April 2024 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

IASS 2024 General Assembly

We would like to invite you to attend the 2024 IASS General Assembly. The IASS General Assembly will take place online, and is scheduled for Wednesday, 17 July 2024 at 14:00 hr./ 2pm CEST. An invitation including the zoom link will be sent   via email prior to the meeting.

Members are invited to propose agenda items. If you have any suggestions for items you would like to add to the agenda, please inform IASS President Natalie Shlomo by email (natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk).

The Annual Report 2023 will be shared with you prior to the General Assembly and we will be voting to approve the Annual Report during the meeting. This includes the 2023 IASS Budget. We will also be voting on the 2024-2025 IASS Strategy Document available here: http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/IASS-Strategy2023-2025_V2.pdf and out now for consultation.

We look forward to seeing you at the General Assembly on July 17th .

IASS Sponsored Sessions at International Conferences and Workshops

The is happy to continue partnerships with local organizors of workshops and conferences around the world and to sponsor sessions focusing on cutting-edge applications of survey statistics. If you would like to collaborate on organizing a session, please get in touch with **Natalie Shlomo** natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk.

We are delighted to announce the upcoming IASS sponsored sessions:

Invited Session at the Statistics Canada International Methodology Symposium 2024, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, from **October 29** to **November 1, 2024**. The topic is **Small Area Estimation**. Invited speakers are: **Francois Verret**, Statistics Canada; **Emily Berg**, University of Iowa and **Andreea Erciulescu**, Westat and the session is chaired by **Natalie Shlomo**, President of the IASS 2023-2025.

Invited Session at the 2024 Third Workshop on Methodologies for Official Statistics, ISTAT, Rome, Italy, from **December 4 to 5, 2024**. The topic is **Advancements in Small Area Estimation**. The session will be chaired by **Natalie Shlomo**, President of the IASS 2023-2025 and the 'master class' will be delivered by **Jan Van Den Brakel**. Other speakers will be announced.

*IASS Websites***:**

The Survey Statistician issues are available at http://isi-iass.org/home/services/the-survey-statistician/

IASS Newsletters are available at http://isi-iass.org/home/services/newsletters/

The calendar of events is available at http://isi-iass.org/home/events/

Follow IASS activities and updates on LinkedIn!
https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-association-of-survey-statisticians-iass

Follow the IASS X account https://twitter.com/iass_isi and the IASS Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/iass.isi

65th World Statistics Congress, October 5 to 9, 2025

Call for Contributed Papers Sessions (CPS) for the 65th World Statistics Congress

We invite statisticians, data scientists, researchers, and professionals to contribute by submitting abstracts on topics spanning the vast landscape of statistics. Share your expertise and be a part of shaping the future of statistical sciences. For more information, visit the CPS webpage and submit by the deadline of **17 June 2024**.
https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/contributed-paper-poster-submission/

The **Invited Paper Session (IPS)** Submissions have now closed. There are 14 submitted proposals sponsored by the IASS.

IASS Webinar Series

The IASS Webinar Series continues to be a **very successful** initiative. The current timetable is available on the calendar of events page of the IASS website: http://isi-iass.org/home/events/ for upcoming IASS webinars. Note that CET is Central European Time. Links to register for the webinars are also provided in the advertisement. A list of previous IASS webinars with the presented slides can be found at: http://isi-iass.org/home/webinars/ while recordings for past webinars can be found at: https://www.isi-web.org/courses-webinars-workshops. If you would like to contribute with suggestions for future speakers, please contact **Andrés Gutierrez Rojas** at andres.gutierrez@cepal.org.

