

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A paper submitted for the competition must consist of original work which is either unpublished or has been published after February 28th, 2023.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

Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize 2024 Winner

The 2024 Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize selection committee members were: **Eric Rancourt** (Chair, Statistics Canada) and **Sharon Lohr**, **Siu-Ming Tam** and **Nancy McBeth**. 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/qkac010>

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**. Please register for the webinar here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9317199219179/WN_9dppQxuoQMi4i8mh6r8pGQ#/registration

2025 Waksberg Award Winner

The 2025 recipient of the Waksberg Award (see: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-001-x/award-prix-eng.htm>) is Michael (Mike) Hidiroglou who has worked for almost 40 years as a survey methodologist at Statistics Canada and is well-known for his contributions to three main areas: business surveys, development of estimation systems and research in survey methodology. Mike will give the Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada International Methodology Symposium in 2025 and will write a paper planned for publication in the December 2025 issue of Survey Methodology.

The journal Survey Methodology established in 2001 an annual invited paper series in honour 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, reflecting 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 2025 Waksberg paper was selected by a four-person committee – Denise Silva (Chair), Jae-Kwang Kim, Kristen Olson, and Paul Smith -- appointed by Survey Methodology and the American Statistical Association.

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**.

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/

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 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

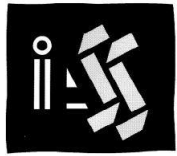
IASS Satellite Conferences to the 65th WSC, July 2025

There will be two satellite conferences to the 65th 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 45: A nested error regression model with high-dimensional parameter for small area estimation
Speaker: Nicola Salvati, The University of Pisa
(Hukum Chandra Memorial Prize Winner)
Date and Time: 30 October 2024 at 2pm – 3:30pm (CET)
The registration link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9317199219179/WN_9dppQxuoQMi4i8mh6r8pGQ#/registration

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 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).

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

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>

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**. More information and the link to the website will be made available soon.

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/>

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

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Reading of the Month

This month's reading-of-the-month is the 2024 paper published in the **Journal of Official Statistics, Vol. 40, Issue 3** titled: **A New Approach to Composite Estimation for Repeated Surveys with Rotating Panels**, by **Takis Merkourish** from The University of Athens, and available at the following link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/0282423X241254193> .

Composite estimation in repeated surveys with rotating panels became largely popular with the articles published in the 2001 issue of **Survey Methodology**, Vol. 27: W. Fuller and J.N.K. Rao article titled: 'A Regression Composite Estimator with Application to the Canadian Labour Force Survey' and A.C. Singh, B. Kennedy and S. Wu article titled: 'Regression Composite Estimation for the Canadian Labour Force Survey with a Rotating Panel Design'.

Below is the abstract of the current paper:

In this current article a novel approach to composite estimation is proposed, in which composite regression estimators of current totals for a number of key variables are generated from a simultaneous calibration of the sampling weights of the overlapping samples of the current and previous survey time. In this procedure, in addition to the usual calibration to known population totals, differences of estimates for the key variables based on the full sample and the common sample from the two consecutive times are calibrated to each other. The resulting multivariate composite regression estimator, which is constructed as an approximate best linear unbiased estimator, incorporates effectively information from the samples of both survey times for enhanced estimation efficiency. Unlike other composite regression estimators, the proposed estimator does not require micro-matching of data in the overlap sample, and, therefore, is free of potential issues associated with it. It is also considerably more practical than existing composite regression estimators and the traditional AK-composite estimator.