October 2023 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

IASS Initiatives

The IASS is sponsoring a session at the **ISTAT Second Workshop on Methodologies for Official Statistics** from December 5 to 7, 2023. The title of the session is: **Machine Learning Methods in Survey Statistics**, and will feature David Haziza, University of Ottawa, Canada and Petrus J.H. Daas of Statistics Netherlands.

About the IASS

The **July 2023** issue of **The Survey Statistician** is out now and available here: http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/Survey_Statistician_2023_July_N88.pdf. It is a **special edition** to celebrate our **50-year jubilee**!

Other than the static features, Letter from the Editor, Letter from the President, Report from the Scientific Secretary, News and Announcements, this issue features **contributions** on the history of IASS and its role for the study and development of the theory and practice of sample surveys. Don't miss contributing articles by Imbi **Traat**, J.N.K. **Rao**, Ton **de Waal**, Sander **Scholtus**, Jean-Francois **Beaumont**, Dennis **Trewin**, Ivan P. **Fellegi**, Eric **Rancourt**, Jae Kwang **Kim**, Wayne **Fuller**, Danny **Pfeffermann**, Isabel **Molina** Peralta, Mahmoud **Torabi**, Jairo **Arrow**, Monica **Pratesi**, Carl-Erik **Sarndal**, Daniel **Thorburn**, Siu-Ming **Tam**, Peter **Wingfield-Digby**, Graham **Kalton**, Denise **Silva**, Pedro **Silva and** Luigi **Biggeri**.

The New and Emerging Methods section features a paper by Prof. **Changbao Wu (**University of Waterloo, Canada) on **Calibration Techniques for Model-based Prediction and Doubly Robust Estimation**.

It is an extremely carefully crafted issue, for which we are very grateful to the Editors, and to Danuté Krapavickaite in particular for her care and dedication! 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 Twitter account https://twitter.com/iass_isi and the IASS Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/iass.isi

Call for Conference Support for 2024

The International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) will consider providing financial support to organizations/societies planning 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.

Watch out for the call that will come out on the IASS website and our social media channels in November of 2023.

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 and can be viewed in the calendar of events at http://isi-iass.org/home/events/. A list of previous IASS webinars with the presented slides can be found 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.

#34: 29 November 2023, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET). **Recent Developments in Unit-Level Models for Small Area Estimation.**
Speaker: Emily Berg, Iowa State University.
Register at https://bit.ly/IASS-webinar-34

Announcements of upcoming webinars will be sent out shortly and on our website:
http://isi-iass.org/home/events/

Calls 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.

Conferences on survey statistics and related areas

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.

Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) 2024 – **Statistics and Data Science: Informing Policy and Countering Misinformation** will be held on August 3-8, 2024 in Portland, Oregon. For more information, visit https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2024/ . The deadline for for submitting Topic Contributed Paper Session proposals to the organizers is November 15, 2023.

Reading of the Month

The reading of the month is the article: **Bayesian Ideas in Survey Sampling: The Legacy of Basu** by Marco Di Zio, Brunero Liseo and Maria Giovanna Ranalli, published in Sankhya A in October 2023.
See the article using the link: **https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13171-023-00327-5**

As summarized by Andres Gutierrez Rojas:

Debabrata Basu made significant contributions to survey sampling theory. He clarified the role of sufficiency and likelihood in survey sampling, showing that these principles can be used to develop a coherent theory of survey sampling, in which the sampling design plays a secondary role. Basu showed that the sampling design should not affect inference about the parameter once the sample has been drawn. He also helped to improve our understanding of the statistical properties of different survey designs, leading to the development of new, more efficient design methods that produce more accurate estimates. His writing and exemplification of his ideas were outstanding and his elephant fable changed the perspective of sample survey inference through a whole new paradigm.

This paper, written by leading Italian researchers, shows how Basu's ideas continue to influence the current practice of survey sampling in three specific areas: small area estimation to obtain disaggregated estimates; correcting non-sampling errors and accounting for nonrandom patterns in nonresponse models; and integrating data from survey samples and administrative registers. The document exemplifies how Basu's ideas become Bayesian models useful for addressing current problems and that will provide solutions to National Statistical Offices around the world.