



2024 IASS Annual Report

January 2025

Association website: <http://isi-iass.org/home/>

Executive Committee:

President: Natalie Shlomo

President-Elect: Partha Lahiri

Vice-Presidents: Annamaria Bianchi, Eric Rancourt, Jiraphan Suntornchost and
Andres Guitierrez Rojas

Ex- Officio Member: Conchita Kleijweg

Number of members; institutional members:

2024 297 ; 21

2023 316; 21

2022 318; 20

2021 314 ; 20

2020 304; 24

2019 319; 24

IASS in Social Media

We have been posting regularly on our social media platforms about IASS activities and related contents of interest for our members, namely, webinars, upcoming conferences, books, articles, prizes, the newsletter and The Survey Statistician releases and their contents, and the recruitment drive.

The number of followers to the pages have increased. Since January 2024 to December 2024, X (Twitter) followers increased from 400 to 413, LinkedIn followers from 1500 to 2118, and Facebook followers from 200 to 224. LinkedIn has been the fastest growing social media outlet for the IASS.



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

Follow the IASS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/iass.isi>

The brochure can be downloaded here: http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/IASS2022brochure_final_21012022.pdf

Updating of IASS Country Representatives:

As of 2024, we have over 100 country representatives of the IASS across all continents, and are continually seeking out new country representatives for countries without representation.

The role of the country representative is to:

- (1) Supporting recruitment drives
- (2) Engaging with their country networks in requesting IASS conference support funding or sponsoring sessions at local workshops
- (3) Contributing to our twice-yearly journal: **The Survey Statistician**, by producing articles on activities and applications related to survey statistics in their countries.

We are active in recruitment drives for both individual and institutional members.

IASS Planning to the 65th World Statistics Congress (WSC) 2025

The link is here: <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/>

The IASS is sponsoring 11 Invited Papers Sessions (IPS) covering both traditional statistical research in survey statistics and new developments related to new forms of data and innovation. The IPS sessions are:

| Proposer | Country | Proposal Title |
|---------------------------|----------------|---|
| Dr Johanna Laiho-Kauranne | Finland | How Societies Are Portrayed via Their Digital Resources, Activities and Economies and Does This Convene With the Traditional Statistical Profiles |
| Tiziana Tuoto | Italy | Integrating Mobile Network Operator Data with Official Statistics |
| Prof. Peter J. Lynn | United Kingdom | The Future of Social Surveys: Adapting to a Changing World |
| Prof. Anne Ruiz-Gazen | France | Bridging Academia and Official Statistics: Examples of European Experience |
| Mr Barry Schouten | Netherlands | Smart Survey Methodology |
| Dr Wendy Martinez | United States | Assessment and Improvement of Data Quality Through Use of Auxiliary Information and Record Linkage |
| Anders Holmberg | Australia | Advances in the Reduction of Bias Through Adaptive Design and Nonresponse Adjustments |
| Dr John Lamont Eltinge | United States | Enhancing Public Confidence in Analytic Quality and Privacy Protection for Public-Use Statistics |
| Drs Eric Schulte Nordholt | Netherlands | Improving Access to Microdata for Researchers |
| Dr Danute Krapavickaite | Lithuania | Non-probability and Probability Sample Integrated Estimators for the Population Parameters |
| Prof. Natalie Shlomo | United Kingdom | Data Integration for Producing Official Statistics: Where are We Headed? |

Other relevant sessions across associations are:

| Proposer | Country | Proposal Title |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Dr Andres Gutierrez | Colombia | Data Integration for Official Statisticians |
| Dr Matthew Plummer | United Kingdom | Use of Geospatial Methods for Small Area Population Estimation |
| Dr Janice Lent | United States | Small Area Estimation for Official United States Household Statistics: Employment, Inflation and Energy Use |
| Dr Hanna Strzelecka | Poland | Improvement of the Labour Force Survey by Using Administrative Data Sources |

There will be two Special Invited Paper Sessions (SIPS) sponsored by the IASS:

- SIPS IASS President's Invited Speaker Session featuring Prof. Yves Tille from the University of Neuchatel.



