

NISS

Parameters

SUMMER | 2021

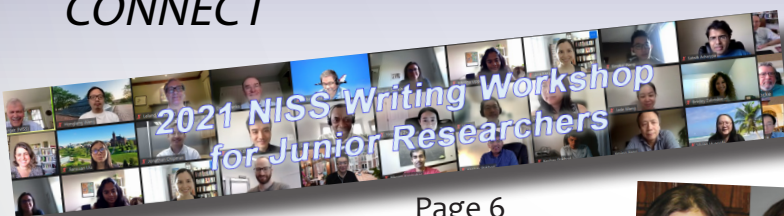
IN THIS NEWSLETTER...



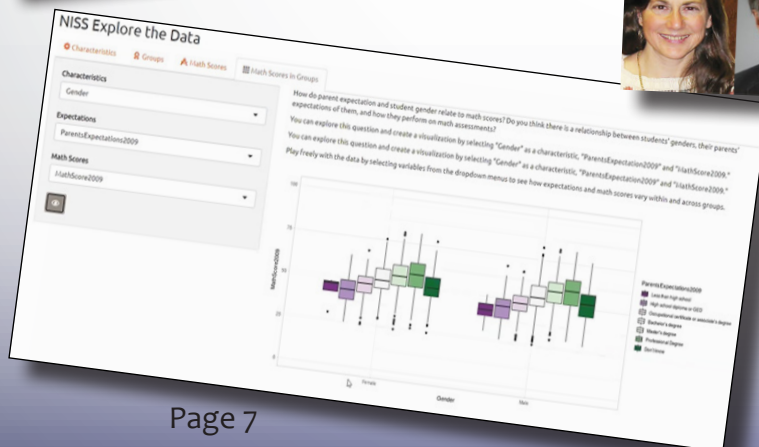
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MEETUPS

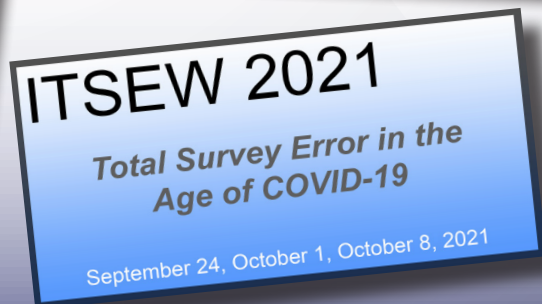
CONNECT



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EVENTS



Welcome to the Summer 2021 NISS Parameters Newsletter!

This Newsletter celebrates the end of a busy spring and summer with many activities.

During August when JSM was again virtual NISS celebrated the year with a combined Affiliate 'luncheon' gathering and NISS reception to announce the Sacks Award and the Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards, usually held at the NISS reception at JSM. In addition to presenting the awards, we invited the ASA Task Force on Statistical Significance and Replicability to describe the import message of the statistical sciences highlighted in the report. See below for more details

During JSM I chaired the invited panel, *NISS at 30: Highlights from the Early Years, and Emerging Trends* organized by Lingzhou Xue, NISS Associate Director, which looked back when the vision for NISS was formed and looked forward to the emerging issues that NISS is now addressing. **Dan Jeske** highlighted the many activities during the past few years aimed at the NISS affiliates. **David Banks** reminisced from the initial workshop that birthed NISS, to the many years NISS and SAMSI cooperated on programs and shared space in the NISS building in RTP. **Nell Sedransk**, who wrote "*NISS: From Vision to National Institute*" described the evolution of NISS over three decades. **Nancy Flournoy**, described the events leading up to the NSF report that identified the need for an institute to promote cross-disciplinary and cross-sector activities for the statistics community. Nancy also described the Ingram Olkin Forums, which began in 2019, under the banner *Statistics Serving Society* which were named to honor Ingram Olkin's role in NISS' formation and his unflagging efforts to have statistics serve the public good.

Contributions are invited to support the Ingram Olkin Fund which supports ongoing forums.

Other activities at JSM included the NISS statistical graphics competition session organized by **Brian Habing**, NISS Associate Director, and Andrew White of NCES, which supported the competition.

Despite (or due to) the pandemic, NISS hosted an increasing number of events important to our affiliates and continued to co-sponsor events organized and hosted by our affiliates. These events covered many themes related to the role of statistics and data science during the pandemic, but the critical role of statistical concepts/foundations for proper interpretation and inference was the focus of our activities.

