

April 2026 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS)

Nominations Open for the 2026 Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize

Hukum Chandra was a distinguished statistician renowned for his significant contributions to survey statistics and small area estimation techniques, who sadly passed away due to COVID-19 in 2021. After completing his PhD in 2008, he embarked on a research career at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute as National Fellow and Principal Scientist, where he authored over 125 papers and four books, implementing his research recommendations in official statistics programs. This award recognizes a mid-career researcher whose work aligns with his legacy. The recipient of the Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize will receive an honorarium of 500 Euros and will present a special webinar with discussion in the IASS Webinar Series.

The prize is open to applicants from all regions of the world. The nominee must have at least 10 years of employment experience in an area of survey statistics, with the duration of employment starting after post-secondary degree is awarded (unless graduate work and employment are concurrent). A PhD degree is not required for the award.

To apply, submit an extended abstract for the webinar of up to five pages including references and a short CV (maximum two pages) to the IASS prize committee chair (Robert Clark, robert.clark@anu.edu.au) by 23:59 GMT on 22 May 2026. The abstract must present original work (unpublished or published), be written in English, and include a clear statement of the problem, the proposed method(s) and a summary of key results. If the work is based on a published paper, the paper should be included with the application. The decision will be communicated by the end of July 2026, and the webinar will be held in October 2026.

IASS Webinar Series

The IASS has hosted three webinars during this quarter, covering a variety of topics in survey operations and research/methodology:

- IASS Webinar 60: [“Survey Quality Frameworks and Quality Assessment”](#) presented by Julie de Jong in partnership with the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) of the United Nations, 21 January 2026.
- IASS Webinar 61: [“Reducing Measurement and Sampling Biases in Non-probability Surveys”](#) presented by Aditi Sen in partnership with the American Statistical Association’s Section on Survey Research Methods, 27 February 2026.
- IASS Webinar 62: [“Seminal Ideas and Controversies in Statistics”](#) presented by Dr. Roderick Little in partnership with the American Statistical Association’s Section on Survey Research Methods 23 March 2026.

Mark your calendars for the April 2026 IASS webinar!

- IASS Webinar 63: [“How We Travel: Insights from Household Travel Surveys and Digital Twin Modeling”](#), to be presented by Dr. Cinzia Cirillo, Professor, the University of Maryland, Director, U.S. Department of Transportation’s Center for MultiModal Mobility, 21 April 2026, 2-3:30pm (CET); 8-9:30am (EDT). Register today at [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

Register for upcoming seminars at [Webinars, Courses & Workshops | ISI](#). Registration links are also provided in the webinar advertisements. A list of previous IASS webinars with the presented

slides can be found at <http://isi-iass.org/home/webinars/>. Please contact Haoyi Chen at chen9@un.org for webinar presenter recommendations.

IASS Sponsored Sessions at International Conferences and Workshops

[5th ISI Regional Statistics Conference \(RSC\) in Valletta, Malta, from 3-5 June 2026](#)

The Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) for this upcoming conference are available at <https://www.isi-next.org/proposals/52/>. Many of these sessions will be of interest to the IASS, especially the following:

- Innovative survey methods for the public good (organized by Denise Britz Donascimento Silva)
- Local Data, Real-World Impact: Innovative Small Area Estimation for Public Health and Social Policy (organized by Gaia Bertarelli)
- Data Quality for Citizen Data (organized by Luca Di Gennaro)
- New paradigms and challenges of sampling statistics in the digital era (organized by Fulvia Mecatti)
- Visible and invisible inequalities: insights on data and methods (organized by Monica Pratesi)
- Advances in Methods for Scarce and Missing Data (organized by Katarzyna Reluga)
- Small area estimation and nowcasting with survey and geospatial data (organized by David Newhouse)
- Recent advancement in international migration surveys in the Mediterranean region (organized by Jean -Michel Durr)

Besides this interesting slate of sessions, the IASS has organized a Special IPS (SIPS) entitled "From Data to Policy: Is There Evidence? Representativity and Quality in Contemporary Data Landscapes" with Ralf Muennich (Universität Trier) and Denise Britz Donascimento Silva (Principal Researcher, SCIENCE) as featured speakers and Stefano Campostrini (Ca' Foscari University) as discussant. And Partha Lahiri (University of Maryland) will represent the IASS in a SIPS panel discussion entitled "Artificial intelligence and data science: the role of ISI associations" organized by the ISI Special Interest Group on Data Science.

