December 2024 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

Cochran-Hansen Prize 2025: Competition for Young Survey Statisticians from Developing and Transitional Countries

In celebration of its 25th anniversary in 1999, the International Association of Survey Statisticians (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.

For the 2025 edition, the Cochran-Hansen Prize consists of research expenses up to €1500 to present his or her paper at the 65th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute (65th ISI World Statistics Congress 2025) to be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, 5-9 October 2025. This recognition will cover the WSC registration and travel expenses to the conference as well as participation in a short course. Credit should be given to IASS for its support during conference presentations or in the publication supported by the Cochran-Hansen Prize.

Participation in the competition for the prize is restricted to young statisticians from developing countries (Low and Middle-Income Countries) that are living in such countries and were born in 1990 or later.

A paper submitted for the competition must consist of original work which is either unpublished or has been published after February 28th, 2023. A paper may be based on a university thesis and should be written in English. The deadline for submission of papers for the 2025 prize is **February 28th, 2025.** All papers must be sent to the chair of the IASS 2025 Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee, Eric Rancourt at: eric.rancourt@statcan.gc.ca by the deadline.

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, 2025**, by email.

For further information, please contact: Eric Rancourt, Statistics Canada
Email: eric.rancourt@statcan.gc.ca

Call for the 2026 Waksberg Award

The Survey Methodology journal has established in 2001 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 by a four-person selection committee appointed by Survey Methodology and the American Statistical Association. The selected statistician is invited to write a paper for Survey Methodology 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 is also invited to give the Waksberg Invited Address, usually at the Statistics Canada Symposium, and receives an honorarium. More information on past winners is here: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-001-x/award-prix-eng.htm

A call is out now to nominate the 2026 Waksberg Award winner. Nomination of individuals to be considered should be sent by email before **February 15, 2025** to the chair of the committee, Jae Kwang Kim (jkim@iastate.edu). Nominations should include a CV and a nomination letter. Nominations remain active for 5 years.

Call for Requests for Support for Workshops and Conferences 2025

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 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 in cc to IASS President-Elect Partha Lahiri (plahiri@umd.edu) before May 31st.

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 € 1,500 in one year and will be shared to support more than one project.

Contributions sought for a special issue of Survey Methodology on the theme: Shaping the future of survey statistics in the data-driven era

Sample surveys play a fundamental role to collect granular data. They are a vital component of international statistical systems, providing governments, businesses and civil society with the information they need to make good decisions. Due to the need to obtain more granularity in data for policy and empirical research, alternative data sources are being considered for use in statistical processes. Given the abundance of new sources of data, there has been a prominent shift of focus on research and policy to understanding and addressing the challenges posed by new forms of data and new data collection tools and methods. Probability surveys continue to be crucial, not just for collecting data that are unavailable in alternative data sources, but also for assessing the quality in these alternative data sources, particularly with respect to representativeness, coverage and measurements.

Survey sampling and estimation methods have been progressively evolving, following the development of new tools of data collection: smart devices as meters, mobile phones, GPS systems and several new applications. Methods have been continuously advancing to measuring uncertainty and data quality, integrating Big and small data sources and developing methods to make inferences from the data, particularly through small area estimation. At the same time new methods for analyzing large volumes of data, such as machine learning and AI methods, are emerging. Moreover, rigorous approaches for incorporating and making inference from non-probability sampling have been at the forefront of recent research with the aim of ensuring equitable statistics and representativeness of minoritised populations. Finally, with new forms of data, data integration and multisource statistics, there are new challenges arising in protecting the confidentiality and privacy of statistical units, moving towards perturbative methods and accounting for these perturbation errors in statistical analysis.

Proposed special issue:

In light of the current and fast-changing pace of the data ecosystem, the planned special issue will cover many topics on the future of survey methodology and survey statistics, including:

- New forms of data collection (e.g. smartphone), passive data collection and other innovations in data collection
- Mixed mode data collections, adaptive and responsive survey designs
- Total survey error and methods for correcting non-sampling errors (coverage error, measurement error, non-response bias)
- Quality frameworks for non-survey data, uncertainty quantification for multiple-source statistics and variance estimation methods
- Future of survey sampling, including sampling Hard-to-Survey groups and ensuring equitable statistics
- Research and development with applications of machine learning and AI methods in survey research
- Data integration of multiple sources of data, including non-survey data (administrative data, census data, paradata and big data) and non-probability survey data
- Statistical data integration
- Small area estimation including data integration with non- survey data
- Using non-survey data to augment survey data collection, estimation and bias mitigation
- Non-probability sampling and compensating for selection bias
- Privacy and confidentiality

Researchers considering contributing a manuscript for this special issue are kindly requested to indicate their interest by sending a tentative title and short abstract to the guest editors (maria.ferrante@unibo.it and natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk) by July 4th, 2025. The deadline for submitting manuscripts to the special issue is December 31st, 2025. All those wishing to submit a manuscript are encouraged to present their paper at the ITACOSM2025-IASS Satellite Conference to the 2025 World Statistics Congress. This conference will be held July 1st-4th, 2025 in Bologna, Italy. The website for further information is here: https://eventi.unibo.it/itacosm-2025.

