.

JSM offers numerous excellent talks on various topics. I went to the talk given by Dr. Jae-kwang Kim, which focused on clustered sampling. I attended the session entitled "What's wrong with p-value?" I was very curious about what would be brought up during this session as the discussions on p-value have recently attracted remarkable attention in both statistical and application fields. In addition, attending the Intensive Visualizations and Web Applications for Analytics for Dr. Yihui Xie's talk was an interesting experience that I could see him in person, as while I spent days and nights doing R-programming homework assignments and learning stuff on markdown, knitr, I always sought for help from Dr. Xie's blog.

Another exciting experience was that I spent three hours in total at the career service center, finishing my first round of job interviews. Though I'm not a graduate-soon-student, I realize that

it would benefit greatly to accumulate some experiences. I did receive multiple emails and scheduled three interviews during JSM. It was also freshness to get dressed, check interviewers' LinkedIn profiles, and sit at the waiting area to be called. The job interviews during JSM are very similar to phone screenings. I mainly answered behavioral questions and didn't get any technical question, but talking to experienced statisticians from different industries was such a valuable experience. It was a significant exercise for my future job hunting.

Besides, I spent my odd moments at the EXPO and met previous intern managers. I didn't expect to meet so many old friends that I haven't seen for a long time, but when I did I was so glad that I got this award and made this trip possible with the help of WSS.

On Wed Aug 4th evening before leaving Chicago, I attended the JSM Survey Research Methods Business Meeting. Many survey statisticians gathered together and my friends and I enjoyed the relaxing moment as well as nice drinks and snacks after having four busy and productive days in JSM. During the meeting, the president of the Washington Statistical Society Mike Larson presented the award to me and it was such a great honor for me! I appreciate WSS providing me this travel award. I really enjoyed my first JSM and look forward to JSM 2017.

2017 JSM Student Travel Award Application

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) is offering a Student Travel Award for a local area student in a degree program (bachelors, masters, or doctoral) in the areas of statistics, survey methodology, or allied survey research disciplines. Support is offered for students to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), to be held in Baltimore, Maryland (USA) July 29 – August 3, 2017.

Applications must contain a letter of support either by a current member of the WSS or a faculty advisor (see below). Plans to present a paper or poster at JSM 2017 will entitle the applicant to preferential review of their submission.

One award will be granted to a student attending a school local to the DC, MD or VA area. The award will cover conference hotel and travel expenses up to $800, early-bird student conference registration, and a one-year student membership to the WSS.

In addition to attending the JSM sessions, the winner is expected to attend the Survey Research Methods Section Business Meeting in order to be recognized by the WSS. The winner is also expected to prepare an essay on his/her experience at the JSM to be published in the WSS Fall Newsletter.

Applicant Name: _____ Full time student [ ] Part-time [ ]
Department: _____
University _____
Mailing Address: _____
Email: Phone: _____
Degree: _____ Anticipated graduation date: _____

Are you planning to present a paper or poster at JSM this year? YES NO
If yes, paper or poster title? _____
Have you previously attended any professional meeting on statistics, survey research, or a related discipline?

If YES, please describe (meeting, location, dates):
YES NO

Signature of Applicant _____ Date Submitted _____

As a current WSS member and/or faculty advisor, I endorse this student's request:
Signature _____
Printed Name _____
Date _____

APPLICATION CHECKLIST – PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:

[ ] Copy of most recent transcript or advising report from your university.
[ ] Double-spaced essay, no more than two pages, describing your interest in statistics/survey research methods and your interest in attending JSM.
[ ] Letter of support from a current WSS member or faculty advisor.

Application materials should be sent to Erin Tanenbaum (Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org) by email with the subject "WSS Student Travel Award".
Phone: (301)-634-9405.
Applications must be received by **November 31, 2016.**

WORKSHOPS & SHORT COURSES

Short course: STATISTICAL LEARNING AND DATA MINING IV

State-of-the-Art Statistical Methods for Data Science Including Sparse Models and Deep Learning

Trevor Hastie and Robert Tibshirani, Stanford University

Georgetown Conference Center, Washington DC

Oct 19-20, 2016

This new two-day course gives a detailed and modern overview of statistical models used by data scientists for prediction and inference. With the rapid developments in internet technology, genomics, financial risk modeling, and other high-tech industries, we rely increasingly more on data analysis and statistical models to exploit the vast amounts of data at our fingertips.