[Small Area Estimation Conference 2026 \(SAE 2026\) in Bucharest, Romania, from 15-19 June 2026.](#)

This annual conference is co-sponsored by the IASS and the International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS). The SAE 2026 conference program features keynote speeches by Cristina Boboc (Department of Statistics and Econometrics, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania), Gauri Datta (Department of Statistics, University of Georgia, USA and the Center for Survey Research Methods, U.S. Census Bureau, USA), and Isabel Molina Peralta (Department of Statistics and Operations Research, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain). Register at [SAE 2026 – Conference on Small Area Estimation, Survey and Data Science: Registration form](#). Note that registration fees increase after 22 May 2026.

Support for Workshops and Conferences 2026

The IASS is unable to offer financial funding for workshops or conferences in 2026 but continues to offer no-cost co-sponsorships to conferences of interest to IASS members. These conferences include the [Survey Cost Workshop](#) in Washington, D.C. from 9-10 February 2026 and the [IASS RSS-NLG International Conference 2026](#) in Nigeria on 10 March 2026 as well as the upcoming 5th [ISI Regional Statistics Conference](#) and the [Small Area Estimation Conference 2026](#). Similarly, the IASS is happy to continue to sponsor sessions focusing on cutting-edge applications

of survey statistics at workshops or conferences. If you are interested in a no-cost co-sponsorship or are interested in collaboratively organizing a session at an upcoming conference or workshop, please contact the IASS President Partha Lahiri (plahiri@umd.edu) or IASS President-Elect Ralf Munnich (muennich@uni-trier.de).

Conferences on Survey Statistics and Related Areas

The 33rd Morris Hansen Lecture entitled “Combining Information from Multiple Data Sources Using Statistical Modeling and Methods” by Dr. Partha Lahiri was held in-person on 30 March 2026 in Washington, D.C., with Dr. Beka Steorts (Duke University, USA) and Lisa Mirel (National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics within the National Science Foundation, USA).

The Morris Hansen Lecture series was established in 1990 to honor Morris Hansen, whose pioneering contributions to survey sampling and related statistical methods during his long and distinguished career at the U.S. Census Bureau and at Westat established many standards and methods, mostly still in use, for the conduct of surveys. The lecture series seeks to achieve balance between theory, applications, and policy and to highlight the diversity of disciplines that inform survey practice. More information on these annual lectures – including slides from past lectures and several recordings – is available at the [Washington Statistical Society Hansen Lectures](#).

Reading of the Quarter

The reading of the quarter is [Statistical Inference Under Nonignorable Sampling and Nonresponse—An Empirical Likelihood Approach](#) by Danny Pfeffermann, Arie Preminger, and Anna Sikov. This paper is featured in the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*'s Special Issue on Survey Research on Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Oceania, guest edited by Carolina Franco, Mamadou S Diallo, Sunghee Lee, Denise Britz do Nascimento Silva, Sharan Sharma, and Jibum Kim. All papers in this issue are open access and worthwhile reading. A second issue on the same theme – also open access – will be released later in 2026.

This article tackles the practical and challenging problem of performing valid analytic inference using complex survey data obtained from an informative sample design and subject to nonresponse. It is well known that ignoring an informative sampling design and/or response mechanism may yield highly biased estimators. In this paper, the authors present a new approach for modelling complex survey data that combines the nonparametric empirical likelihood with a parametric model for the response probabilities, thus accounting simultaneously for nonignorable sampling and for nonresponse. The authors propose tests to validate the assumed response mechanism and consider estimation of an assumed parametric population model using the proposed approach. The methodology is validated via a simulation study then applied empirically to data from the household expenditure survey in Israel, carried out by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

Renew your Membership

Thank you for being a part of our community and for your support in 2025. Please continue to support the IASS in 2026! The link to the registration page is here: <https://isi-portal.odoo.com/become-a-member>.

There are two different fees for one-year membership to the IASS for 2026 depending on what country you live in: 60 Euros (High Income Economies) or 35 Euros (Middle to Low Income Economies, provided here <https://isi-web.org/low-and-middle-income-economies>).



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 IASS calendar of events is available at <http://isi-iass.org/home/events/>

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