October 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. Please continue to support the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) in 2026. The link to the membership page for new and existing members is here: https://isi-portal.odoo.com/become-a-member

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

IASS 2025 Annual General Assembly (AGM)

The 2025 IASS Annual General Assembly was held (hybrid) at the   the 65th World Statistics Congress (WSC) on Tuesday, October 7th, 2025, 12:30-13:55 pm. There were about 30 people that participated in-person and several others participated online. The General Assembly unanimously approved the 2024 IASS Annual Report and budget, the discharge of the 2023-2025 Executive Committee and approved the 2025-2027 incoming Executive Committee. The slides containing the 2024 Annual Report and budget as well as the report from the 2023-2025 Executive Committee are available here: IASS-AGM-2025-07102025.pdf

IASS Executive Committee 2023-2025	IASS Executive Committee 2025-2027

Natalie Shlomo (UK) – President
Partha Lahiri (USA) – President-Elect
Vice Presidents:
    Eric Rancourt (Canada)
    Jiraphan Suntornchost (Thailand)
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    Annamaria Bianchi (Italy)
	Partha Lahiri (USA) - President
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	Vice Presidents:
	    Robert Clark (Australia)
	    Haoyi Chen (USA)
	    Katherine Jenny Thompson (USA)
	    Gaia Bertarelli (Italy)

65th 2025 World Statistics Congress (WSC), October 5 to 9, 2025

The 65th 2025 World Statistics Congress held on October 5-9, 2025 was a huge success with over 1100 delegates from all over the world. The IASS sponsored 11 Invited Papers Sessions

(IPS) although unfortunately there were many time clashes between the sessions. We had two Special Invited Papers Sessions:

1. The Special Invited Session sponsored by the IASS President invited **Professor Yves Tille** from the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland to present on the history and future of survey statistics. The discussant was **Prof. Changbao Wu**.
2. The Special Invited Session celebrating the 2025 Cochran-Hansen Prize winner: Dr. **Saurav Guha** (India). Dr. Guha presented his paper : "Small area estimation under a spatially correlated multivariate area-level model" that he co-authored with the late Hukum Chandra.

The IASS also presented 3 awards at the WSC Awards Ceremony: the **2024 Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize** to **Prof. Nicola Salvati**, the **ISI-IASS Service Award** to **Danutė Krapavickaitė** for her outstanding service to the IASS as Editor-in-Chief of the IASS flagship publication: The Survey Statistician, and the **2025 Cochran-Hansen Prize** winner to **Dr. Saurav Guha**.

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://isi-web.org/webinars-courses-workshops.

Please note the following confirmed upcoming webinars and the speakers:

IASS Webinar 58: TBA

IASS Webinar 59: Some History of the Use of Models in Survey Sampling
Speaker: Richard   Valliant
Date and Time: December 17th 2025 at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET)
The registration link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/3717570757442/WN_PpuwQifNRYiy1q3M4JPrvw#/registration
(Note that this webinar is the cancelled webinar 55 that was scheduled for September 3rd 2025.)

Conferences on Survey Statistics and Related Areas

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

The R Project – The Use of R in Official Statistics – uRos2025, the annual conference on the Use of R in Official Statistics, to be held on 24 – 26 November 2025 at Romanian National Statistics Institute, Romania. More information: https://r-project.ro/conference2025.html

The **4th Workshop on Methodologies for Official Statistics,** December 1-2, 2025, Istat Aula Magna , Via Cesare Balbo, 14 , Rome, Italy. More information is here: https://www.istat.it/en/event/fourth-workshop-on-methodologies-for-official-statistics/

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

The deadline for submitting manuscripts to the special issue is December 31st, 2025. 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 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.

Maria Rosaria Ferrante and **Natalie Shlomo** are the guest editors.

*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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Reading of the Month

The Reading of the Month is the article titled: **Predictive Mean Matching Imputation Procedure Based on Machine Learning Models for Complex Survey Data,** by Sixia Chen and Chao Xu. It was published in the *Journal of Data Science 2024* Vol. 22 (3), pp. 456–468 under the special issue: The Government Advances in Statistical Programming (GASP) 2023 Conference. The article is available here: https://jds-online.org/journal/JDS/article/1379/info

 The article focuses on imputation methods to reduce nonresponse bias and generate complete datasets for analysis of secondary data. The authors note that popular machine learning techniques, such as XGBoost and random forest, may outperform traditional statistical modelling methods because they are likely more robust to model misspeciations. However, they do require

optimal fine-tuning and may generate imputed values outside of the normal range. The authors propose a novel Predictive Mean Matching Imputation (PMM) that leverages machine learning-based techniques and demonstrate their approach through simulation studies comparing to other established methods. Their findings revealed that PMM methods based on advanced machine learning approaches, including Support Vector Machines (SVM), Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGB), and Deep Neural Networks (DNN), outperformed other methods in scenarios characterized by complex nonlinear model structures. The parametric regression imputation approach exhibited good performance when underlying assumptions of the parametric model were met. They also note that utilizing existing donor values as imputed values, the PMM effectively avoids generating unrealistic imputations and is robust against outliers.