In this course we emphasize the tools useful for tackling modern-day data analysis problems. Many of these are essential building blocks, but we also include techniques at the cutting-edge of technology for handling big-data problems. From the vast array of tools available, we have selected what we consider are the most relevant and exciting. Our list of topics include:

- Linear methods: regression, logistic regression (binary and multiclass), Cox model.
- Bootstrap, cross-validation, and permutation methods.
- Regularized linear models: ridge, lasso, elastic net. Post-selection inference. Glmnet package in R, and other software.
- Trees, random forests, and boosting.
- Unsupervised methods: clustering (prototype, hierarchical, spectral,...), principal components and other low-rank methods, sparse decompositions.
- support-vector machines and kernel methods.
- Deep learning and neural networks.

Our earlier courses are not a prerequisite for this new course. Although there is overlap with past courses, our new course contains topics not covered by us before. We illustrate many of the methods using examples developed in R.

The material is based on recent papers by the authors and other researchers, as well as our best-selling book:

Elements of Statistical Learning: data mining, inference and prediction (2nd Edition) (with J. Friedman, Springer-Verlag, 2009).

The lectures will consist of high-quality projected presentations and discussion. A copy of Elements of Statistical Learning will be given to all attendees, as well as a color booklet containing the course slides in a convenient two-up, double-sided format.

The authors have two other popular books that are also relevant to this course:

- An Introduction to Statistical Learning, with applications in R (with Gareth James and Daniela Witten, Springer-Verlag, 2013).
- Statistical Learning with Sparsity: the Lasso and Generalizations (with Martin Wainwright, Chapman and Hall, 2015).
- All three books are available for free in pdf form from our websites

The lectures will consist of video-projected presentations and discussion.

For more information, see http://web.stanford.edu/~hastie/sldm.html.

SAPW/2016: The 1st Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop
Friday, November 4, 2016

Check-in: 8:00—9:00 am

Schedule: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
(Plenary and concurrent session schedule to follow)

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212

Organizers: Brian Monsell, Kathleen McDonald-Johnson, and Demetra Lytras, U.S. Census Bureau; Wendy Martinez, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Abstract Submissions Due: **August 15, 2016** ***(passed)***
esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov

Register Online By: **November 2, 2016 at noon** at EventBrite (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seasonal-adjustment-practitioners-workshop-tickets-24517370114)
There is no charge for participation.

Description

The Washington Statistics Society is proud to sponsor the 1st Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop. The SAPW 2016 is a one-day conference for public employees and those actively involved in seasonal adjustment, so they can

- share experiences in producing seasonal adjustments;
- give details of interesting problems and possible solutions;
- discuss best practices in seasonal adjustment and time series modeling;
- share lessons learned, tips, and shortcuts;
- present applied research in seasonal adjustment practice.

Modeled after the successful Federal Forecasters Conference, this workshop will provide an opportunity for those who work with official statistics and seasonal adjustment to present interesting issues, problems and applied research to a knowledgeable audience. There will be a plenary session in the morning with four speakers and a discussant, followed by lunch on your own and contributed sessions in the afternoon.

The organizers are soliciting abstracts for presentations of interest to practitioners of seasonal adjustment. Abstracts should be less than 100 words in length, for a presentation of about 15-20 minutes. Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- seasonal adjustment methodology (model-based seasonal adjustment, high frequency data, etc.);
- issues in seasonal adjustment production (residual seasonality, revisions policy, etc.);
- calendar effect estimation and adjustments (trading and working day, moving holidays);
- seasonal adjustment software;
- seasonal adjustment diagnostics.

Please note, papers may cover any subject relating to seasonal adjustment methodology or the process of seasonally adjusting series at a statistical agency. Please send your abstract of 100 or fewer words to: esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov by August 15, 2016.

Even if you do not plan to present a paper, please register for the conference and join the conversation at this history-making event. The SAPW is organized by the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics and is sponsored by the American Statistical Association's Government Statistics Section and the Washington Statistical Society.

University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology

The University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology (MPSM), established in 2001, seeks to train future generations of survey methodologists. The program offers doctorate and master of science degrees and a certificate through the University of Michigan. The program's home is the Institute for Social Research, the world's largest academically-based social science research institute.

MPSM is a program where students learn the science of surveys. Our students study with some of the world's leading survey methodologists while pursuing their Master's or PhD degree. The Program provides a rich intellectual environment for study and work at one of the premier public universities in the world.

MPSM brings together faculty and scientists from the social and behavioral sciences in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; the School of Public Health; and the Institute for Social Research. Moreover, the quantitative strengths of disciplines such as communication studies, economics, education, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics are integral to the empirical underpinnings of the program. With its depth and breadth of curriculum; faculty who are outstanding researchers, teachers, and mentors; exceptional research opportunities at the Institute of Social Research; and the extraordinary range of course offerings at the University of Michigan, the program offers qualified students superb educational opportunities.

