

## April 2025 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

### ***Announcing the 2025 Cochran-Hansen Prize Winner***

The 2025 committee for the Cochran-Hansen competition consisted of Eric Rancourt (chair), Katherine Jenny Thompson and Li-Chun Zhang. A total of 9 papers from 7 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Senegal, Tanzania and Turkey) were submitted to the competition. The committee unanimously decided to award the 2025 Cochran-Hansen prize to:

Dr. **Saurav Guha** (India) for his paper: “Small area estimation under a spatially correlated multivariate area-level model” that he co-authored with the late Hukum Chandra.

The paper was published in JRSS-A in 2023 and presents a spatial version of multivariate Fay–Herriot model with a small area predictor. The residual maximum likelihood is employed for estimating the parameters of the proposed model. Analytical and bootstrap approaches for estimating the mean squared error (MSE) of the proposed predictor are also developed. The performance of the proposed predictor and the MSE estimators are evaluated through various simulation studies. The results evidently show that the proposed predictor outperforms the existing predictors. An application of the proposed methodology has also been made using the 2011–12 Consumer Expenditure Survey data of India.

Dr. Saurav Guha is Assistant Professor-cum-Jr. Scientist at the Department of Statistics, Mathematics & Computer Application in Bihar Agricultural University, Bhagalpur, Bihar, India. He obtained his MSc (2014) and PhD (2018) from the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute in New Delhi.

### ***Renew your Membership***

We would like to thank you for being a part of our community and for your support in 2024. Please continue to support the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) in 2025! The link to the registration page is here: <https://isi-portal.odoo.com/become-a-member>

There are two different fees for membership to the IASS for 2025 depending on what country you live in: 60 Euros for a year subscription or 35 Euros for a year subscription. The list of countries for the reduced fee is here: <https://www.isi-web.org/resources/developing-countries>  
Please help us spread our important message around the world:

*Promoting good survey theory and practice around the world*

### ***Call for Requests for Support for Workshops and Conferences 2025***

The International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) will consider providing financial support for hosting 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 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](mailto:Natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk)) and in cc to IASS President-Elect Partha Lahiri ([plahiri@umd.edu](mailto:plahiri@umd.edu)) before May 31st.**

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 € 1,500 in one year and will be shared to support more than one project.

### ***IASS Sponsored Sessions at International Conferences and Workshops***

The IASS is happy to continue partnerships with local organizers of workshops and conferences around the world and to sponsor sessions focusing on cutting-edge applications of survey statistics. If you would like to collaborate on organizing a session, please get in touch with **Natalie Shlomo** [natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk).

### ***65th 2025 World Statistics Congress (WSC), October 5 to 9, 2025***

Visit the 2025 WSC website: <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/>.

The weekly overview week overview schedule is available:

<https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/week-overview/> and early bird registration has now opened:

[https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/fees\\_2025/](https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/fees_2025/)

The Invited Paper Sessions programme for the 2025 WSC is live on the website here:

<https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/36/programme/>

The **Short Course Programme** offers 9 short courses over 1-2 days at the Leiden University campus in The Hague on 3 and 4 October 2025, prior to the 65th ISI World Statistics Congress. Led by experts from various statistical fields, the courses cater to the needs of statisticians and data scientists. The courses are designed to meet the diverse needs of statisticians and data professionals at all levels. The programme covers a wide range of topics, from cutting-edge AI

applications to spatial data science, data visualisation, and statistical disclosure control. The list of short courses and registration is here: <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/short-courses/>

There are two Special Invited Sessions sponsored by the IASS at the 2025 WSC:

1. The Special Invited Session sponsored by the IASS President is delighted to announce the esteemed speaker: **Professor Yves Tille** from the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland. The discussants are **Dr. Pedro Silva** and **Prof. Changbao Wu**.
2. The Special Invited Session celebrating the 2025 Cochran-Hansen Prize winner: Dr. **Saurav Guha** (India). Dr Guha will present his paper : "Small area estimation under a spatially correlated multivariate area-level model" that he co-authored with the late Hukum Chandra.

### ***IASS Satellite Conferences to the 65th WSC, July 2025***

There are two satellite conferences to the 65th World Statistics Congress (WSC) both held in July 2025:

1. 9th Italian Conference on Survey Methodology and International Association of Survey Statisticians (**ITACOSM2025 - IASS**) Satellite Conference, July 1 - July 4, 2025, **Bologna Italy**. We are delighted to announce 6 keynote speakers: **Alina Matei** from University of Neuchatel, **Nikos Tzavidis** from the University of Southampton, **Jean-Francois Beaumont** from Statistics Canada, **Bella Struminskaya** from University of Utrecht, **Michael Elliot** from the University of Michigan and **Pier Francesco Perri**, past coordinator of the Italian S2G.

Please [find here a summary of the important dates](#).

Two half-day short courses will be held the day before on June 30, 2025 in the beautiful town of Rimini. The short courses are:

Course 1 (9.30 am-1 pm): Advanced sampling and estimation methods with R

Lecturer: [Alina Matei](#)

Course 2 (2.15 pm-5.45 pm): Introduction to Small Area Estimation (SAE) and some topics of recent research interest

Lecturer: [Nikos Tzavidis](#)

More information about the conference is on the event's website:

<https://eventi.unibo.it/itacosm-2025>

2. Small Area Estimation Conference (**SAE 2025**): An International Conference on Small Area Estimation, Surveys and Data Science, will be held on July 7-11, 2025 in **Torino, Italy**. The conference is co-sponsored by the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) and International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS). The SAE 2025 conference will feature keynote speeches from **Partha Lahiri**, **Raymond Chambers** and **Mariana Kotzeva**. There will be many invited sessions and a panel discussion on Opportunities and challenges for official statistics in a digital era.