- SIPS Cochran-Hansen Prize Session featuring a talk from the 2025 Cochran-Hansen prize winner

IASS 2024 Annual General Meeting:

The 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the IASS was held remotely on zoom on July 17th 2024. The presentation to the AGM included an overview of IASS activities and the 2023 IASS budget. The final 2023 report and budget were approved by attending IASS members. The presentation from the 2024 AGM is here: <https://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/IASS-AGM-2024-17072024-final.pdf>

IASS Strategic Plan 2024-25:

The updated IASS Strategic Plan for 2024-2025 can be found here: <https://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/IASS-Strategy2024-2025.pdf> . The strategy plan was ratified at the IASS AGM.

The document continues with the current activities of the IASS that includes: monthly newsletters, monthly webinars, the twice-yearly journal of The survey Statistician, country representative monitoring and updates, The Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize and The Cochran-Hansen Prize, conference support, and short courses.

Updates to this strategic plan compared to the previous 2021-2023 Strategic Plan are the following:

- (1) Increasing our visibility by putting forward proposals for special invited sessions sponsored by the IASS at established conferences;
- (2) Ensure that the IASS has bespoke satellite conferences to the 2025 65th WSC in the Hague;
- (3) Establish a new section of The Survey Statistician for Early Career Survey Statistician;
- (4) Increase our visibility on social media.

IASS Monthly newsletters:

Monthly newsletters can be viewed at: <http://isi-iass.org/home/2024-newsletters/>

In each newsletter, we feature a **Reading of the Month**.

IASS Monthly Webinars held in 2024:



See <http://isi-iass.org/home/webinars/> for the presentations and <https://www.isi-web.org/events/webinars> for the recordings. The webinars that were held from January 2024 to December 2024 were:

IASS Webinar 36: Latent Variable Models for Finite Population Inference, by Maria Giovanna Ranalli

IASS Webinar 37: New Developments in Small Area Estimation: A Practitioner's Perspective, by David Newhouse

IASS Webinar 38: Data Integration, Data Linkage, and Linked Data Analysis, by Tiziana Tuoto

IASS Webinar 39: Model-Based Optimal Designs for a Multipurpose Farm Survey, by Jay Breidt

IASS Webinar 40: An Estimation of Variance of Random Effects to Solve Multiple Problems in Small Area Estimation, by Masayo Y. Hirose

IASS Webinar 41: postponed to IASS Webinar 49 in February 2025

IASS Webinar 42: Leveraging AI for Survey Research, by Frauke Kreuter

IASS Webinar 43: Advancing Poverty Mapping –Applications and Validations Using Modern Methods; Sustaining Poverty Gains: A Vulnerability Map to Guide Social Policy in Senegal; Poverty Mapping in the Age of Machine Learning, by Paul Corral, Heath Henderson and Oscar Barriga

IASS Webinar 44: Random Forests and Mixed Effects Random Forests for Small Area Estimation of General Parameters, by Nikos Tzavidis

IASS Webinar 45: A Nested Error Regression Model with High Dimensional Parameter for Small Area Estimation (the 2024 Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize Lecture), by Nicola Salvati

IASS Webinar 46: Mapping Population Distributions and Demographics Through Geospatial Data Integration (WorldPop), by Andrew Tatum

IASS Webinar 47: Data-driven Area-specific Selection of Synthetic or Nested-error Models, by Isabella Molina

The Survey Statistician in 2024:



Editors: Danutė Krapavickaitė (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania) and Alina Matei (Neuchatel)

Section Editors:

Peter Wright: Country Reports

Ton de Waal: Ask the Experts

Annamaria Bianchi: New and Emerging Methods

Gaia Bertarelli: Book and Software Review

Veronica Ballerini: Early Career Survey Statistician

Production and Circulation: Francesco Pantalone (from July 2024), Maciej Beręsewicz (up to January 2024)

(1) The **January 2024** issue number 89 is available here:

http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/Survey_Statistician_2024_January_N89.pdf

The January 2024 issue of The Survey Statistician features the static sections: Letter from the Editor, Letter from the President, Report from the Scientific Secretary, News and Announcements, Upcoming Conferences and Journal articles. The Country Reports section included the following countries: Argentina, Canada, Fiji, Finland, France, Hong Kong S.A.R., The Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Switzerland, and the United States.

In addition, this issue included an article titled: A Tribute to the Centenarian Statistician C. R. Rao, by Arni S. R. Srinivasa Rao, T. Krishna Kumar and Pramod Kumar Pathak; an article in continuation of the IASS 50-year jubilee celebration by Carl-Erik Särndal titled: The First Fifty Years of the IASS, Some Thoughts; A Collection of Past President's Testimonials and Reflections on the IASS, prepared by Annamaria Bianchi; the Ask the Experts section with the title: What is the State of Play on Statistical Matching with a Focus on Auxiliary Information, Complex Survey Designs and Quality Issues?, by Marcello D'Orazio, Marco Di Zio and Mauro Scanu; the New and Emerging Methods section with an article titled: Social Big Data to Enhance Small Area Estimates, by Stefano Marchetti and Francesco Schirripa Spagnolo; A review of the book titled: A Course on Small Area Estimation and Mixed Models Methods, Theory and Applications in R, by Domingo Morales, Maria Dolores Esteban,

Agustin Perez and Tomas Hobza, and reviewed by Caterina Giusti; A review of the software: SAE Models for Indicators in the Unit Interval: The tipsae R package and its Shiny Interface, reviewed by Silvia De Nicolo and Aldo Gardini. We also featured the first article in the new section on the Early Career Survey Statistician, titled: The Growth of New Researchers in the Era of New Data Sources, by Veronica Ballerini and Lisa Braitto.

(2) The **July 2024** issue number 90 of **The Survey Statistician** is available here:

http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/Survey_Statistician_2024_July_N90.pdf

The July 2024 issue of The Survey Statistician features the static sections: Letter from the Editor, Letter from the President, Report from the Scientific Secretary, News and Announcements, Upcoming Conferences and Journal articles. The Country Reports section included the following countries: Argentina, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Hong Kong S.A.R., Hungary, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Ukraine and the United States

In addition, this issue included an article in continuation of the IASS 50- year jubilee celebration by Thomas Laitila titled: Early Scandinavian Contributions to Survey Sampling; the New and Emerging Methods section with an article titled: From Traditional to Modern Machine Learning Estimation Methods for Survey Sampling, by Camelia Goga; A review of the book titled: Sampling and Estimation from Finite Populations, by Yves Tillé and reviewed by Angelo Moretti; A review of the software: Inference with Non-probability Surveys, by Beatriz Cobo, Ramón Ferri-Garcia, Jorge L. Rueda-Sánchez and Maria del Mar Rueda. We also featured the second article in the new section on the Early Career Survey Statistician, titled: The Use of New Data Sources in Small Area Estimation, by Camilla Salvatore and Angelo Moretti.

IASS Conference Support in 2024:

The IASS Executive Committee sponsored the following four conferences/workshops in 2024:

1. A Workshop on The Visualization of Survey Data Using R, sponsored by the Department of Statistics at the Federal University of Agriculture, Ogun State, Nigeria, on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024
2. A Workshop on Small Area Estimation, that was held hybrid at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM), University of Maryland on Friday, March 15th, 2024
3. A Workshop on Current Practices of Sample Design in National Surveys in Nepal, organized at the Tribhuvan University, Nepal on Friday, July 19th, 2024.
4. 13th edition of the International Francophone Colloque on Sample Surveys, University of Luxembourg, Tuesday, November 5th -8th, 2024.