Students in the program receive theoretical grounding in all aspects of survey methodology, from sample design and measurement, to modes of data collection, statistical estimation, and probability and distribution theory. Students have the opportunity to explore novel ways to develop applications of survey methodology in a wide variety of fields. Survey methodology principles can be applied to professions such as market research, nursing, public health, natural resources, information sciences, and operations engineering, through courses taken in cognate areas within the rich, diverse academic environment of the University.

Application Deadlines

Admissions applications and supporting credentials must be received at the University's Rackham School of Graduate Studies by specific deadlines. These deadlines vary by program.

Program	Application Deadline
MS & PhD	January 1 for study beginning the following fall term
Change of Program, Dual Degree, & Readmission	January 1 for study beginning the following fall term
Certificate	April 1 for study beginning the following summer term July 1 for study beginning the following fall term
Non-Candidate for Degree	One month prior to the first day of classes for study beginning that fall, winter, or spring term

For more information please visit our website at, http://psm.isr.umich.edu/ or email us at, michpsm.isr@umich.edu.

Public Communication Workshop
November 15, 16, 2016
Tentative Agenda

Day One (Tuesday, November 15, 2016): Focus on oral communication

Location: American Statistical Association, 732 N Washington, Alexandria, VA 22314

Registration & Breakfast (8:30 am - 9:00 am)

Format: Group discussion

Session 1: Introduction (9:00 am - 9:30 am)

Format: Interactive presentation

Session 2: The "Why" & "How" of Public Engagement (9:30 am - 10:30 am)

Format: Panel discussion with 2-3 statisticians who are active in public outreach and working with non-statisticians; time will be allotted for Q&A.

Break (10:30 am – 10:45 am)

Session 3: Who is Your Audience (10:45 am – 11:45 am)

Format: A short presentation followed by group work that encourages thinking about various audiences and coming up with a communication plan.

Session 4: Presentation of Group Work (11:45 am – 12:15 pm)

Lunch & group discussion (12:15 pm – 1:00 pm)***:*** *what are various public engagement options outside of working with media?*

Session 5: Review of Ideas Discussed at Lunch (1:00 pm -1:15 pm)

Session 6: How to Engage with the Media (1:15 pm – 2:45 pm)

Format: Panel discussion with 2-3 journalists who often work with data and statistical analysis; time will be allotted for Q&A.

Session 7: Elevator Pitch / Messaging Distillation (2:45 pm – 4:15 pm)

Format: Short presentation followed by group work: journalists and SAS USA specialists will work with small groups of attendees to help each person prepare a two to three-minute piece about the importance of statistics in their work.

Wrap-up for day & survey (*4:15 pm – 4:45 pm*)

Session 7: Optional short videoed interviews (4:45 pm - 5:30 pm)

Format: SAS USA staff and/or journalist will interview participants, while we video the interview to be later shared, with comments, with each individual participant.

Dinner (6:30 pm to 9:00 pm)

Day Two (Wednesday, November 16, 2016): Focus on written communication

Location: American Statistical Association, 732 N Washington, Alexandria, VA 22314

Registration and breakfast (8:30 am - 9:00 am)

Session 1: Review of Previous Day & Highlights (9:00 am – 9:30 am)

Format: Interactive presentation

Session 2: Introduction & Purpose of Written or Visual Communication (9:30 am to 10:30 am)

Format: Interactive presentation

Session 3: Group work and presentation (10:30 am to 11:30 am)

Format: Group work.

Session 4: Writing for Wikipedia (11:30 am to 12:30 pm)

Format: Interactive presentation

Lunch (12:30 pm to 1:15 pm)

Session 5: How to write for various audiences (1:15 pm to 2:30 pm)

Format: Panel discussion with 2-3 journalists and/or statisticians-writers; time will be allotted for Q&A.

Session 6: Writing Practice (2:30 pm to 3:30 pm)

Format: Short presentation followed individual writing time.

