

December 2023 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

IASS Initiatives

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



The IASS would be 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. Please get in touch with **Natalie Shlomo** natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk if you would like to collaborate on organizing a session.

The Survey Statistician

The **July 2023** issue of **The Survey Statistician** is out now and available here: http://isi-ias.org/home/wp-content/uploads/Survey_Statistician_2023_July_N88.pdf. It is a **special edition** to celebrate our **50-year jubilee** with many contributing articles on the history of IASS and its role for the study and development of the theory and practice of sample surveys. Don't miss it!

The **January 2024** issue of **The Survey Statistician** will soon be released and available on the website: <http://isi-ias.org/home/services/the-survey-statistician/>. This issue will feature an article for the **New and Emerging Methods Section** titled: **Social Big Data to Enhance Small Area Estimates**, by **Stefano Marchetti** and **Francesco Schirripa Spagnolo**. The question in the **Ask the Expert Section** is: **What is the state of play on statistical matching, with a focus on auxiliary information, complex survey designs and quality issues?** answered by Marcello D'Orazio, Marco Di Zio and Mauro Scanu. As you can see, we have a strong contribution from our Italian colleagues in the January 2024 issue and we are grateful for their contributions.

We will also be introducing a new section in **The Survey Statistician** dedicated to the **Early Career Survey Statistician** defined as a person with up to 5 years of employment or within the fifth year since the achievement of their PhD who is researching in the field of survey statistics. We are delighted to announce the new Section Editor **Veronica Ballerini**. Watch out for the **Call for Contributions** to this new section which can include: papers with original research, summaries of research, review papers on survey statistics-related topics, reviews of events on survey statistics, and innovations introduced at the statistical offices.

We will also be continuing our **50-year jubilee** celebration with more contributing articles, including interviews from many past **Presidents of the IASS** over the years. We also have an article on the IASS experiences at the recent **64th World Statistics Congress** held in Ottawa, July 16-20, 2023.

We are very grateful to all of the Editorial Team, and particularly to Danutė Krapavickaite, for her care and dedication in the production of **The Survey Statistician**.

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

Call for Invited Papers Session (IPS) Proposals for the 65th World Statistics Congress

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) invites the statistical community to submit proposals for sessions under the **Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) programme** of the **65th World Statistics Congress** to be held 13-17 July 2025 in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The WSC 2025 will highlight the newest insights, developments and challenges of statistics, statistical science, and data science in all aspects of life. The website to upload the Invited Paper Session proposals is here: <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/wsc2025/>. The IPS Submissions must be received by **15 March 2024**. Please also send the submitted IPS proposal to the IASS Programme Committee Representative, **Partha Lahiri**, at plahiri@umd.edu.

Call for Conference Support for 2024

The International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) will consider providing financial support for 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.

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) and in cc to IASS President-Elect Partha Lahiri (plahiri@umd.edu) before June 30th, 2024. 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 € 1,800 in one year and will be shared to support more than one project.

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.

IASS Webinar 36: Latent Variable Models for Finite Population Inference

Speaker: Maria Giovanna Ranalli, Associate Professor of Statistics, University of Perugia (Italy)

Register at <https://bit.ly/iass-webinar-36> [bit.ly]

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.**

PSD2024: Privacy in Statistical Databases 2024 - Nice, France, will be held on September 25-27, 2024. Submission deadline is May 19th, 2024 where the submission can be done through the link <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=psd2024>. Details on the conference here: <https://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat/psd2024/>

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.

Reading of the Month

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine have recently published a report in November 2023 based on the work of the Panel to Create a Roadmap for Disclosure Avoidance in the Survey of Income and Program Participation, chaired by Trivellore Raghunathan. The panel members are available here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/a-roadmap-for-disclosure-avoidance-in-the-survey-of-income-and-program-participation-sipp>. The title of the report is: **A Roadmap for Disclosure Avoidance in the Survey of Income and Program Participation** (Edited by Trivellore Raghunathan and Bradford Chaney) and it is available to read here: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/27169/a-roadmap-for-disclosure-avoidance-in-the-survey-of-income-and-program-participation>

From the abstract of the publication: 'The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is one of the U.S. Census Bureau's major surveys with features making it a uniquely valuable resource for researchers and policy analysts. However, the Census Bureau faces the challenge of protecting the confidentiality of survey respondents which has become increasingly difficult because numerous databases exist with personal identifying information that collectively contain data on household finances, home values, purchasing behavior, and other SIPP-relevant characteristics. A Roadmap for Disclosure Avoidance in the Survey of Income and Program Participation addresses these issues and how to make data from SIPP available to researchers and policymakers while protecting the confidentiality of survey respondents. The report considers factors such as evolving privacy risks, development of new methods for protecting privacy, the nature of the data collected through SIPP, the practice of linking SIPP data with administrative data, the types of data products produced, and the desire to provide timely access to SIPP data. The report seeks to balance minimizing the risk of disclosure against allowing researchers and policymakers to have timely access to data that support valid inferences'.

Citation: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2023. *A Roadmap for Disclosure Avoidance in the Survey of Income and Program Participation*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/27169>.