In addition, the IASS sponsored special invited sessions in 2024 at the following conferences:

1. ISTAT Third Workshop on Methodologies for Official Statistics, Rome, Italy on December 4th-5th, 2024, with a special invited IASS session titled: Advancements in Small Area Estimation with a Focus on Using Non-survey Data in the Estimation
2. The International Canadian Methodology Symposium, Ottawa, Canada on October 29th-November 1st, 2024, with a special IASS invited session titled: Small Area Estimation: Extensions, Applications and New Developments

Prizes/Awards given in 2024:

- (1) **2024 Hukum Chandra Prize**

The 2024 prize selection committee members were: Eric Rancourt (Chair), Sharon Lohr, Siu-Ming Tam and Nancy McBeth.

Dr. Hukum Chandra was a survey statistician from India who passed away due to COVID-19 in 2021. The memorial prize has been created to honour his memory. The prize is awarded to a mid-career statistician whose work is related to that of Hukum Chandra.

The committee agreed to award the 2024 Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize award to Dr. Nicola Salvati, University of Pisa, for his paper: 'A nested error regression model with high-dimensional parameter for small area estimation' (with Partha Lahiri) .

The committee was impressed by the quality and scientific rigour of the paper and the quality of Nicola Salvati's CV. The winner of the prize received 500 euros and presented his work at the IASS October 2024 Webinar.

(2) Call for Cochran Hansen prize 2025

The Cochran-Hansen Prize is awarded every two years for the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a developing or transition country. A call for the 2025 prize was sent out in October 2024 and the deadline for submission of papers is February 28th, 2025. All papers should be sent to the chair of the IASS 2025 Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee, Eric Rancourt at:

eric.rancourt@statcan.gc.ca.

The Cochran-Hansen Prize consists of expenses up to €1500 to present his or her paper at the 65th World Statistics Congress (WSC) of the International Statistical Institute to be held in The Hague, The Netherlands, 5-9 October 2025. This recognition will cover the WSC registration, travel expenses to the conference as well as participation in a short course.

Looking forward to 2025:

- (1) Continue with ongoing activities of the website maintenance and updating, monthly webinars, twice yearly issues of The Survey Statistician, monthly newsletters, updating country representatives and recruitment drives.
- (2) Cochran-Hansen Prize 2025 selection with up to €1500 to support the recipient of the prize to attend the 2025 65th World Statistics Congress
- (3) Satellite conference planning in 2025 : ITACOSM2025-IASS satellite conference, in Bologna, on July 1st – 4th , 2025 (with short courses to be held on June 30th in

Rimini, Italy) and SAE 2025: An International Conference on Small Area Estimation, Surveys and Data Science, in Torino, Italy on July 7-11, 2025 (including short courses).

- (4) Annual General Assembly to be held hybrid at the ITACOSM2025-IASS Satellite Conference in Bologna, Italy, July 1st-4th, 2025
- (5) Conference support 2025 (up to 1500 euros have been allocated):

So far we have funded the following conferences:

1. Workshop on Using Geospatial Data (hybrid) held on January 20th, 2025 in Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand and co-sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland
2. Workshop on Statistics Research in Data Science (hybrid) to be held on March 5th, 2025 at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland
3. IASS-RSS_NLG2025 International Conference titled: Power of Statistics for a Better Future, to be held on March 5th-6th, 2025 at Ogun State, Nigeria
4. Workshop on Survey Sampling in Honour of Professor Yves Tille on the Occasion of his Retirement, to be held on June 25th-26th, 2025 at Neuchatel, Switzerland
5. ENBES, the European Network for Better Establishment Statistics, 9th, biennial European Establishment Statistics Workshop (EESW25), to be held on November 5th-7th, 2025 in Rome, Italy.