Wrap-up for day (3:30 pm to 4:00 pm)

WSS Short Course

Guidelines for Using State-of-the-Art Methods to Estimate Propensity Score and Inverse Probability of Treatment Weights When Drawing Causal Inferences

Date/Time: **November 16, 2016**
Time: **9:00 am – 4:30 pm**
Instructor: Dr. Beth Ann Griffin
Place: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Conference rooms 1-3, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

Course Content:
Estimation of causal effects is a primary activity of many studies. Examples include testing whether a substance abuse treatment program is effective, whether an intervention improves the quality of mental health care, or whether incentives improve retention of military service members. Controlled, random-assignment experiments are the gold standard for estimating such effects. However, experiments are often infeasible, forcing analysts to rely on observational data in which treatment assignments are out of the control of the investigators. This short course will provide an introduction to causal modeling using the potential outcomes framework and the use of propensity scores and weighting (i.e., propensity score or inverse probability of treatment weights) to estimate causal effects from observational data. It will also present step-by-step guidelines on how to estimate and perform diagnostic checks of the estimated weights for testing the relative effectiveness of two or more interventions. Attendees will gain hands-on experience estimating propensity score weights using boosted models in R, SAS and Stata; evaluating the quality of those weights; and using them to estimate intervention effects. Additional topics (if time allows) can also include methods for conducting sensitivity analyses for unobserved confounding and estimation of the effects of time-varying treatments. Attendees should be familiar with linear and logistic regression; no knowledge of propensity scores is expected.

About the Instructor:
Beth Ann Griffin is a senior statistician at the RAND Corporation, where she codirects the RAND Center for Causal Inference and is a member of the Pardee RAND Graduate School faculty. Her statistical research focuses on causal effects estimation when using observational data. Her substantive research has primarily fallen into three areas: (1) substance abuse treatment for adolescents, (2) military health, and (3) neighborhood level predictors of health. She is currently the principal investigator of two projects sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), one which is focused on improving a promising health services research tool (the TWANG package) for estimating causal effects of treatment using propensity score weights (www.rand.org/statistics/twang) and the other which aims to develop well-operationalized, empirically-supported sequences of decision rules—known as "Adaptive Interventions" (AIs)—to provide guidance about substance-use services decisions for adolescent clients. Griffin also serves on the editorial board the *Annals of Applied Statistics, Statistics in Medicine and Observational Studies*. She received her Ph.D. in biostatistics from Harvard University

Course Schedule:

8:15 - 9:00	Coffee, breakfast, and check in
9:00 - 10:00	Introduction to potential outcomes framework for causal modeling and the role of the propensity score in causal effect estimation
10:00-10:30	Propensity score estimation via logistic regression and GBM a. What is GBM and how does it compare with logistic regression b. The role of balance in propensity score estimation c. Metrics for assessing balance
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:45	Propensity score weighting example with two treatment conditions a. Use the TWANG package to fit a GBM model b. Use of TWANG in R, SAS, and Stata c. Use of TWANG to assess balance d. Estimation of treatment effects using estimated weights
11:45 – 12:15	Alternatives to GBM and logistic regression for propensity score estimation (CBPS or MDIA)
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch (provided)
1:15 - 1:45	Causal effects with 3+ treatments, definitions and estimators
1:45 – 2:45	Propensity score weighting example with four treatment conditions a. Use the TWANG package to fit a GBM model b. Use of TWANG in R, SAS, and Stata c. Use of TWANG to assess balance d. Estimation of treatment effects using estimated weights
2:45 - 3:00	Break
3:00 – 3:30	Doubly robust approaches
3:30 – 4:30	Marginal structural models & inverse probability of treatment weighting

Advance registration:

In addition to your RSVP here, please go to http://wss-shortcourse.eventbrite.comto register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on November 14, 2016; earlier if the course fills up.

Registration Fee:

Full-time students (at most 8): $50 advance, $70 at the door
WSS members: $160 advance, $180 at the door
All others: $210 advance, $240 at the door
WSS membership information: http://washstat.org/joinus.html

Contact Person:

Yang Cheng, 301-763-3287, yang.cheng@census.gov

JPSM Short Courses

Introduction to Survey Sampling
DECEMBER 6-7, 2016
Summit, Washington, DC
Presented by Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski
Reduced Rate Deadline September 30, 2016
Payment and Registration Due November 22, 2016
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=120616

Writing Questions for Surveys
JANUARY 30-31, 2017
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC
Presented by Nora Cate Schaeffer
Payment and Registration Due January 16, 2017
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=013017

Issues in Data Science: Unpacking 'Big Data"
FEBRUARY 7, 2017 (1-Day Course)
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC
Presented by Cliff Lampe
Payment and Registration Due January 24, 2017
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=020717

Practical Tools for Designing and Weighting Survey Samples
FEBRUARY 21-22, 2017
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC
Presented by Richard L. Valliant and Jill A. Dever
Payment and Registration Due February 7, 2017
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=022117

Leveraging New Technologies for Understanding Attitudes and Behaviors
MARCH 8-9, 2017
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC
Presented by Michael W. Link
Payment and Registration Due February 22, 2017
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=030817