IASS Webinar 40:	**An Estimation of Variance of Random Effects to Solve Multiple Problems in Small Area Estimation**
Speaker:	**Masayo Y. Hirose, Institute of Mathematics for Industry, Kyushu University, Japan**
Date and Time:	**May 29th, 2024,** at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET).
The registration link:	https://bit.ly/iass-webinar-40 [bit.ly]

Please note the following confirmed upcoming webinars and the speakers:

IASS Webinar 42: 31 July 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) FRAUKE KREUTER
IASS Webinar 43: 28 August 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) PAUL CORRAL
IASS Webinar 44: 25 September 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) NIKOS TZAVIDIS
IASS Webinar 45: 30 October 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) HUKUM CHANDRA PRIZE
IASS Webinar 47: 18 December 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) ISABEL MOLINA
IASS Webinar 48: 29 January 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) DANNY PFEFFERMAN

The Survey Statistician

The **January 2024** issue of **The Survey Statistician is out now!** It is available on the website at: http://isi-iass.org/home/services/the-survey-statistician/ and for the complete issue: http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/Survey_Statistician_2024_January_N89.pdf. This issue features an article for the **New and Emerging Methods Section** titled: **Social Big Data to Enhance Small Area Estimates**, by **Stefano Marchetti** and **Francesco Schirripa Spagnolo**. The question in the **Ask the Expert Section** is: **What is the state of play on statistical matching, with a focus on auxiliary information, complex survey designs and quality issues?** answered

by Marcello D'Orazio, Marco Di Zio and Mauro Scanu. We have a strong contribution from our Italian colleagues in the January 2024 issue and we are grateful for their contributions.

Other articles celebrating our 50 year jubilee are: **The First Fifty Years of the IASS, Some Thoughts** by **Carl-Erik Särndal** and **Past Presidents Testimonials on IASS** edited by **Annamaria Bianchi.** We also pay tribute to C.R. Rao in an article**: A Tribute to the Centenarian Statistician C. R. Rao**, by **Arni S. R. Srinivasa Rao, T. Krishna Kumar and Pramod Kumar Pathak**. The issue also includes review articles of past conferences and the IASS experiences at the recent **64th World Statistics Congress** held in Ottawa, July 16-20, 2023.

We are also very happy to introduce the new section in **The Survey Statistician** dedicated to the **Early Career Survey Statistician** defined as a person with up to 5 years of employment or within the fifth year since award of their PhD who is researching in the field of survey statistics. The new Section Editor is **Veronica Ballerini.** The first article is: **The Growth of New Researchers in the Era of New Data Sources,** by **Veronica Ballerini and Lisa Braito.**

We are very grateful to all of the Editorial Team, and particularly to Danuté Krapavickaite, for her care and dedication in the production of **The Survey Statistician**.

Call for Conference Support for 2024

The International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) will consider providing financial support for workshops, conferences and similar events that:
- promote the study and development of the theory and practice of statistical surveys and censuses and associated subjects, and
- foster interest in these subjects among statisticians, organizations, governments, and the general public in different countries of the world.

The proposed conference, workshop or similar event must be well governed, with a clear organising structure (virtual or in-person), and an ability to account for the funding provided, in addition to give the IASS visible credit for the support provided. Preference will be given to:
- activities that promote sharing of knowledge and practice across a number of countries which would not normally have opportunities to share such knowledge and practice;
- facilitating attendance at such activities by people who would be otherwise unlikely to be able to attend, but whose presence would add appreciable value to the activity in terms of furthering IASS objectives; this attendance may be by a participant from a

developing country, or a student, or it may be in terms of a teacher/presenter who would particularly enrich the event, who would otherwise be unlikely to attend; and
- forms of assistance that support IASS membership attendance at the event.

To apply for support, please send a document project, including a budget sheet, to IASS President Natalie Shlomo (Natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk) and to the IASS President-Elect Partha Lahiri (plahiri@umd.edu) before June 30th, 2024. Applications should address the criteria set out above and comply with the mission of IASS. The total amount of funds available under this scheme will be € 1,800 in one year and will be shared to support more than one project.

Conferences on survey statistics and related areas

Q2024 Conference – Statistics Portugal and Eurostat are pleased to invite you to the 11th European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics (Q2024) in Estoril, Portugal (the Greater Lisbon region) from **4 to 7 June 2024.** https://www.q2024.pt/

SAE 2023-2024 Conference – A conference celebrating the 65th birthday of Prof. Partha Lahiri will be held on **June 3 to 7, 2024** at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. More information: https://sae2023.pucp.edu.pe/ . The deadline for invited paper session and abstracts has passed.