The call for abstracts to the conference will be sent out in December 2024 with the abstract submission for contributed papers open from February 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2025. All those wishing to submit a paper to the special issue are encouraged to submit an abstract to the ITACOSM2025-IASS Satellite conference.

All manuscripts submitted to the special issue will be subject to the standard rigorous peer-review that applies to all submissions in Survey Methodology. Note that Survey Methodology usually publishes innovative theoretical or applied research papers, and sometimes review papers, that provide new insights on statistical methods relevant to National Statistical Offices and other statistical organizations.

Please consult the Survey Methodology website: www.statcan.gc.ca/surveymethodology, for more information about the journal.

The link to submit papers to Survey Methodology is through the submission portal: https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/surveymeth. Please indicate that the submission is for the special issue in your cover letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact the guest editors if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Maria Rosaria Ferrante
University of Bologna
Italy
maria.ferrante@unibo.it

Natalie Shlomo
University of Manchester
United Kingdom
Natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk

IASS Sponsored Sessions at International Conferences and Workshops

The IASS 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.

65th 2025 World Statistics Congress (WSC), October 5 to 9, 2025

Visit the 2025 WSC website: https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/ . The weekly overview week overview schedule is available: https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/week-overview/ and early bird registration has now opened: https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/fees_2025/

The Invited Paper Sessions programme for the 2025 WSC is now live on the website here: https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/36/programme/

The Short Courses Committee, chaired by Prof. Dr. Peter van der Heijden, will develop a Short Courses programme to meet the needs of participants at the WSC. The programme will cover a wide range of topics with a special focus on young statisticians. Announcements about the selectin of short courses will be available soon.

IASS Satellite Conferences to the 65th WSC, July 2025

There will be two satellite conferences to the 65th World Statistics Congress (WSC) that will be held in The Hague October 5 – 9, 2025. The satellite conferences will both be held in July 2025:

1. 9th Italian Conference on Survey Methodology and International Association of Survey Statisticians (**ITACOSM2025 - IASS**) Satellite Conference, July 1 - July 4, 2025, **Bologna Italy**. We are delignted to announce 5 keynote speakers: **Alina Matei** from University of Neuchatel, **Nikos Tzavidis** from the University of Southampton, **Jean-Francois Beaumont** from Statistics Canada, **Bella Struminskaya** from University of Utrecht and **Michael Elliot** from the University of Michigan. Two half-day short courses will be held the day before on June 30, 2025 in the beautiful town of Rimini. The website and further announcements will be out soon so watch this space. More information about the conference will appear on the event's website: https://eventi.unibo.it/itacosm-2025

2. Small Area Estimation Conference (**SAE 2025**), July 7-11, 2025, **Turin, Italy**.   The international conference will be an opportunity for an of ideas between statisticians, survey methodologists, engineers, mathematicians, computer scientists, and others interested in combining information from multiple databases in order to make reliable inferences at granular levels. In addition to traditional topics in small area estimation, the conference will cover a few emerging topics in survey and official statistics (e.g., nonprobability sampling, integration of new data sources, machine learning, artificial intelligence, privacy, etc.).
   The conference is co-sponsored by the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) and International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS). The SAE 2025 conference will feature keynote speeches delivered by outstanding scientists, many invited sessions and a panel discussion on Opportunities and challenges for official statistics in a digital era. More information about the conference SAE 2025 will appear on the event's website: https://www.sae2025.org/
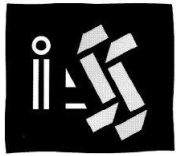
The IASS Webinar Series continues to be a **very successful** initiative. The current timetable is available on the calendar of events page of the IASS website: http://isi-iass.org/home/events/ for upcoming IASS webinars. Note that CET is Central European Time. Links to register for the webinars are 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: Professional Ethics for Statistical Practices
Speaker: Walter J. Radermacher, Chair of the ISI Advisory Board on Ethics and (honorary) Professor at the Statistical Institute of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
 Date and Time: 10 January 2025 at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET)
 The registration link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4017303882413/WN_qSskE2TNTaSq3HeH5AJBIw#/registration

IASS Webinar 48: Official Statistics on Population Parameters from a Nonprobability Sample or by Integration with a Probability Sample
Speaker: Danny Pfeffermann, University of Southampton and Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (Emeritus)
Date and Time: 29 January 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET)
The registration link: TBA

