

July 2024 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

IASS 2024 General Assembly

The IASS General Assembly took place online on Wednesday, 17 July 2024 at 14:00 hr./ 2pm CEST. There were about 25 people attending the AGM. The members ratified the 2023 IASS Annual Report and budget <http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/IASS-AnnualReport-2023.pdf> as well as the 2024-2025 Strategic Document.

<http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/IASS-Strategy2024-2025.pdf>

The presentation from the AGM is available here:

<http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/IASS-AGM-2024-17072024-final.pdf>

You can review the recording of the AGM here:

<https://isipo.stackstorage.com/s/SO6kNbyo4xzMkVX1/en>

Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize 2024 Winner

Dr. Hukum Chandra was a survey statistician from India who passed away due to COVID-19 in 2021. The memorial prize has been created to honor his memory. The prize is awarded to a mid-career statistician whose work is related to that of Hukum Chandra.

Selection criteria are: Quality of the paper; Overall quality of the CV; Topic closely aligned to Hukum Chandra's research interests; Career trajectory close to Hukum Chandra's career trajectory.

The 2024 prize selection committee members were: **Eric Rancourt** (Chair, Statistics Canada) **Sharon Lohr**, **Siu-Ming Tam** and **Nancy McBeth**. The committee received 3 high quality submissions. All submissions were received within the deadline as specified by the call for expressions of interest and all applicants met the call's eligibility criteria.

The committee unanimously agreed to award the 2024 Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize award to **Dr. Nicola Salvati, University of Pisa**, for his paper: '**A nested error regression model with high-dimensional parameter for small area estimation**' (with Partha Lahiri) <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrsssb/gkac010>

The committee was impressed by the quality and scientific rigour of the paper and the quality of Nicola Salvati's CV.

The winner of the prize receives 500 euros and will present his work at the IASS October 2024 Webinar.

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.

We are delighted to announce the upcoming IASS sponsored sessions:

Invited Session at the Statistics Canada International Methodology Symposium 2024, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, from **October 29 to November 1, 2024**. The title of the session is: **Small Area Estimation: Extensions, Applications and New Developments sponsored by the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS)**. Invited speakers are: **Francois Verret**, Statistics Canada; **Emily Berg**, University of Iowa and **Andreea Erciulescu**, Westat and the session is chaired by **Natalie Shlomo**, President of the IASS.

Invited Session at the 2024 Third Workshop on Methodologies for Official Statistics, ISTAT, Rome, Italy, from **December 4 to 5, 2024**. The title of the session is **New Data Sources for Small Area Estimation**. The session will be chaired by **Natalie Shlomo**, President of the IASS, and the 'master class' will be delivered by **Jan Van Den Brakel**. Other speakers are **Francesco Schirripa Spagnolo** and **Michele D'Alò**.

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>

65th World Statistics Congress, October 5 to 9, 2025

There are 11 **Invited Paper Sessions (IPS)** sponsored by the IASS. These are:

Proposer	Country	Proposal Title
Dr Johanna Laiho-Kauranne	Finland	How Societies Are Portrayed via Their Digital Resources, Activities and Economies and Does This Convene With the Traditional Statistical Profiles
Tiziana Tuoto	Italy	Integrating Mobile Network Operator Data with Official Statistics
Prof. Peter J. Lynn	United Kingdom	The Future of Social Surveys: Adapting to a Changing World
Prof. Anne Ruiz-Gazen	France	Bridging Academia and Official Statistics: Examples of European Experience
Mr Barry Schouten	Netherlands	Smart Survey Methodology
Dr Wendy Martinez	United States	Assessment and Improvement of Data Quality Through Use of Auxiliary Information and Record Linkage

Anders Holmberg	Australia	Advances in the Reduction of Bias Through Adaptive Design and Nonresponse Adjustments
Dr John Lamont Eltinge	United States	Enhancing Public Confidence in Analytic Quality and Privacy Protection for Public-Use Statistics
Drs Eric Schulte Nordholt	Netherlands	Improving Access to Microdata for Researchers
Dr Danute Krapavickaite	Lithuania	Non-probability and Probability Sample Integrated Estimators for the Population Parameters
Prof. Natalie Shlomo	United Kingdom	Data Integration for Producing Official Statistics: Where are We Headed?

