January 2024 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

IASS Initiatives

The IASS would be 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. Please get in touch with **Natalie Shlomo** natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk if you would like to collaborate on organizing a session.

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 vey 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**.

*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

Call for Invited Papers Session (IPS) Proposals for the 65th World Statistics Congress

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) invites the statistical community to submit proposals for sessions under the **Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) programme** of the **65th World Statistics Congress** to be held 13-17 July 2025 in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The WSC 2025 will highlight the newest insights, developments and challenges of statistics, statistical science, and data science in all aspects of life. The website to upload the Invited Paper Session proposals is here: https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/wsc2025/ . The IPS Submissions must be received by **15 March 2024**. Please also send the submitted IPS proposal to the IASS Programme Committee Representative, **Partha Lahiri**, at plahiri@umd.edu .

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.

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.

SAE2023-2024 Conference – A conference celebrating the 65th birthday of Prof. Partha Lahiri will be held on June 3-7, 2024 at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. More information: https://sae2023.pucp.edu.pe/ . The deadline for invited paper session is **March 15, 2024 and the deadline of abstract submission is March 15, 2024.**

PSD2024: Privacy in Statistical Databases 2024 - Nice, France, will be held on September 25-27, 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/

Call for nominations for the 2025 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 2025 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium, expected to be held in the autumn of 2025. The paper will be published in an upcoming issue of Survey Methodology (Targeted for December 2025).

Nomination of individuals to be considered should be sent by email before February 15, 2024 to the chair of the committee, **Denise Silva** (denisebritz@gmail.com). Nominations should include a CV and a nomination letter. Nominations remain active for 5 years.

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**. The decision will be communicated by the end of July and the webinar will be scheduled in October 2024.

Reading of the Month

The demand for estimates on a range of socio-economic, agricultural, health, transportation, and other topics is steadily increasing at a time when survey agencies are constantly looking for ways to reduce costs to meet fixed budgetary requirements. The greater accessibility of nonprobability samples and the rapid advances in technology are now providing new opportunities for researchers to explore different ways in which these emerging data sources can be used. In nonprobability sampling, the selection probability mechanism is unknown for either the entire target finite population or a subset of it. Moreover, often selection probabilities are zero for a subset of finite population units. Thus, traditional design-based methods cannot be used to construct estimates or their uncertainty measures, and one needs to rely on models whose assumptions may not always be verifiable.

Voluntary surveys are good examples of nonprobability surveys. There is a growing demand to use these for estimating finite population parameters because they are easier and less expensive to implement than probability surveys. But estimation based on voluntary survey data is challenging. To understand the current state of research involving voluntary surveys a discussion paper on the subject was published in the **Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin** (CSAB), Volume 75 Issue 1, May 2023. The paper, titled: **An Empirical Likelihood Approach to Reduce Selection Bias in Voluntary Samples** written by **Jae Kwang Kim** and **Kosuke Morikawa** and discussed by **Marissa Ashner**, **Jay Breidt**, **J.N.K. Rao**, **Changbao Wu**, and **Takumi Saegusa**, provides an approach to combining nonignorable selection models with empirical likelihood methods to develop unified propensity score weighing with calibration. This is undoubtedly one of the most challenging research areas within survey sampling. The paper, discussions, and the rejoinder should serve as an excellent reference for future research in this exciting and challenging topic.

Partha Lahiri served as the Guest Editor for this special section of Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin. The preface, paper, discussions and rejoinder of this special section can be [downloaded](https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/csa/75/1) here: https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/csa/75/1 free of charge until March 7th, 2024. Note that you can copy-paste the link in your browser to access the CSAB.