

## December 2022 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

### **About the IASS**

The **January 2023** issue of *The Survey Statistician* (TSS) is in the pipeline with a very interesting paper for the *New and Emerging Methods* from Italy on **Using Social Media to Enhance Survey Data**. Professors Annamaria Bianchi (University of Bergamo), Camilla Salvatore (University of Milano-Bicocca) and Silvia Biffignandi (CESS, Consultancy in Economic Statistics Studies) provide an overview on the role of social media data in survey research. After examining the characteristics and challenges of using social media data, the Authors discuss recent approaches on how social media have been used to enhance survey research and introduce a general modular framework for producing statistics taking advantage of the two data sources.

<http://isi-iass.org/home/services/the-survey-statistician/>

If you would like to contribute an article for future issues to the *Ask the Experts*, *New and Emerging Methods*, and *Book and Software Review* sections please approach the TSS editors or M. Giovanna Ranalli (email below).

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 Twitter account [https://twitter.com/iass\\_isi](https://twitter.com/iass_isi) and the IASS Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/iass.isi>

Please feel free to send items to publish in future IASS newsletters to M. Giovanna Ranalli by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month [giovanna.ranalli@unipg.it](mailto:giovanna.ranalli@unipg.it)

### **Tim Holt 1943-2022**

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Tim Holt passed away suddenly. He has been Professor for Statistics at the University of Southampton and the first director of the Office for National Statistics in the UK. Tributes in his memory can be found at the following links.

<https://www.isi-web.org/news/node-2422>

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/s3ri/news/2022/11/25-tim-holt-passes-away-suddenly.page>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tim-holt-obituary-5ng6sch6r> (subscription only)

### **Cochran-Hansen Prize 2023: Competition for Young Survey Statisticians from Developing and Transitional Countries**

In celebration of its 25th anniversary in 1999, the IASS established the Cochran-Hansen Prize, which is awarded every two years for the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a developing or transition country. In the 2023 edition, the Cochran-Hansen Prize

consists of research expenses in a total of €1500 to be executed until February 3rd, 2025. As the prize winner will be invited to present his or her paper at the 64th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute (<https://www.isi2023.org/conferences/ottawa-2023/>) to be held in Ottawa, Canada, 16-20 July 2023, this value will cover the WSC registration. The remaining expenses may include registration at WSC short courses, books, journal subscriptions or publication fees, registration, and travel expenses for attending conferences or short courses, and travel expenses of research visits. Credit should be given to IASS support in the conference presentations or in the publications supported by the Cochran-Hansen Prize.

Participation in the competition for the prize is restricted to **young statisticians from developing countries** (<https://www.isi-web.org/capacity-building/developing-countries>) that are living in such countries and were **born in 1988 or later**. A paper submitted for the competition must consist of original work which is either unpublished or has been **published after February 3rd, 2021**. A paper may be based on a university thesis and should be written in English.

**The deadline for submission of papers for the 2023 prize is February 3rd, 2023.** All papers must be sent to the chair of the IASS 2021 Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee, Prof. Nikos Tzavidis, email address [n.tzavidis@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.tzavidis@soton.ac.uk) Each submission must be accompanied by a cover letter, stating the author's year of birth, nationality, and country of residence. The cover letter should also indicate if the paper submitted is based on a PhD thesis and, in the case of a joint paper, the contribution to the paper made by the prize competitor. The papers submitted will be reviewed by members of the Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee appointed by the IASS. The decision of the Committee will be final. The prize winner will be notified on or before March 31st, 2023, by email. For further information, please contact Prof. Nikos Tzavidis University of Southampton, UK, Email: [n.tzavidis@soton.ac.uk](mailto:n.tzavidis@soton.ac.uk)

### **Call for Conference Support for 2023**

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 **Monica Pratesi** ([monica.pratesi@unipi.it](mailto:monica.pratesi@unipi.it)) and in cc to IASS Vice President **Natalie Shlomo** ([natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk)) before June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

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 € 2,100 in one year and will be shared to support more than one project.

### **Waksberg Award**

The recipient of the **2022** Waksberg Award, Prof. **Roderick Little**, has delivered the invited lecture on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at the Statistics Canada Symposium. Introduced by Prof. Jean Opsomer, chair of the committee that awarded the prize, Prof. Little in a thought provoking talk illustrated the contents of the paper on “Bayes, buttressed by design-based ideas, is the best overarching paradigm for sample survey inference” to be published in the December issue of Survey Methodology.