Beginning in December, NISS hosted 15 Data Science Webinars jointly organized with COPSS, focusing on COVID-19 issues. These webinars ranged from "flying the plane while improving it" as a metaphor for the need to develop novel ways to collect and analyze data to understand the science behind this quickly evolving public health crisis, to "pandemics, poverty and public health" by **Jim Yong Kim**, former president of the World Bank. These webinars, and all our public events are available on our YouTube channel, available by searching for NISS communications.

In May, we organized and hosted a joint CANSSI-NISS Workshop on Health Data Science, originally planned to be held at University of Waterloo, but move online due to the pandemic. Five sessions and two plenary talks, by **Xiao-Li Meng** and **Mary Thompson**, and four short courses were given over three days in May.

NISS again hosted the Writing Workshop this year, held since 2007 with 29 new researchers and 16 mentors participating. The speakers emphasized the importance of good writing, a life-long quest that requires dedication and continuous effort, and described the range of journals, how to collaborate and agree on authorship, and how to navigate the many ethical issues that arise in research and publication. NISS has hosted this event with strong support from NSF and the statistical societies and leaders in the profession.

As noted, **Ray Bain** has completed two years as board chair, and was acknowledged with the distinguished service award from NISS. The newly elected board chair, **Jim Booth**, Professor at Cornell University in the Department of Statistics and Data Science, has served on the NISS board for the past 9 years. The board vice-chair is **Mimi Kim**, Professor and Chair, Dept of Epidemiology & Population Health Division of Biostatistics, Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

On a personal note, I have now completed four years at NISS, having stepped into this role after the 2017 JSM in Baltimore, and I've asked the board to search for new leadership for the next era. The board of trustees appointed a search committee to find the next leader of NISS and they are now seeking nominations. The director position could be full or part-time, work from the NISS Washington DC offices, the RTP location, or at a host university hub as I have been at Penn State. See the search ad at Careers on the NISS homepage. In addition, there are other open positions at NISS for post-docs, pre-docs and internships.

Jim Rosenberger, Director, NISS

ABOUT NISS

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is a national institute that delivers high-impact research in science and in public policy by leveraging the rich expertise of its staff with that of its base of affiliated organizations in academia, industry, and government. NISS works on issues where information and quantitative analysis are keys to solutions and decisions. NISS functions in three ways: as an expert advisor, as a basic researcher, and as a collaborator.

OUR MISSION

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is an independent research organization that serves as a neutral, objective expert in delivering research in science and public policy to its affiliates in academia, industry and government. NISS identifies, catalyzes and fosters high-impact cross-disciplinary and cross-sector research involving the statistical and data sciences.

FEATURED EVENT: INTERNATIONAL TOTAL SURVEY ERROR WORKSHOP

NISS

NISS and ITSEW Go Way Back!

The first total survey error workshop was held in 2005, at the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington, DC. It was organized and sponsored by NISS under the auspices of the NISS Affiliates Program. The organizers were **Paul Biemer** (then and still at RTI International), **Jerry Reiter** (then and still at Duke) and **Alan Karr** (then director of NISS). Paul Biemer and Alan Karr have been on the organizing committee for every ITSEW since 2005! The model for the workshop was to hold a series of survey nonresponse workshops that were initially organized by Robert Groves and others.

It is believed that the International Total Survey Error Workshop name and ITSEW acronym came into existence with the second workshop, which was in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina in 2008. In addition, since 2005, NISS houses the ITSEW archives from these various workshops on its web site.

ITSEW Through the Years!

2005: Washington, D.C.
2008: Research Triangle Park, NC
2009: Tallberg, Sweden
2010: Stowe, Vermont
2011: Quebec, Canada
2012: Sanpoort, Netherlands
2013: Ames, IA
2014: Washington, D.C.
2015: Not held because of the “big” Total Survey Error Conference in Baltimore, MD
2016: Sydney, Australia
2017: Nuremberg, Germany
2018: Durham, North Carolina
2019: Bergamo, Italy
2020: Not held because of COVID
2021: **This Year’s Virtual Conference!**
2022: Manchester, UK

Don’t Miss This Year’s Event!

