

March 2024 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

IASS 2024 General Assembly

We would like to invite you to attend the 2024 IASS General Assembly. The IASS General Assembly will take place online, and is scheduled for Wednesday, 17 July 2024 at 14:00 hr. / 2pm CEST. An invitation including the zoom link will be sent via email prior to the meeting.

Members are invited to propose agenda items. If you have any suggestions for items you would like to add to the agenda, please inform IASS President Natalie Shlomo by email (natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk).

The Annual Report 2023 will be shared with you prior to the General Assembly and we will be voting to approve the Annual Report during the meeting. This includes the 2023 IASS Budget. We will also be voting on the 2024-2025 IASS Strategy Document available here: http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/IASS-Strategy2023-2025_V2.pdf and out now for consultation.

We look forward to seeing you at the General Assembly on July 17th .

IASS Sponsored Sessions at International Conferences and Workshops

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.

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 topic is **Small Area Estimation**. 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 2023-2025.

Invited Session at the 2024 Third Workshop on Methodologies for Official Statistics, ISTAT, Rome, Italy, from **December 4 to 5, 2024**. The topic is **Advancements in Small Area Estimation**. The session will be chaired by **Natalie Shlomo**, President of the IASS 2023-2025 and the speakers will be announced.

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

The Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) proposals for the 65th World Statistics Congress to be held **5 -9 October 2025** in The Hague, The Netherlands has now closed. Please send a copy of your proposals to the IASS Programme Committee Representative, Partha Lahiri, email: plahiri@umd.edu .

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 39: Model-Based Optimal Designs for a Multipurpose Farm Survey

Speaker Jay Breidt, NORC at the University of Chicago

April 24th, 2024 at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET).

The registration link is: <https://bit.ly/iass-webinar-39> [bit.ly]

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**.

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.

Conferences on survey statistics and related areas

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 and abstracts has passed.

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.

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/>

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

Reading of the Month

This month's reading of the month is to highlight the invited paper published in **Survey Methodology, Vol. 49, pp. 219-256** by the **2023 Waksberg Award Winner, Ray Chambers**, titled: **'The Missing Information Principle – A Paradigm for Analysis of Messy Sample Survey Data'**. It is available here: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/12-001-x/2023002/article/00018-eng.pdf?st=zaekLRcN>

The paper introduces the use of the Missing Information Principle (the MIP) for model-based analytic inference under 'messy data', particularly where data arises from complex sampling designs and multiple data sources. Prof. Chambers states that the MIP provides a 'route for going from a simple likelihood analysis based on the ideal dataset to the correct likelihood analysis for the actual data that are available'. The paper provides an informal definition of the MIP and many illustrations on its use when combining two sources of data for the purpose of estimating a population regression relationship. The illustrations are extended under the informative sampling design as well as demonstrated on the situation of modelling linked data from two data sources when the linkages can contain errors. Another example is where sampled records from one accessible source, such as from a register, are linked to records from another less accessible source and the response variable of interest is drawn from this second source. In addition, a key output is small area estimates for the response variable for domains defined on the first source. The paper ends with an overview and discussion of other applications where using the MIP has proved useful.