

January 2025 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

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://www.isiwebshop.org/index.php?view=registration>

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

Cochran-Hansen Prize 2025: Competition for Young Survey Statisticians from Developing and Transitional Countries

For the 2025 edition, the Cochran-Hansen Prize consists of expenses up to €1500 to present his or her paper at the 65th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute ([65th ISI World Statistics Congress 2025](#)) to be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, 5-9 October 2025. This recognition will cover the WSC registration and travel expenses to the conference as well as participation in a short course. Participation in the competition for the prize is restricted to young statisticians from developing countries ([Low and Middle-Income Countries](#)) that are living in such countries and were born in 1990 or later.

A paper submitted for the competition must consist of original work which is either unpublished or has been published after February 28th, 2023. A paper may be based on a university thesis and should be written in English. The deadline for submission of papers for the 2025 prize is **February 28th, 2025**. All papers must be sent to the chair of the IASS 2025 Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee, Eric Rancourt at: eric.rancourt@statcan.gc.ca by the deadline.

Each submission must be accompanied by a cover letter, stating the author's year of birth, nationality, and country of residence. The cover letter should also indicate if the paper submitted is based on a PhD thesis and, in the case of a joint paper, the contribution to the paper made by the prize competitor. The papers submitted will be reviewed by members of the Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee appointed by the IASS. The decision of the Committee will be final. The prize winner will be notified on or before **March 31st, 2025**, by email.

For further information, please contact: Eric Rancourt, Statistics Canada

Email: eric.rancourt@statcan.gc.ca

Call for the 2026 Waksberg Award

The Survey Methodology journal has established in 2001 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 by a four-person selection committee appointed by Survey Methodology and the American Statistical Association. The selected statistician is invited to write a paper for Survey Methodology 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 is also invited to give the Waksberg Invited Address, usually at the Statistics Canada Symposium, and receives an honorarium. More information on past winners is here: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-001-x/award-prix-eng.htm>

A call is out now to nominate the 2026 Waksberg Award winner. Nomination of individuals to be considered should be sent by email before **February 15, 2025** to the chair of the committee, Jae Kwang Kim (jkim@iastate.edu). Nominations should include a CV and a nomination letter. Nominations remain active for 5 years.

Call for SAE 2025 Conference Award

The Award is in recognition of an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the research, application, and education of small area estimation (SAE). The selection of the winner is worldwide.

Selection Process and Deadline

A nomination consists of a nomination letter (limited to two double-spaced pages), in which the nominator should highlight the major achievements of the nominee in small area estimation. All nominations should be sent by email to **Professor Danny Pfeffermann**, Chair of the 2025 SAE Award Committee (d.pfeffermann@soton.ac.uk).

Nominations submitted last year need not be submitted again" by "Nominations submitted in the last 5 years need not be submitted again. The deadline for receiving the nomination is **March 15, 2025**.

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) and in cc to IASS President-Elect Partha Lahiri (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.

Contributions Sought for a Special Issue of Survey Methodology on the theme: Shaping the future of survey statistics in the data-driven era

In light of the current and fast-changing pace of the data ecosystem, the planned special issue will cover many topics on the future of survey methodology and survey statistics, including:

- New forms of data collection (e.g. smartphone), passive data collection and other innovations in data collection
- Mixed mode data collections, adaptive and responsive survey designs
- Total survey error and methods for correcting non-sampling errors (coverage error, measurement error, non-response bias)
- Quality frameworks for non-survey data, uncertainty quantification for multiple-source statistics and variance estimation methods
- Future of survey sampling, including sampling Hard-to-Survey groups and ensuring equitable statistics
- Research and development with applications of machine learning and AI methods in survey research
- Data integration of multiple sources of data, including non-survey data (administrative data, census data, paradata and big data) and non-probability survey data
- Statistical data integration
- Small area estimation including data integration with non- survey data
- Using non-survey data to augment survey data collection, estimation and bias mitigation
- Non-probability sampling and compensating for selection bias
- Privacy and confidentiality

Researchers considering contributing a manuscript for this special issue are kindly requested to indicate their interest by sending a tentative title and short abstract to the guest editors (maria.ferrante@unibo.it and natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk) by July 4th, 2025. The deadline for submitting manuscripts to the special issue is December 31st, 2025. All those wishing to submit a manuscript are encouraged to present their paper at the ITACOSM2025-IASS Satellite Conference to the 2025 World Statistics Congress. This conference will be held July 1st-4th, 2025 in Bologna, Italy. The [website](https://eventi.unibo.it/itacosm-2025) for further information is here: <https://eventi.unibo.it/itacosm-2025>.

The call for abstracts to the conference will be sent out in December 2024 with the abstract submission for contributed papers open from February 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2025. All those

wishing to submit a paper to the special issue are encouraged to submit an abstract to the ITACOSM2025-IASS Satellite conference.

All manuscripts submitted to the special issue will be subject to the standard rigorous peer-review that applies to all submissions in Survey Methodology. Note that Survey Methodology usually publishes innovative theoretical or applied research papers, and sometimes review papers, that provide new insights on statistical methods relevant to National Statistical Offices and other statistical organizations.

Please consult the Survey Methodology website: www.statcan.gc.ca/surveymethodology, for more information about the journal.

The link to submit papers to Survey Methodology is through the submission portal: <https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/surveymeth>. Please indicate that the submission is for the special issue in your cover letter.

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.

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/

The Invited Paper Sessions programme for the 2025 WSC is now live on the website here: <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/36/programme/>

The Short Courses Committee, chaired by Prof. Dr. Peter van der Heijden, will develop a Short Courses programme to meet the needs of participants at the WSC. The programme will cover a wide range of topics with a special focus on young statisticians. Announcements about the selection of short courses will be available soon.

