

October 2026 Newsletter: International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS)

Upcoming IASS General Meeting in October

The 2026 IASS Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on October 20 from 2-3:30 PM (CEST). Please plan on attending to approve the 2027 annual report and financial statement and – more importantly – to learn what the Executive Committee and Survey Statistician’s Editors have accomplished. You can preview the IASS Annual Report and Financial Statement 2025 [here](#). Your input matters, especially as we plan for 2027. The link to register was included in the IASS mailing on August 15. Register [here](#)

IASS Webinar Series

The IASS has hosted three webinars since June 2027:

- IASS Webinar 66 [“Small area estimation beyond traditional data: opportunities, challenges, and emerging applications”](#) by Dr. Monica Pratesi, 14 July 2026.
- IASS Webinar 67 [“Combining information from multiple data sources using statistical modeling and methods”](#) by Dr. Partha Lahiri in partnership with the American Statistical Association’s Section on Survey Research Methods as well as the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) chapter of the ASA, 27 August 2026.
- IASS Webinar 68 [“Agnostic model-assisted estimation with machine learning for survey data”](#) by Dr. David Haziza, 17 September 2026.

The next two seminars will be presented by the recipients of the 2026 Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize:

“Robust imputation procedures in the presence of influential survey data based on adaptive tuning constants” by Dr. Sixia Chen on 20 October 2026 from 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM New York time.

“Correcting bias from covariate-dependent censoring in survival disparity decomposition” by Dr. Yan Li on 24 November 2026 from 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM New York time.

Register for upcoming seminars at [Webinars, Courses & Workshops | ISI](#). Registration links are also provided in the webinar advertisements. A list of previous IASS webinars with the presented slides and recordings can be found at <http://isi-iass.org/home/webinars/>. Please contact Haoyi Chen at chen9@un.org for webinar presenter recommendations.

Upcoming International Conferences and Workshops

“Questionnaire design: Practical guidelines and new research” (November 2026)

The IASS is partnering with the WSS to offer a virtual workshop on questionnaire design to be held on 3 November 2026, 5 November 2026, and 10 November 2026 (Each day from 10 - 11:30 AM (morning) New York Time 16:00 – 17:30 CEST for 4.5 hours total), presented by Dr. Ting Yan (NORC at the University of Chicago and AmeriSpeak) and Dr. Anna-Carolina (Caro) Haensch (LMU Munich and the University of Maryland College Park). Workshop topics include fundamentals of questionnaire design, then delved into important topics such as assembling the questionnaire, evaluation and testing, design and translation of questionnaires for multinational, multicultural, and

multiregional surveys. The workshop concludes with a module that covers use of AI and Large Language Models for questionnaire design and evaluation. The workshop will include interactive exercises as well as lectures, and time will be allotted for program-specific questions.

The cost for this virtual workshop is € 90,00. Register at [IASS-WSS - Questionnaire Design: Practical guidelines and new research | ISI](#). Registration is open until 27 October 2026.

SAE 2027: Conference on Small Area Estimation, Survey and Data Science (14 June 2027 – 18 June 2027) in Hue, Vietnam. Papers will focus on Small Area Estimation, Artificial Intelligence, and Health Science.

66th ISI World Statistics Congress 2027 (11 July 2027 – 15 July 2027) in Lusaka, Zambia. Submissions for the Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) closed on 30 June 2026, with 12 accepted sessions organized by the IASS. Submissions for Contributed Paper Sessions and Poster Sessions will be accepted until 8 October 2026.

IASS-IAOS Joint WSC Satellite Meeting in Botswana (19 July 2027 – 23 July 2027). Planning is underway, with more information to be included in the January 2027 *TSS* and the April 2027 IASS Newsletter.

Support for Workshops and Conferences 2026

The IASS has agreed to a (no-cost) co-sponsorship for the 9th Italian Conference on Survey Methodology and International Association of Survey Statisticians (ITACOSM 2027) to be held in Cremona, Italy from 29 June 2027 – 2 July 2027. Dr. Gaia Bertarelli is representing the IASS on the program committee and has agreed to lead the short course program.

Other Items of Interest

Waksburg Award

The 2027 recipient of the Waksberg Award (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-001-x/award-prix-eng.htm>) is Jean Opsomer, Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland College Park. He will give the Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium in 2027 and write a paper planned for publication in the December 2027 issue of *Survey Methodology*.

The journal *Survey Methodology* (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-001-x/index-eng.htm>) established an annual invited paper series in 2001 in honor of Joseph Waksberg to recognize his contributions to survey statistics and methodology. Each year, a prominent survey statistician is chosen to write a paper that reviews the development and current state of an important topic in survey statistics and methodology and reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterized Joseph Waksberg's work. Joseph Waksberg was a giant in survey sampling for nearly seven decades, beginning at the U.S. Census Bureau in 1940 and then moving to Westat in 1973 where he served as Chairman of the Board from 1990 until his death in 2006. The award includes an honorarium made possible by a grant from Westat.

The author of the 2027 Waksberg paper was selected by a four-person committee – Paul Smith (Chair), Kristen Olson, Alina Matei and David Haziza -- appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the American Statistical Association.

Published Short Course on Survey Sampling

[Sample Surveys in Economics and Finance: A Practical Guide](#) by Guillaume Osier, presenting material offered at the 2024 International Francophone Conference on Sample Surveys sponsored by the IASS, is now available.

Small Area Estimation Award

The IASS EC has approved a funding contribution of 500 Euros per SAE conference for the winner of the SAE Award. This commitment will span the next three SAE conferences, officially commencing with the SAE 2027 IASS WSC Satellite meeting in Hue, Vietnam, committing a maximum total of 1500 Euros.

Reading of the Quarter

The reading of the quarter is [Applying Multiple Imputation to Improve Estimates from Web Surveys: An Alternative to the Pseudoweighting Method](#) by Yulei He, Katherine Irimata, Guangyu Zhang, and Yan Li. This paper is published in the September 2026 issue of the *Journal of Official Statistics* (Issue 42(3)).

The authors tackle the challenging issue of appropriate adjustments for blended data estimates, whose item(s) of interest are only available for a (non-representative) nonprobability sample that can be merged to a high-quality reference probability sample. The merged data set is a “reference survey” that contains missing data for the item(s) of interest for all unmatched probability sample records. One commonly-used estimation approach is create pseudoweights that properly “weight” the nonprobability survey-based items to the target population underlying the reference survey, producing population-weighted estimates of the target of interest. In the paper, the authors propose multiply imputing the missing variable(s) on the reference survey, illustrating the main features and performances of the multiple imputation strategy via a simulation study. The simulation study results demonstrate comparable quality results for both approaches. Lastly, they present a real data analysis based on the web-based Research and Development Survey and the interviewer-administered National Health Interview Survey.

Thank you for being a part of our community and for your support in 2026. Please continue to support the IASS in 2027! The link to the registration page is here: <https://isi-portal.odoo.com/become-a-member>. There are two different fees for one-year membership to the IASS depending on what country you live in: € 60,00 (High Income Economies) or € 35,00 (Middle to Low Income Economies, provided here <https://isi-web.org/low-and-middle-income-economies>).

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 IASS calendar of events is available at <http://isi-iass.org/home/events/>

Follow IASS activities and updates on social media!

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-association-of-survey-statisticians-iass>

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