All invited speakers are required to [REGISTER](#) for the conference by paying the registration fee.

There will be two short courses:

Course 1 Graph Sampling and graph representation learning: Lecturer: [Li-Chun Zhang](#)

Course 2 Conformal Prediction in Survey Sampling: Lecturer: [Brunero Liseo](#)

More information about the conference SAE2025 is on the event's website:  
<https://www.sae2025.org/>

### ***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](mailto:andres.gutierrez@cepal.org).

**IASS Webinar 52: Statistical Data Integration for Health Policy Evidence-Building**  
**Speaker:** Carolina Franco  
**Date and Time:** 28 May 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET)  
**The registration link:**  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4017434211947/WN\\_noY68S1kQeu1MDjoK-DQjA#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4017434211947/WN_noY68S1kQeu1MDjoK-DQjA#/registration)

Please note the following confirmed upcoming webinars and the speakers:

**IASS Webinar 53: (TBA)**  
**Speaker:** Thomas Lumley  
**Date and Time:** 25 June 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET)  
**The registration link:** TBA

**IASS Webinar 54: Debiased Calibration Estimation Using Generalized Entropy in Survey Sampling**  
**Speaker:** Jae-Kwang Kim  
**Date and Time:** 30 July 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET)  
**The registration link:**  
**Registration Link:**  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1517437711323/WN\\_vh\\_eaGeOQZKu5tu8FWMn-A#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1517437711323/WN_vh_eaGeOQZKu5tu8FWMn-A#/registration)

**IASS Webinar 56: 24 September 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Peter Lynn**  
**IASS Webinar 57: 29 October 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Mike Hidioglou (with an introduction by Jean-Francois Beaumont on the Waksberg Award)**

### ***Conferences on Survey Statistics and Related Areas***

**6th Mobile Apps and Sensors in Surveys (MASS) Workshop** will be held on **June 4-5, 2025**, at the London School of Economics (LSE), London, UK.  
More information: <https://massworkshop.org>

**Workshop on Survey Sampling in Honour of Professor Yves Tille** on the occasion of his retirement, **25-26 June 2025** in Neuchatel, Switzerland. This celebration will consist of two

days of lectures by experts in the field of survey sampling. The link to the event is: <https://www.unine.ch/sciences/evenement/workshop-istat>

Registration: The event is free of charge, but registration is mandatory. Please register by sending an e-mail with your name and affiliation to [Messagerie.ISTAT@unine.ch](mailto:Messagerie.ISTAT@unine.ch) by 1 June 2025. Venue: Faculté des sciences-Rue Emile-Argand 11-2000 Neuchâtel–Suisse

**ITACOSM2025-IASS Satellite Conference** will take place from July 1-4, 2025 in Bologna, Italy. More information about the conference is on the event's website: <https://eventi.unibo.it/itacosm-2025>

**Small Area Estimation Conference (SAE 2025): An International Conference on Small Area Estimation, Surveys and Data Science**, will be held on July 7-11, 2025 in Torino, Italy. More information about the conference SAE2025 is on the event's website: <https://www.sae2025.org/>

**11th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA)** will take place from July 14-18, 2025 in Utrecht, The Netherlands. More information: <https://www.europeansurveyresearch.org/conference/utrecht-2025/>

**Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian Network Workshop on Survey Statistics 2025**, to be held on August 25-29, 2025 in Vilnius. The workshop is a hybrid event offering both in-person participation in Vilnius and online participation for registered participants who cannot attend in person. More information: <https://wiki.helsinki.fi/xwiki/bin/view/BNU/Events/Workshop%20on%20Survey%20Statistics%202025/>

**65th 2025 World Statistics Congress (WSC)**, will take place from October 5 - 9, 2025. Visit the 2025 WSC website: <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/>. Registrations are now open.

**9th biennial European Establishment Statistics Workshop (EESW25)**, to be held on 5 - 7 November 2025 in Rome, Italy, at the premises of Istat, the Italian National Institute of Statistics. ENBES is organized by the European Network for Better Establishment Statistics, More information: <https://sites.google.com/enbes.org/home/home/news-and-events/eesw25>

### **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](https://twitter.com/iass_isi) and the IASS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/iass.isi>

### ***Reading of the Month***

The reading of the month is the paper: **Quantile balancing inverse probability weighting for non-probability samples**, by **Maciej Beręsewicz**, **Marcin Szymkowiak** and **Piotr Chlebicki**. The paper is accepted to the **Survey Methodology** journal (publication: December 2025, 51(2)) and is available online here: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2403.09726> (note that this is the publication version of the paper as an early online access).

Based on the abstract of the paper, the authors propose a quantile balancing inverse probability weighting estimator (QBIPW) for non-probability samples based on the idea of Harms and Duchesne (2006). This allows for the use of quantile information in the estimation process to reproduce known totals as well as the distribution (quantiles) of auxiliary variables. The approach depends on the availability of continuous variables of sufficient quality as auxiliary variables.

The simulation study demonstrates that the proposed estimators and the inclusion of quantiles for inverse probability weighting estimators improves the quality of estimates. It shows that the estimators are more robust against model mis-specification and, as a result, help to reduce bias and improve the efficiency of estimation. The authors also demonstrate the proposed approach on a real dataset to estimate the share of job vacancies aimed at Ukrainian workers in Poland using an integrated set of administrative and survey data about job vacancies.