



Some Memorable Recollections of IASS First Meeting

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Abstract

International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) evolved during the biannual meeting of International Statistical Institute held in Vienna, Austria, 1973. Invited and contributed paper sessions were organized prior to the start of the ISI meeting, devoted to survey sampling theory and methods. I give a brief account of my participation as organizer of an invited paper session and as a speaker in another invited paper session. The first IASS meeting attracted several distinguished survey statisticians.

Keywords: International Association of Survey Statisticians, International Statistical Institute, survey sampling.

1 Introduction

IASS evolved during the biannual meeting of ISI held in Vienna, Austria, 1973. Several invited paper sessions and contributed paper sessions were organized and presented prior to the start of the ISI meetings. A variety of topics were covered during the meetings followed by stimulating discussions.

2 Two invited paper sessions

I organized an invited paper session entitled “Analytic uses of and inferences from sample surveys”. Four leading survey statisticians presented papers in this session. The first IASS Newsletter (now called *Survey Statistician*) lists the following presentations: (1) J. Sedransk (USA): “Design and analysis of analytical sample surveys. (2) G. Nathan (Israel): “Tests of independence in contingency tables from complex surveys. (3) W. Fuller (USA): Regression analysis for sample surveys. (4) K. R. W. Brewer and R. W. Mellor (Australia): “The effect of sample structure on analytical surveys. H. O. Hartley (USA) and T. M. F. Smith (UK) acted as invited discussants. Fuller’s paper appeared in *Sankhya C* (Fuller 1975), and it received a lot of attention as judged from subsequent citations.

I participated as invited speaker in another session entitled “Foundations of survey sampling” organized by C. E. Särndal (Canada). The IASS Newsletter lists the following presentations: (1) W. A. Ericson (USA): “A Bayesian approach to two-stage sampling”. (2) V. P. Godambe and M. E. Thompson (Canada): “Philosophy of sample survey practice”. (3) J. N. K. Rao (Canada): “On the foundations of survey sampling”. M. R. Sampford (UK), G. A. Barnard (UK) and R. M. Royall (USA) acted as invited discussants

I might also mention another session entitled “Sampling from imperfect and multiple frames”, organized by A. Sunter (Canada). One of the speakers in that session was H. O. Hartley (USA). W. A. Fuller (USA) acted as invited discussant. Hartley’s paper on unified theory of multiple frame

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surveys appeared in Sankhya C (Hartley 1974) and this paper is also highly cited. Sankhya C started in 1974 and I was invited to serve as co-editor. I invited both Fuller and Hartley to submit their papers and both graciously agreed to my invitation. Sankhya C was devoted to survey sampling theory and methods. Unfortunately, it was discontinued after 1978.

All in all, the first IASS meeting was highly successful. The second IASS meeting was held in Warsaw, Poland in 1975 prior to the start of ISI meeting. Subsequently, IASS became a part of ISI and IASS sessions were organized as part of ISI program.

References

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