Other relevant sessions for the IASS are:

Proposer	Country	Proposal Title
Dr Andres Gutierrez	Colombia	Data Integration for Official Statisticians
Dr Matthew Plummer	United Kingdom	Use of Geospatial Methods for Small Area Population Estimation
Dr Janice Lent	United States	Small Area Estimation for Official United States Household Statistics: Employment, Inflation and Energy Use
Dr Hanna Strzelecka	Poland	Improvement of the Labour Force Survey by Using Administrative Data Sources

IASS Satellite Conferences to the 65th WSC, July 2025

There will be **two satellite conferences** to the 65th 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**, June 30-July 4, 2025, Bologna Italy
2. **Small Area Estimation Conference (SAE 2025)**, July 8-12, 2025, Turin, Italy.

Watch this space for more details as we start planning the satellite conferences!

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 43: Advancing Poverty Mapping: Applications and Validation Using Modern Methods

Speaker: Paul Corral, Oscar Barriga and Heath Henderson
The World Bank Group

Date and Time: August 28th, 2024, at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET).

The registration link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8517199201772/WN_3z2KAG3ESpemwzslqNmaA#/registration

Please note the following confirmed upcoming webinars and the speakers:

IASS Webinar 44: 25 September 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Nikos Tzavidis

**IASS Webinar 45: 30 October 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Hukum Chandra Prize Winner
Nicola Salvati**

IASS Webinar 47: 18 December 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Isabel Molina

IASS Webinar 48: 29 January 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Danny Pfeffermann

The Survey Statistician

The **July 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_July_N90.pdf.

This issue features an article for the **New and Emerging Methods Section** titled: **From Traditional to Modern Machine Learning Estimation Methods for Survey Sampling**, by **Camelia Goga**. We are also very happy to feature an article in our newly formed Early Career Survey Statistician Section titled: **The Use of New Data Sources in Small Area Estimation of Attitudes Towards Climate Change**, by Camilla Salvatore and Angelo Moretti. The book titled: **Sampling and Estimation from Finite Populations**, by **Yves Tillé** was reviewed by **Angelo Moretti**. The software on **Inference with Non-probability Surveys** was introduced by **Beatriz Cobo, Ramon Ferri-Garcia, Jorge L. Rueda-Sanchez and Maria del Mar Rueda**.

As we are continuing to celebrate our 50 year jubilee, the issue includes an article titled: **Early Scandinavian Contributions to Survey Sampling**, by **Thomas Laitila**. We also pay tribute to past IASS Presidents that have sadly passed away: **Barbara A. Bailar** (IASS President 1989-1991) and **Nanjamma Chinnappa** (IASS President 1997 to 1999).

We are very grateful to all of the Editorial Team, and particularly to **Danuté Krapavickaite** and **Alina Matei**, for their dedication in producing this excellent resource serving the entire survey statistics community.

Conferences on survey statistics and related areas

Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian Network (BNU) Workshop on Survey Statistics 2024 will be held on **August 26-30, 2024**. The BNU Workshop on Survey Statistics 2024 will be organized in August 26-30, 2024, in Poznań, Poland. The workshop will be of a hybrid type, connecting in-person

participation in Poznań and online participation (via Zoom) for those registered participants who cannot attend in person. More information:

<https://wiki.helsinki.fi/xwiki/bin/view/BNU/Events/Workshop%20on%20Survey%20Statistics%202024/>

2024 International Total Survey Error Workshop (ITSEW2024) will be held on **September 18 to September 20, 2024** at George Washington University, Washington DC, United States. The goal of ITSEW is to promote discussion of questions of research, methodology and practice relating to Total Survey Error (TSE) and Total Survey Quality, and Blended Data. More information: <https://www.niss.org/events/international-total-survey-error-workshop-itsew> and [register here](#):

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**. 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/>

9th Conference on Survey Sampling in Economic and Social Research sponsored by the Department of Statistics, Econometrics, and Mathematics at the University of Economics in Katowice, along with the Polish Statistical Association – Katowice branch, will be held on **December 3rd-4th, 2024** in **Katowice, Poland**. This conference aims to continue the tradition of fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among experts in the field of survey methodology. The conference website is: <https://web.ue.katowice.pl/metoda>

65th ISI World Statistics Congress 2025 will be held on October 5-9, 2025 at the Hague. More information: <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/>

Call for Submissions:

Journal for Survey Statistics and Methodology, Special Issue: Survey Research from Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean
Guest Editors: Carolina Franco, Mamadou Diallo, Sunghee Lee, Denise Britz do Nascimento Silva

We seek papers from the targeted regions on the usual topics covered in the journal. These include papers on Survey Statistics, Survey Methodology, and Applications. The Survey Statistics section presents papers on innovative sampling procedures, imputation, weighting, measures of uncertainty, small area inference, new methods of analysis, and other statistical issues related to surveys. The Survey Methodology section presents papers that focus on methodological research, including methodological experiments, questionnaire design and testing, methods of data collection, interviewer effects, nonresponse and recruitment protocols, responsive designs, new data sources, and use of paradata. The Applications section contains papers involving innovative applications of methods and providing practical contributions and guidance, and/or

significant new findings. In addition to the general topics above, the issue also seeks papers on survey methods and statistics in multinational, multiregional, and multicultural contexts, and on capacity building efforts.