The **2023** recipient of the Waksberg Award, Prof. **Ray Chambers**, has been recently announced, and the Committee is already working for the next round: **nominations sought for the 2024 Waksberg Award**. The journal Survey Methodology has established an annual invited paper series in honor of the late Joseph Waksberg to recognize his outstanding contributions to survey statistics and methodology. Each year a prominent survey statistician is chosen to write a paper that reviews the development and current state of an important topic in the field of survey statistics and methodology. The paper reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterized Joseph Waksberg’s work.

The recipient of the Waksberg Award will receive an honorarium and give the 2024 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium, expected to be held in the autumn of 2024. The paper will be published in an upcoming issue of Survey Methodology (targeted for December 2024).

The author of the 2024 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by Survey Methodology and the American Statistical Association. **Nomination of individuals to be considered should be sent by email before February 15, 2023 to the chair of the committee, Maria Giovanna Ranalli (maria.ranalli@unipg.it). Nominations should include a CV and a nomination letter. Nominations will remain active for 5 years.**

Previous Waksberg Award honorees and their invited papers can be found at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-001-x/award-prix-eng.htm>

### **IASS Webinar Series**

The IASS Webinar Series continues to be a **very successful** initiative. The last two webinars have been very successful with overall 500 registered participants! The current timetable for upcoming IASS webinars is below. Note that CET is Central European Time. Links to register for the webinars are provided below. More details, such as abstracts will be directly emailed to registered members. A list of previous IASS webinars can be found at <http://isi-iass.org/home/webinars/> and recordings are available <https://www.isi-web.org/events/webinars>.

If you would like to contribute with suggestions for future speakers contact Andrea Diniz da Silva at [andrea.silva@ibge.gov.br](mailto:andrea.silva@ibge.gov.br)

#### **#25 Unemployment Estimates for the Brazilian Labour Force Survey Using State-Space Models**

Caio Gonçalves and Denise Silva

Wed, January 25, 2023, 2pm – 3:30pm (CET)

Register at: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3qVk\\_0coTXyi3akDZicuHQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3qVk_0coTXyi3akDZicuHQ)

### **Conferences on survey statistics and related areas**

The French National Institute for Demographic Studies INED will host les **12<sup>e</sup> Colloque Francophone sur les Sondages** from March 22-24, 2023, on Campus Condorcet at Aubervilliers. Tuesday 21 March 2023 will be devoted to training workshops. Registration ends on January 30<sup>th</sup> <https://sondages2023.sciencesconf.org/>

**SAE2023 Lima, Perú** The 2023 Small Area Estimation international conference (SAE 2023) will take place at the Pontifical Catholic University of Perú on **June 7 - 9, 2023**. This international conference will serve as a bridge among statisticians, survey methodologists, computer scientists, and others interested in combining information from multiple databases to develop reliable inferences at granular levels. In addition to traditional topics in SAE, the conference will cover a few emerging topics in surveys and official statistics. **All conference presentations will be strictly in-person. However, it will be possible to attend the conference virtually.** Currently, the Program Committee of SAE 2023 invites the submission of Invited Session and Contributed Session proposals. In addition to traditional topics in SAE, we expect to cover a few emerging topics in survey and official statistics (e.g., combining multiple sources of data, nonprobability sampling, probabilistic record linkage, data fusion, statistical disclosure control, etc.). Each invited session is expected to be 90 minutes long, with three speakers, or three speakers plus a discussant. The organizer could be one of the speakers. Please include the name of a session chair who should not participate as a speaker or the session's discussant. The proposal should include an outline/summary of the session and information (name, affiliation, email address) about the session organizer, speakers, discussant (if any), and session chair. Relevant updated information about the conference, including abstract submission and registration, will be posted on the conference website <https://sae2023.pucp.edu.pe/>. If you have further questions, contact Mr Andrés Gutiérrez ([andres.gutierrez@cepal.org](mailto:andres.gutierrez@cepal.org)), ECLAC's Regional Adviser on Social Statistics; or Mr Angelo Cozzubo ([angelo.cozzubo@pucp.edu.pe](mailto:angelo.cozzubo@pucp.edu.pe)), PUCP researcher.

