

## October 2022 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

### About the IASS

The **July 2022** issue of *The Survey Statistician* (TSS) is out with a very interesting paper for the *New and Emerging Methods* from Germany on **Tree-Based Machine Learning in Small Area Estimation** by Patrick Krennmair and Nora Würz Freie (Freie Universität Berlin) and Timo Schmid (Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg) and a contribution in the *Ask the expert* section on **How to Measure Disclosure Risk in Microdata?** by Prof. Natalie Shlomo (University of Manchester). There are **18 country reports** following the updated list of country representatives.

<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)

### Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize

Prof. **Mahmoud Torabi** (Univ. of Manitoba) has been awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> **Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize** on October 26<sup>th</sup>. The IASS prize committee appointed by the IASS EC and by Nikos Tzavidis (Univ. of Southampton and member of the IASS EC), Alina Matei (Univ. de Neuchâtel), David Haziza (University of Ottawa), and Aberash Tariku (Ethiopian Statistics Service) unanimously agreed to award to Prof. Torabi for a paper on **Sumca: Simple, Unified, Monte-Carlo Assisted Approach to Second-order Unbiased MSPE Estimation**, published in *JRSS-B*. Prof. Torabi has provided a special invited webinar on October 26<sup>th</sup> which featured nearly 100 participants. Prof. Torabi has illustrated the potential and the applicability of Sumca that seems to be a very promising approach for MSPE estimation.

The recording of the webinar can be found here <https://www.isi-web.org/events/webinars> and the slides are available here <http://isi-iass.org/home/webinars/>. The full information on the paper is:

Jiang, J., & Torabi, M. (2020). Sumca: simple, unified, Monte-Carlo-assisted approach to second-order unbiased mean-squared prediction error estimation. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B (Statistical Methodology)*, 82(2), 467-485 available at <https://rss.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/rssb.12358>

### ***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 nominations for the 2024 Waksberg Award***

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](mailto: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 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)

#### **#23 Bridging Big Data and Sampling Methodology: What is “big” and where is the “bridge”**

Fulvia Mecatti

Wed, November 30, 2022, 2pm – 3:30pm (CET)

Register at: <https://bit.ly/3Sk7OM3>

#### **#24 Developing the Sample Design for the New Annual Integrated Economic Survey**

Katherine Jenny Thompson

Wed, December 14, 2022, 2pm – 3:30pm (CET)

Register at: <https://bit.ly/IASS-webinar-24>

### ***IASS supported conferences***

The one-day Workshop on Survey Data Management Strategies to Improve National Planning and Development has taken place on October 4 at the Ogun State Bureau of Statistics, Ogun State, Nigeria. It was attended by more than 70 participants drawn from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Local Government, Ogun State Bureau of Statistics, Universities, Polytechnics, Ministry of Health and National Population Commission.

The objective of this workshop was to discuss Survey Data generation and production, Data archiving and retrieving, Data Banking, Data Reporting, Data integrity and reliability and development of evidence-based data bank. Also, to ensure quality Survey Data production that would aid effective decision and policy as well as to acquaint members with new ideas that will improve the society. The workshop discussions have been structured in five sessions: Introduction to statistical software, Data management using STATA software, Data management using R, Development of Evidence-based data bank and a brainstorming session.

### ***IASS Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) at the 64<sup>th</sup> WSC 2023*** <https://www.isi2023.org/>

Out of the **18 submitted invited papers sessions** sponsored by the IASS to the 64th WSC in Ottawa, the following have been selected.

- Advanced inference on mixed effects models for SAE

- Better ways to address nonresponse in social surveys
- Data Integration in Survey Sampling
- Developments in Small Area Statistics Leveraging Non-Random Sampling
- Harnessing data by citizens for public policy and SDG monitoring: a conceptual framework and what is next?
- Inference under Informative Sample Designs
- Innovative statistical methods for large-scale surveys
- Longitudinal observation of human populations
- Measurement Error Modeling: Advances and Applications
- Monitoring Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals with Small Area Estimation over Space and Time
- Recent Advances in Data Anonymization and Data Modelling for Education and Poverty Research
- Sample surveys in the era of Big Data and Machine Learning
- The use of alternative data through modelling in Official Statistics
- Unlocking Microdata: Experience from International Organizations.

**64<sup>th</sup> WSC 2023: Call for <https://www.isi2023.org/> Contributed Paper/Poster Sessions**

The deadline for the submission of CPS Abstract is **21 November 2022**. The ISI invites the statistical community to submit abstracts for presentation at the 64th WSC 2023, to be held 16-20 July in Ottawa, Canada. Contributed Papers/Posters can be submitted by any individual or organisation. Presentation will be during a session or as a poster presentation (preference can be indicated in the submission system). For presentation in a Contributed Paper Session, the contributed papers will be combined into sessions with as much similarity in topic coverage as possible. The decision regarding the presentation mode for each accepted paper will be taken by the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) considering the author's request, but also considering demand and capacity constraints.

For the submission to be considered by the SPC, it should include a title and an abstract (maximum of 500 words). In order to be included in the WSC Proceedings, a short paper (maximum 6 pages) will need to be submitted in 2023. The paper must not have been published in any other conference proceedings or publication before the 64th WSC. The copyright for the abstracts and papers in the proceedings resides jointly with the authors and the ISI. Authors are free to publish expanded versions of the material elsewhere. All info at

<https://www.isi2023.org/conferences/ottawa-2023/contributed-paperposter-sessions/>

**Conferences on survey statistics and related areas**

**2022 Statistics Canada International Methodology Symposium** - Statistics Canada's 2022 International Methodology Symposium "Data Disaggregation: Building a more-representative data portrait of society" will take place virtually from November 2 to November 4, 2022, inclusively. As a fully virtual conference, the Symposium will be free of charge in 2022 for all registered participants and all presenters. **General registration for Symposium will remain open until October 31st.** All info can be found here: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/conferences/symposium2022/index>

The **Conference of European Statistics Stakeholders 2022** has been held at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" on Oct 20 – 21 and featured more than 500 registered participants . The final program can be found here

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Om-ezLIFd2VJHHalOgV9IOxm1kJ5HfRa/view>  
all info are here: <https://cess2022.dss.uniroma1.it/event/3/>

**ISI2023 OTTAWA** The **64<sup>th</sup> ISI World Statistics Congress** will be face-to-face and held in Ottawa, Canada on July 16 - 20, 2023. Early bird Registration opens on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Deadline for contributed papers and posters is Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. All info available at <https://www.isi2023.org/conferences/ottawa-2023/>

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

This month suggestion is to read the special virtual issue on "**Nonresponse Rates and Nonresponse Adjustments**" recently published by the Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology and curated by the journal's editors, Kristen Olson and Katherine Jenny Thompson. The editors propose a suite of papers on Response Rates, Building Better Nonresponse Propensity Models, Investigating Nonresponse and Associated Remediation Efforts, and Nonresponse Remediation. The special virtual issue can be accessed here <https://academic.oup.com/jssam/pages/special-virtual-issue-on-nonresponse-rates-and-nonresponse-adjustments>