Submissions to the special issue are welcomed through **September 30, 2024**. Upon submission manuscripts will be peer-reviewed in accordance with standard journal practice and will be published online soon after acceptance.

Electronic copies of the manuscripts should be uploaded at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jssam> following the manuscript preparation instructions. To ensure consideration in the special issue, authors must include a cover letter that clearly states that the manuscript has been submitted for consideration for the special issue on “Survey Research from Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean.”

Queries about this special issue should be directed to Carolina Franco at franco-carolina@norc.org.

IASS Support for Statistics Nepal

IASS supported **a One day workshop on Current Practices of Sample Design in National Surveys in Nepal** jointly organized by Statistics Nepal Pvt. Ltd. and IASS. The workshop was held at Patan Multiple College, Lalitpur, under Tribhuvan University, Nepal on July 19, 2024. The workshop covered theoretical aspects of sampling design and practical aspects with national surveys.



Reading of the Month

This month’s reading of the month is the **Calcutta Statistical Association (CSA) Bulletin**, Volume 75, Issue 2, November 2023 Special Issue: **Small Area Estimation, Surveys, and Data Science**. It is available here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/csaa/75/2>

The CSA Bulletin will be publishing two special issues. These issues have been edited by guest editors Partha Lahiri, Daniel Bonnery, Cinzia Cirillo, Enrico Fabrizi, Carolina Franco, Julie Gershunskaya, and Yan Li, and they highlight the topics covered at the Small Area Estimation (SAE) 2022 international conference held at the University of Maryland, College Park, from May 23-27, 2022. The papers published in these special issues collectively advance knowledge in the fields of small area estimation, surveys and data science. The first of these two special issues has been made available for the next five months by SAGE, with the publisher anticipated to release the second special issue in the near future.

The first special issue contains seven papers, authored by: **(1) Andreea L. Erciulescu, (2) Rohosen Bandyopadhyay and Jiming Jiang, (3) Xueying Tang and Malay Ghosh, (4) M. Pratesi, S. Marchetti, C. Giusti, and N. Salvati, (5) Michael Sverchkov and Danny Pfeffermann, (6) Sumonkanti Das, Nicola Salvati, and Ray Chambers, and (7) Masayo Y. Hirose and Shuhei Mano.**

Researchers have been advancing small area estimation (SAE) methodology through the application of models either on aggregated estimates or on observations at the ultimate unit level, such as individuals. The papers in the first special issue demonstrate this progression. Papers (1)-(4) employ models applied to aggregated estimates, whereas Paper (5) utilizes models based on observational micro units. Papers (3) and (4) explore the inclusion of spatial correlations. Paper (1) introduces a small area model designed to disaggregate estimates obtained for larger population domains, driven by a significant application. Paper (2) enhances the Observed Best Prediction (OBP) methodology by integrating a benchmarking criterion, ensuring that model predictions align with direct estimators at higher levels of aggregation. Paper (3) distinguishes itself by advancing Bayesian estimation for spatial aggregates through a Global-Local prior, which addresses substantial variability in random effects. Paper (4) investigates models with spatially structured random effects, nonparametric spatial splines, and spatially varying regression coefficients. The authors compare the efficiency of various predictors using Italian data in scenarios differing by the predictive power of auxiliary information. Paper (5) addresses several critical issues related to unit-level models, including informative sampling, non-random missing data mechanisms, and response model selection. Paper (6), using a nested error regression model, develops predictors for a finite population distribution function and suggests that their theoretical framework could potentially address small area estimation problems. Paper (7), like Paper (6), employs a superpopulation model to derive asymptotically uniformly minimum variance unbiased estimators for disclosure risks. This paper introduces an adjusted maximum likelihood method previously used in SAE, ensuring estimates remain within the parameter space. The models and tools discussed in the latter two papers are also pertinent to the SAE literature.