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System
MARCH 29, 2017 (1-Day Course)
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC
Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann
Payment and Registration Due March 15, 2017
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=032917

Nonprobablity Survey Samples
APRIL 14, 2017 (1-Day Course)
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC
Presented by Courtney Kennedy
Payment and Registration Due March 31, 2017
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=041417

Introduction to Survey Estimation
MAY 1-2, 2017
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC
Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee
Payment and Registration Due April 17, 2017
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=050117

FELLOWHSIP OPPORTUNITY

2017 ASA/NSF/BLS Fellowship Program

Are you interested in expanding your research to new and interesting domains? Are you doing research that could benefit the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)? If so, consider applying for our Research Fellow Program!

The program's main objective is to facilitate collaboration between academic scholars and government researchers in fields such as statistics, mathematics, economics, survey methodology, behavioral science, and other related fields. Research Fellows have unique opportunities to expand their awork to address some of the difficult methodological problems and analytic challenges BLS faces. Fellows are funded to conduct research at the BLS headquarters in Washington, DC, use BLS data and facilities, and work closely with BLS staff.

There is more information available on our website at http://www.bls.gov/osmr/asa_nsf_bls_fellowship_info.htm or in our brochure at http://www.amstat.org/careers/pdfs/ASANSFBLSFellowshipProgram.pdf. Proposals are due January 2, 2017 with final decisions anticipated around April 15, 2017.

Fellowship applicants should have a recognized research record and considerable expertise in their area of proposed research. Applicants must submit a detailed research proposal, which will be evaluated on the applicability of the research to BLS programs, the value of the proposed research to science, and the quality of the applicant's research record. Applicants do not need to be U.S. Citizens, but they must be employed by a U.S. institution of higher learning or a non-profit institution (IRS code 501(c)(3) entity) and are expected to retain their position for the duration of the fellowship. U.S. Government employees are not eligible.

We encourage interested researchers to contact us before submitting a proposal, so we can provide assistance in tailoring the proposed topic to best utilize your skills and interests in addressing BLS issues.

The BLS coordinates our Research Fellow Program in cooperation with the American Statistical Association (http://www.amstat.org/) (ASA), under a grant from the National Science Foundation (http://www.nsf.gov/) (NSF).

Please contact Jeffrey Gonzalez (Gonzalez.Jeffrey@bls.gov) if you have any questions and please feel free to share this announcement with any colleagues who may have interest in the Fellowship Program.

BE INFORMED!

Free Statistics Internship Listing Opportunity in Amstat News and on ASA Website

The American Statistical Association is inviting organizations to submit a 2017 internship listing to be included in the December 2016 issue of *Amstat News* and posted on the ASA website (at no charge). You are welcome to submit statistics related internship information all year for the ASA website, but only submissions received by October 20, 2016 will be included the December 2016 issue of *Amstat News*.

If interested, please visit *http://www.amstat.org/ASA/Education/Internships-and-Fellowships.aspx* where you will find instructions and the internship listing form under the Internship Opportunities Listing Form for Organizations link (or direct link of *http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/Internship-Opportunities-Listing-Form.aspx*).

We offer this complimentary service for the organizations who offer statistics related internships for students and to assist statistics students to find internship opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Nichols at rebecca@amstat.org.

WSS Statistics Education Committee Seeking Hosts for Site Visits for High School and Undergraduate Student Groups

Over the past several months, the WSS Statistics Education Committee has received requests for help in finding sites for high school and undergraduate statistics students to visit to gain exposure to the statistics workplace. They are also looking for organizations that are willing to send approved speakers to their educational institutions to talk to students. If your agency, business, organization, etc. is willing to host visits and/or provide approved speakers, please send the following information to Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com:

1. Full name and location of organization
2. One to three official contact people with their emails and telephone numbers
3. Whether you are willing to provide speakers, either on-site or at educational institutions. If you are willing to provide speakers, if possible, please provide a list of appropriate topics.
4. Whether you are willing to have students come visit your facilities. For on-site visits, please list any security restrictions (e.g., all attendees must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, all attendees must be at least a certain age).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol Joyce Blumberg, Chair of the WSS Statistics Education Committee, at either cblumberg@gmail.com or (301) 920-0278.

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **November, 2016** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20th** of **preceding month**.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

The authors are responsible for verifying the contents of their submissions. Submissions requiring extensive revisions on length and/or contents will be returned. Announcements with track changes will not be accepted.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format will be returned.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ITEMS IN PDF OR IN THE BODY OF AN EMAIL.