

October 2024 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians

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

In celebration of its 25th anniversary in 1999, the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) established the Cochran-Hansen Prize, which is awarded every two years for the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a developing or transition country.

For the 2025 edition, the Cochran-Hansen Prize consists of research 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. Credit should be given to IASS for its support during conference presentations or in the publication supported by the Cochran-Hansen Prize.

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A paper submitted for the competition must consist of original work which is either unpublished or has been published after February 28th, 2023.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 journal Survey Methodology 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.

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. A call is open now for proposals to help shape the Short Courses programme. The link to submit a short course proposal is here: <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/short-course/>

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. Two half-day short courses will be held the day before on June 30, 2025 in the beautiful town of Rimini. The website and further announcements will be out soon so watch this space.

2. **Small Area Estimation Conference (SAE 2025)**, July 8-12, 2025, **Turin, 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 delivered by outstanding scientists, many invited sessions and a panel discussion on Opportunities and challenges for official statistics in a digital era. More information about the conference SAE 2025 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 46: Mapping population distributions and demographics through geospatial data integration

Speaker: Andrew Tatem, University of Southampton

Date and Time: 27 November 2024 at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET)

The registration link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6017199273757/WN_NzKkpb2RcmRxAWbqp0Q4Q

Please note the following confirmed upcoming webinars and the speakers:

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

IASS Webinar 49: 26 February 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Andrew Mercer

IASS Webinar 50: 26 March 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET) Sharon Lohr

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

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).

Watch this space for the **January 2025** issue of **The Survey Statistician**!

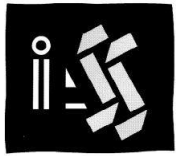
We are very grateful to all of the Editorial Team, and particularly to **Danutė Krapavickaite** and **Alina Matei**, for their dedication in producing this excellent resource serving the entire survey statistics community.

Conferences on survey statistics and related areas

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>

2024 Third Workshop on Methodologies for Official Statistics, Istat, Rome, Italy, from **December 4 to 5, 2024**. The two-day event gathers researchers specialised in statistical methodologies applied to official statistics, and aims at promoting the exchange of ideas and best practices. This workshop focuses on understanding the impact of new data sources (particularly big data and, more broadly, non-probability data) and new methods (as machine learning) on the production of official statistics. Note that there will be a special invited session sponsored by the **IASS** titled: **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 **Loredana Di Consiglio**, with a discussion by **M. Giovanna Ranalli**. The conference website is here:



<https://www.istat.it/en/event/workshop-on-methodologies-for-official-statistics/> and includes the link to the programme as well as links for either online or in-person participation.

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>

9th Italian Conference on Survey Methodology and International Association of Survey Statisticians (ITACOSM2025 - IASS) Satellite Conference will be held on July 1- 4, 2025 in **Bologna, Italy**. The two half-day short courses will be held on June 30th in Rimini, Italy. More information can be found at this link: <https://eventi.unibo.it/itacosm-2025>

Small Area Estimation Conference (SAE 2025) will be held on July 8-12, 2025 in **Turin, Italy**. More information can be found at this link: <https://www.sae2025.org/>

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

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

This month's reading-of-the-month is the **special issue** of **Statistical Methods and Applications Volume 33, Issue 4** published in September 2024 titled: **Big Data and Alternative Data sources for Small Area Estimation**. The introduction to the special issue is written by **Monica Pratesi, Roberta Siciliano** and **Partha Lahiri**. The introduction contains an overview of the contents of the special issue from papers presented at the Satellite Meeting of the International Statistical Institute 63rd World Statistics Conference on **Small Area Estimation (SAE), Naples (Italy) on September 20–24, 2021**. See the conference website here: http://wpage.unina.it/antdambr/sae_memory.html

In the introduction, the authors write about the evolving data ecosystem where government agencies are investigating methods to integrate national survey data with diverse types of structured and unstructured data, such as administrative records, census data and Big Data for small area estimation. The papers represent a range of methodological advancements and innovative novel applications related to using big data and alternative data sources in small area estimation. In particular, the papers examine how models can be applied for data integration to obtain more timely and accurate estimates of target parameters for small areas and domains.

The special issue is comprised of seven articles and address small area estimation in diverse contexts, such as: labor market indicators, indicators derived from mobile phone and street maps data, indicators based on demographic and family health survey data, cost-of-living indicators and relative poverty incidence, retail scanner data, tourism data from Airbnb reviews in small sub-populations, application on health statistics using Bayesian methods. The final paper discusses technical issues for spatial modelling.

The special issue can be found at this link:

https://link.springer.com/journal/10260/volumes-and-issues/33-4?utm_source=toc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=toc_10260_33_4&utm_content=etoc_springer_20241019