IASS Webinar 49: Data-driven Area-Specific Selection of Synthetic or Nested-error models
Speaker: Andrew Mercer, Pew Research Center
Date and Time: 26 February 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET)
The registration link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8017279616727/WN_2a2qqVHnRTK6zJp6L2zl0g#/registration

IASS Webinar 50: Multiple frame methods and designs for combining data sources
Speaker: Sharon Lohr, Professor Emerita, Arizona State University
Date and Time: 26 March 2025 at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET)
The registration link: TBA

Please note the following confirmed upcoming webinars and the speakers:

IASS Webinar 51: 25 April 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) JNK Rao
IASS Webinar 52: 28 May 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Carolina Franco

Conferences on survey statistics and related areas

The **Geospatial Data in Small Area Estimation** webinar is a hybrid event co-organized by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn
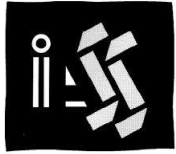
University, Bangkok, Thailand, and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland, College Park, USA. The webinar will take place on **January 20 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (GMT+7, Bangkok time zone) and 3:00 AM to 6 AM (Central European time (CET)).** The event is co-sponsored by the International Association of Survey Statisticians, the World Food Programme, and the International Association for Official Statistics.
The webinar is free of charge, but registration is mandatory. The registration link:
https://umd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bsa-DaHPSFqw-iVnrp2dYg#/registration
More information: https://math.sc.chula.ac.th/wordpress/2024/story-news/geospatial_for_sae/

New Techniques and Technologies in Statistics (NTTS) 2025 is an international biennial scientific conference series, organized by Eurostat, on new techniques and methods for official statistics, and the impact of new technologies on statistical collection, production and dissemination systems. The meeting will be hosted in Brussels in the Charlemagne Building from **March 11, 2025 to March 13, 2025**. The conference website is
https://cros.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/ntts2025

6th Mobile Apps and Sensors in Surveys (MASS) Workshop will be held on **June 4-5, 2025**, at the London School of Economics (LSE), London, UK.
More information: https://massworkshop.org

Workshop on Survey Sampling in Honour of Professor Yves Tille on the occasion of his retirement, **25-26 June 2025** in Neuchatel, Switzerland. This celebration will consist of two days of lectures by experts in the field of survey sampling.
Registration:The event is free of charge, but registration is mandatory. Please register by sending an e-mail with your name and affiliation to Messagerie.ISTAT@unine.chby1 June2025.
Venue: Faculté des sciences-Rue Emile-Argand 11-2000 Neuchâtel–Suisse

11th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA) will take place from July 14-18, 2025 in Utrecht, The Netherlands.
More information: https://www.europeansurveyresearch.org/conference/utrecht-2025/

9th biennial European Establishment Statistics Workshop (EESW25), to be held on 5 - 7 November 2025 in Rome, Italy, at the premises of Istat, the Italian National Institute of Statistics.
ENBES is organized by the European Network for Better Establishment Statistics,
More information: https://sites.google.com/enbes.org/home/home/news-and-events/eesw25

*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

Renew membership.

We would like to thank you for being a part of our community and for your support in 2024.
We hope that you will continue supporting the International Association of Survey Statisticians in 2025!

Call for SAE 2025 Conference Award

The Award is in recognition of an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the research, application, and education of small area estimation (SAE). The selection of the winner is worldwide.
Selection Process and Deadline
A nomination consists of a nomination letter (limited to two double-spaced pages), in which the numerator should highlight the major achievements of the nominee in small area estimation.
All nominations should be sent by email to **Professor Danny Pfeffermann** , Chair of the 2025 SAE Award Committee (d.pfeffermann@soton.ac.uk).

Nominations submitted last year need not be submitted again" by "Nominations submitted in the last 5 years need not be submitted again.The deadline for receiving the nomination **is March 15, 2025.**

Reading of the Month

The reading of the month is the Waksberg invited paper series by **Richard Valliant**, published in Survey Methodology, Vol 50, No. 2, pp. 149-183, titled: Sample Design Using Models. It is available at https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-001-x/2024002/article/00016-eng.pdf

The paper discusses the significant contributions of Joseph Waksberg to survey statistics and official statistics, primarily through his applied work in sample design. These contributions include innovations in recall error, coverage error, small area estimation, sampling rare populations, advancements in household sampling (including the use of address lists), rotation of sample areas, the use of administrative data, and improvements in telephone sampling methods. Moreover, the author reviews important topics influenced by Waksberg, such as balanced sampling, cutoff samples, stratification using models, multistage sampling, and mathematical programming for determining sample sizes and allocations.