The Special Invited Session at the 2025 WSC sponsored by the IASS President is delighted to announce the esteemed speaker: [Professor Yves Tille](#) from the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland.

IASS Satellite Conferences to the 65th WSC, July 2025

There will be two satellite conferences to the 65th World Statistics Congress (WSC) that will be held in The Hague October 5 – 9, 2025. The satellite conferences will both be 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 5 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 and **Michael Elliot** from the University of Michigan.

Scholars are invited to submit an abstract in English on the on-line platform, whose **link will be available here from February 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2025**. Abstracts should contain no more than 500 words and must include the substantive problem, the approach, data, and models employed as well as the main results of the analysis.

Submissions will be subject to a refereeing process. Notification of abstract acceptance for contributed abstracts will be issued by April 28th, 2025. The final version of all abstracts (keynote, invited and accepted contributed) can be submitted from April 28th to May 12th, 2025. 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](#)

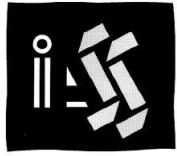
Course 2 (2.15 pm-5.45 pm): Introduction to Small Area Estimation (SAE) and some topics of recent research interest

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 international conference will be an opportunity for an exchange of ideas between statisticians, survey methodologists, engineers, mathematicians, computer scientists, and others interested in combining information from multiple databases in order to make reliable inferences at granular levels. In addition to traditional topics in small area estimation, the conference will cover a few emerging topics in survey and official statistics (e.g., nonprobability sampling, integration of new data sources, machine learning, artificial intelligence, privacy, etc.).

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.

It is possible to submit an Invited Session. The deadline is April 7th, 2025. Each Invited Session will be 75 minutes long and will have 3 speakers. Each speaker will have 25 minutes for their presentation including Q&A. The organizer can be a participant in the session they are organizing. Invited Sessions must be submitted online. The program committee will decide on the acceptance/rejection of Invited Sessions approximately every two weeks. All invited speakers are required to [REGISTER](#) for the conference by paying the registration fee. The link to [submit an invited session](#) is here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdR9QPc9Nv1zAGqbDOledPKN2VC7WBBRzb5T17SBI6RAcOm8A/viewform>

Abstracts for contributed presentations must be submitted online. The deadline is April 7th, 2025. The program committee will decide on acceptance/rejection of contributed presentations approximately every two weeks. All speakers are required to [REGISTER](#) for the conference by paying the registration fee. The link to [submit a contributed paper](#) is:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbfGOz7vcR0n78kdpM4-y21A7BSqgD6HplN2lpyfchFcl7w/viewform>

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 will appear 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.

IASS Webinar 49: Data-driven Area-Specific Selection of Synthetic or Nested-error models

Speaker: Andrew Mercer, Pew Research Center

Date and Time: 26 February 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET)

The registration link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8017279616727/WN_2a2qqVHnRTK6zJp6L2zl0g#/registration

IASS Webinar 50: Multiple frame methods and designs for combining data sources

Speaker: Sharon Lohr, Professor Emerita, Arizona State University

Date and Time: 26 March 2025 at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET)

The registration link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/7017362497683/WN_ZgK1pXGKQvCHABf_nYG6kq#/registration

Please note the following confirmed upcoming webinars and the speakers:

IASS Webinar 51: 25 April 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) JNK Rao

IASS Webinar 52: 28 May 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Carolina Franco

Conferences on Survey Statistics and Related Areas

IASS-RSS_NLG 2025 International Conference titled **POWER OF STATISTICS FOR A BETTER FUTURE**, scheduled to take place in Nigeria on **March 5-6, 2025**. The IASS-RSS_NLG 2025 International Conference aims to bring together experts in survey research and methodology to share knowledge and ideas. The registration link will be out soon and available via the advert: https://isi-iass.org/home/events/iass-rss_nlg-2025-international-conference/.

New Techniques and Technologies in Statistics (NTTS) 2025 is an international biennial scientific conference series, organized by Eurostat, on new techniques and methods for official statistics, and the impact of new technologies on statistical collection, production and dissemination systems. The meeting will be hosted in Brussels in the Charlemagne Building from **March 11, 2025 to March 13, 2025**. The conference website is <https://cros.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/ntts2025>

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.

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 by 1 June 2025. Venue: Faculté des sciences-Rue Emile-Argand 11-2000 Neuchâtel–Suisse

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/>

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 and the IASS Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/iass.isi>

Reading of the Month

The reading of the month is the paper: **Inferring a Population Composition From Survey Data With Nonignorable Nonresponse: Borrowing Information From External Sources**, by Veronica Ballerini and Brunero Liseo, available online at the **Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology** website: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jssam/smae041>

The statement of significance is as follows: Nonignorable nonresponse occurs when people who refuse to respond to a survey may have different characteristics or opinions than those who do respond. This work presents an example: young Italian graduates are asked to answer a questionnaire about their occupational status. In such a situation, it is reasonable to expect that unemployed persons are less inclined to respond to the survey. We aim to estimate the composition of the Italian graduates' population by their occupational status one year after graduating, cross-classified by gender and degree program. To achieve this goal, we need to account for the bias caused by nonignorable nonresponse. Hence, we exploit validated information from external sources and use a novel methodology based on Fisher's noncentral hypergeometric distribution in a Bayesian framework. Our study shows that employed individuals are more likely to respond to the survey. By neglecting the nonresponse bias, conventional estimation methods may overestimate the employment rate, leading to inaccurate policy decisions and resource allocations. Our approach can be extended beyond the specific case study and applied to various domains where capturing a complete and unbiased picture of a heterogeneous population is crucial.