ICES VII - The Seventh International Conference on Establishment Statistics (ICES VII) will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, **June 17 to 20, 2024**. Continuing in the tradition of ICES I to ICES VI, ICES VII will explore new areas of establishment statistics while showcasing state-of-the-art methodology. https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2024/

PSD2024: Privacy in Statistical Databases 2024 - Nice, France, will be held on **September 25 to 27, 2024**. Submission deadline is May 19th, 2024 where the submission can be done through the link https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=psd2024. Details on the conference here: https://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat/psd2024/

Statistics Canada International Methodology Symposium 2024 – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, will be held on **October 29** to **November 1, 2024**. The theme of the conference is: 'Shaping the future of official statistics'. The call for papers is out with a deadline of **May 3rd, 2024.** For all accepted proposals, the presentation (in English or French) is due by **September 6, 2024**. Conference proceedings will be published online. A final paper must be submitted by **January 10, 2025** for inclusion in the proceedings. Visit the website: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/conferences/symposium2024/index.

13th edition of the International Francophone Conference on Sample Surveys - Esch-Belval, Luxembourg will be held from November **5** to **8, 2024.** Call for abstracts is open until **April 30th.** View the website here: https://sondages2024.sciencesconf.org/

Call for the 2024 Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize

A prize to be awarded to a mid-career researcher, defined as someone with more than 10 years of experience after PhD or in employment, who has made an important contribution in research areas of Hukum Chandra's work namely, survey sampling, small area estimation, official statistics, spatial analysis applied to official and survey statistics and agricultural statistics. The definition of a mid-career researcher in this call aims to recognise researchers who are close to Dr. Chandra's career trajectory. The prize is open to applicants from all regions of the world. A PhD degree is not an essential criterion for the award. The recipient of the Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize will receive an honorarium of 500 Euros and will be invited to present a special webinar with discussion in October 2024.

Application process

Submit an extended abstract of up to 5 pages (including references) on which the webinar will be based. This must comprise original work that is either unpublished or published. The extended abstract must be written in English, include a clear statement of the problem, the proposed method(s) and a summary of key results. If the work is based on a published paper, the paper should be part of the application. Each submission must also be accompanied by a short CV (max two pages).

The CV, extended abstract and paper (if available) must be submitted to the chair of the IASS prize committee, **Eric Rancourt** eric.rancourt@statcan.gc.ca   by **23:59 GMT on May 24th, 2024**. Members of the Hukum Chandra prize committee are **Nancy McBeth, Siu-Ming Tam** and **Sharon Lohr**. The decision will be communicated by the end of July and the webinar will be scheduled in October 2024.

Reading of the Month

The reading of the month is the **2022 Morris Hansen Lecture** by **Richard Valliant**, published in the Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology, Vol 12, pp. 275 – 256: **The Evolution of the Use of Models in Survey Sampling**. It is available at https://doi.org/10.1093/jssam/smad021.

The paper deliberates significant contributions of Morris Hansen to the use of models in survey sampling. Throughout the discussion, the author also provides a review of development of models in survey estimation and some of the history. Several aspects in sampling survey are discussed, such as the nine important distributions used in analyzing data from sample surveys, and a detailed timeline of research related to model-based and survey-based estimation in survey smapling from the 1950s to the 2000s. Moreover, the paper discusses various alternative model-based methods for the estimation of finite population totals and means. The methods discussed are, for example, the best linear unbiased predictors, general regression estimators, nonparametric and semiparametric estimators and empirical estimators. In addition, an intensive discussion on nonprobability sample is also provided. Finally, the paper ends with a summary and discussion of the use of models in survey sampling.

The paper is followed by discussions from Jay Breidt https://doi.org/10.1093/jssam/smad030   and Trivellore Raghunathan https://doi.org/10.1093/jssam/smae001