**ItaCoSM-2023** The 8<sup>th</sup> Italian Conference on Survey Methodology will be held in Arcavacata di Rende, **Cosenza, Italy**, Università della Calabria, on **June 7-9, 2023**. <https://meetings3.sis-statistica.org/index.php/itacosm2023/main>

**ISI2023** The 64<sup>th</sup> ISI World Statistics Congress will be face-to-face and held in **Ottawa, Canada** on **July 16 - 20, 2023**. <https://www.isi2023.org/conferences/ottawa-2023/>

**BANOCOSS2023** The 6<sup>TH</sup> BAltic-NORdic Conference on Survey Statistics will be held in **Helsinki, Finland, in August, 21-25, 2023**. The call for papers will be out in January. <https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/BNU/BANOCOSS2023>

**BigSurv23** The third international conference on Big Data Meets Survey Science (BigSurv) will be held on **October 26-29, 2023**, at Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador. It is currently accepting abstracts and session proposals on **Connecting Innovations in Data Science, Survey Research, and the Social Sciences**. The call for abstracts and session proposals **closes on February 24, 2023**. Additional information on the presentation formats and tracks can be found on the BigSurv23 website at <https://www.bigsurv.org/abstracts>

### **Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians**

The Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians will be offered as an in-person educational opportunity by the **Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social**

**Research** in Ann Arbor, Michigan, from **June 1 to July 28, 2023**. Founded by Professor Leslie Kish in 1961, the Sampling Program is devoted to training statisticians in sound probability sampling methods for diverse complex survey research problems. Since its inception, the Sampling Program has trained hundreds of participants from over 100 countries.

This intensive eight-week training program covers the principles and practice of survey sampling, the analysis of complex sample survey data, and application of sampling methods in many settings in three courses:

- Methods of Survey Sampling
- Analysis Methods for Complex Sample Survey Data
- Workshop in Survey Sampling

Participants in the Sampling Program enroll in these three courses and are considered Fellows in the Program. The methods and the analysis courses may be taken without being a Fellow, but the workshop is reserved only for Sampling Program Fellows and cannot be taken alone. The online application is now open at <https://si.isr.umich.edu/registration/application/?link=application>. Limited scholarship assistance is also offered through the Leslie Kish International Fellowship. For more information, please visit <http://www.si.isr.umich.edu/spss> or email [isr-summer@umich.edu](mailto:isr-summer@umich.edu).

### ***Reading of the month***

**The latest issue of Survey Methodology** features two very interesting pieces of research: the paper written by Roderick Little for the Waksberg Invited Paper Series on the role of Bayesian methods for survey inference and a special discussion paper by Changbao Wu on inference with non-probability survey samples. Details follow.

**Roderick J. Little**

[Bayes, buttressed by design-based ideas, is the best overarching paradigm for sample survey inference](#)

**Changbao Wu**

[Statistical inference with non-probability survey samples](#)

**Michael A. Bailey**

[Comments on “Statistical inference with non-probability survey samples” – Non-probability samples: An assessment and way forward](#)

**Michael R. Elliott**

[Comments on “Statistical inference with non-probability survey samples”](#)

**Sharon L. Lohr**

[Comments on “Statistical inference with non-probability survey samples”](#)

**Xiao-Li Meng**

[Comments on “Statistical inference with non-probability survey samples” – Miniaturizing data defect correlation: A versatile strategy for handling non-probability samples](#)

**Zhonglei Wang and Jae Kwang Kim**

[Comments on “Statistical inference with non-probability survey samples”](#)

**Changbao Wu**

[Author’s response to comments on “Statistical inference with non-probability survey samples”](#)

### **Recruitment drive – a letter from the President and the President-Elect**

We are interested in increasing our membership to the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS). This is to ensure that we have enough funds to carry out our many activities for the benefit of the survey community around the world.

Our website is: <http://isi-iass.org/home>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-association-of-survey-statisticians-iass>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/iass.isi>

Twitter @iass\_isi [https://twitter.com/iass\\_isi](https://twitter.com/iass_isi)

These activities include:

- The Survey Statistician, our IASS newsletter, issued twice a year, including country reports, new and emerging methods, ask the experts, book reviews and upcoming journal articles and conferences.
- A program of short courses prior to each ISI World Statistics Congress as well as a program of invited paper sessions
- Sponsorship for relevant international conferences on survey statistics and survey methodology
- A website giving access to past material and up to date information through our monthly newsletters: <http://isi-iass.org/home/services/newsletters/>
- The monthly IASS Webinar Series showcasing distinguished speakers on the theory and practice of surveys and censuses: <http://isi-iass.org/home/events/>
- The Cochran-Hansen Prize, awarded every two years for the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a developing country
- The Hukum Chandra Memorial prize, awarded every year to a mid-career researcher who has made an important contribution in survey research

The link to the registration page is here: <https://www.isiwebshop.org/index.php?view=registration>

There are two different fees for membership depending on what country you live in: 50 Euros for a year subscription or 25 Euros for a year subscription. The list of countries for the reduced fee is here: <https://www.isi-web.org/resources/developing-countries>

Please help us spread our important message around the world:

***Promoting good survey theory and practice around the world***

All the best,

Monica Pratesi and Natalie Shlomo

President and President- Elect of the IASS