

February 2024 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

In Memorium

The IASS is saddened to hear of the passing of **Barbara A. Bailer**, past IASS President in 1989-1991, on June 13th, 2023. Barbara was a prominent statistician and spent most of her career at the US Census Bureau. She was the 82nd President of the American Statistical Association (ASA) in 1987 and Vice President of the International Statistical Institute in 1993-1995.

IASS Initiatives

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. If you would like to collaborate on organizing a session, please get in touch with **Natalie Shlomo** natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk.

The Survey Statistician

The **January 2024** issue of **The Survey Statistician** is out now! It is available on the website at: <http://isi-iass.org/home/services/the-survey-statistician/> and for the complete issue: http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/Survey_Statistician_2024_January_N89.pdf. This issue features 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**. We have a strong contribution from our Italian colleagues in the January 2024 issue and we are grateful for their contributions.

Other articles celebrating our 50 year jubilee are: **The First Fifty Years of the IASS, Some Thoughts** by **Carl-Erik Särndal** and **Past Presidents Testimonials on IASS** edited by **Annamaria Bianchi**. We also pay tribute to C.R. Rao in an article: **A Tribute to the Centenarian Statistician C. R. Rao**, by **Arni S. R. Srinivasa Rao**, **T. Krishna Kumar** and **Pramod Kumar Pathak**. The issue also includes review articles of past conferences and the IASS experiences at the recent **64th World Statistics Congress** held in Ottawa, July 16-20, 2023.

We are also very happy to introduce the 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 award of their PhD who is researching in the field of survey statistics. The new Section Editor is **Veronica Ballerini**. The first article is: **The Growth of New Researchers in the Era of New Data Sources**, by **Veronica Ballerini** and **Lisa Braitto**.

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 to the 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 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.

IASS Webinar 38: Data Integration, Data Linkage and Linked Data Analysis

Speaker Tiziana Tuoto, Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

March 27, 2024 at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET).

The registration link is: <https://bit.ly/iass-webinar-38>

Other webinars:

CIRS/SWB Webinar* : Bayesian Variable Selection

Speaker: Marina, Vannucci, Noah Harding Professor of Statistics, Rice university

March 6, 2024 at 12.00-1.30 pm (ET).

The registration link is

https://amstat.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IYW5bi3HTs6GKogES5_T9w#/registration

*The webinar is sponsored jointly by the American Statistical Association's Committee on International Relations in Statistics (CIRS) and by Statistics Without Borders (SWB).

Conferences on survey statistics and related areas

2024 Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) Session on Small Area Estimation, (Co-sponsored by the International Association of Survey Statisticians) will be held on Friday, March 15th, 2024 at 3:35 – 6:00 PM US Eastern Time. Register here: https://umd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Gn3inNfBSky-TiSCMLvbcA#/registration

Speakers: **William R. Bell, Haoyi Chen, Robert E. Fay, Partha Lahiri, David Newhouse**. The JPSM website address is: <https://jpsm.umd.edu/>

SAE 2023-2024 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/>

Statistics Canada International Methodology Symposium 2024 – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, will be held on **October 29 to November 1, 2024**. The theme of the conference is: ‘Shaping the future of official statistics’. The call for papers is out with a deadline of **May 3rd, 2024** and you will be informed whether or not your proposal is accepted by May 24, 2024. For all accepted proposals, the presentation (in English or French) is due by **September 6, 2024**. Conference proceedings will be published online. A final paper must be submitted by **January 10, 2025** for inclusion in the proceedings. Visit the website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/conferences/symposium2024/index>.

13th edition of the International Francophone Conference on Sample Surveys - Esch-Belval, Luxembourg will be held from **November 5 to 8, 2024**. Call for abstracts is open until **April 30th**. View the website here: <https://sondages2024.sciencesconf.org/>

Call for the 2024 Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize

A prize to be awarded to a mid-career researcher, defined as someone with more than 10 years of experience after PhD or in employment, who has made an important contribution in research areas of Hukum Chandra’s work namely, survey sampling, small area estimation, official statistics, spatial analysis applied to official and survey statistics and agricultural statistics. The definition of a mid-career researcher in this call aims to recognise researchers who are close to Dr. Chandra’s career trajectory. The prize is open to applicants from all regions of the world. A PhD degree is not an essential criterion for the award. The recipient of the Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize will receive an honorarium of 500 Euros and will be invited to present a special webinar with discussion in October 2024.

Application process

Submit an extended abstract of up to 5 pages (including references) on which the webinar will be based. This must comprise original work that is either unpublished or published. The extended abstract must be written in English, 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 part of the application. Each submission must also be accompanied by a short CV (max two pages).

The CV, extended abstract and paper (if available) must be submitted to the chair of the IASS prize committee, **Eric Rancourt** eric.rancourt@statcan.gc.ca by **23:59 GMT on May 24th, 2024**. Members of the Hukum Chandra prize committee are **Nancy McBeth, Siu-Ming Tam and Sharon Lohr**. The decision will be communicated by the end of July and the webinar will be scheduled in October 2024.

Reading of the Month

Jean-Claude Deville passed away in October 2021. He will undoubtedly leave an important legacy in survey statistics. For more than 40 years, as part of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) and then École nationale de la statistique et de l'analyse de l'information (ENSAI) in France, he developed major innovations including calibration techniques; balanced sampling; indirect sampling and weight share methods; variance calculation, particularly for complex estimators; processing of non-ignorable non-response; and quota surveys.

The **reading of the month** is the paper recently published in **Survey Methodology**, December 2023, Vol. 49, No. 2, pp. 257-298 titled: 'Jean-Claude Deville's contributions to survey theory and official statistics' written by **Pascal Ardilly, David Haziza, Pierre Lavallée** and **Yves Tillé**. The paper traces some of Jean-Claude's contributions that have had a profound impact on both survey theory and practice, and in particular cover the topics of balanced sampling using the cube method, calibration, the weight-sharing method, the development of variance expressions of complex estimators using influence function and quota sampling.

The paper is followed by comments from some of his former colleagues and students: **Guillaume Chauvet, Marc Christine, Françoise Dupont, Camelia Goga** and **Anne Ruiz-Gazen**, and **Carl-Erik Särndal**.