ITSEW 2021

Total Survey Error in the Age of COVID-19

September 24, October 1, October 8, 2021

International Total Survey Error Workshop (ITSEW) 2021

September 24, October 1, and October 8, 2021

The theme of this year’s conference is: “Total Survey Error in the Age of COVID-19”

After a hiatus in 2020, ITSEW returns this year as a series of *three virtual weekly Friday seminars* on the theme Total Survey Error in the Age of COVID-19. As with earlier workshops, the goal is to promote discussion of questions of research, methodology and practice relating to Total Survey Error (TSE) and Total Survey Quality. Each session will be comprised of relatively short presentations and catalyzing discussion by a designated discussant, followed by floor discussion among all participants.

Friday, September 24, 2021 (9 am – 12:00 Noon ET)

TSE for Data Collections about COVID

Speakers: Jason Fields, (US Census Bureau), Carina Cornesse, (University of Mannheim), Andrew Phelps, (UK Office for National Statistics), Jamie C. Moore, (University of Essex - UK), Discussant: Paul J. Lavrakas, (Private consultant).

Friday, October 1, 2021 (9 am – 12:00 Noon ET)

Effects of COVID on Other Data Collection

Speakers: Martina Helme and Salah Merad, (UK Office for National Statistics), Nicky Rogers and Duncan Elliott, (UK Office for National Statistics), Jan van den Brakel, (Statistics Netherlands), Discussant: John Eltinge, (US Census Bureau).

Friday, October 8, 2021 (9 am – 12:00 Noon ET)

Total Quality for Censuses

Speakers: J. David Brown, (US Census Bureau), Owen Abbott, (UK Office for National Statistics), Stefano Falorsi, (Italian National Institute of Statistics), Christiane Laperrière, (Statistics Canada), Discussant: Nancy Potok (NAPx Consulting).

The session on October 8 will conclude with Remembrances of **Lars Lyberg**, led by Paul Biemer, (RTI International).

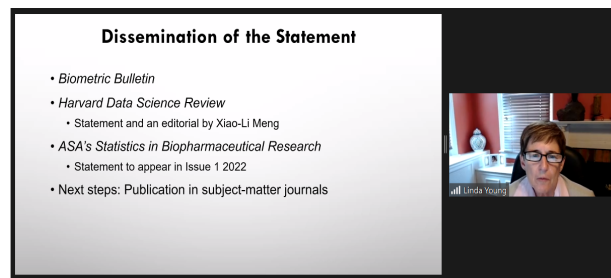
Register For This 3-Day Workshop Today!

NEWS: 2021 AFFILIATE “LUNCHEON” PROGRAM FOCUSES ON STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

NISS

NISS Affiliates liaisons and representatives representing academia, industry and government institutions traditionally meet over lunch at JSM to catch up with one another and hear from speakers on a topic of current interest. Prospective affiliates members are also invited to learn about the NISS affiliate programs at this event. However, this year, because JSM was once again a virtual event, NISS held an online “luncheon” - even though it was scheduled at 5 pm!

This year, the luncheon speakers featured Karen Kafadar, the 2019 American Statistical Association (ASA) President from the University of Virginia. Karen initiated the ASA Task Force on Statistical Significance and Replicability during her year as ASA President. The task force was convened to address issues surrounding the use of p-values and statistical significance, as well as their connection to replicability. Xuming He from the University of Michigan and Linda Young from NASS served as co-chairs of this Task Force and also contributed remarks regarding this work. In addition, Steven Stigler, (University of Chicago), Nancy Reid, (University of Toronto) and Yoav Benjamini, (Tel Aviv University) were invited to contribute to the conversation.

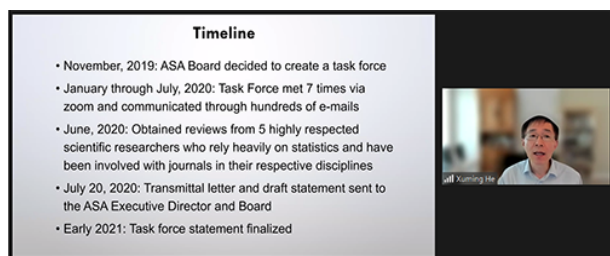


Linda Young (NASS) begins a list of places the task force statement will be disseminated.

[A recording of this session](#) which provides a quick review the work of the Task Force can be found on the NISS YouTube Channel.

For convenience, here is a link to “[The ASA President’s Task Force Statement on Statistical Significance and Replicability](#)” (Reprinted here with permission from Institute of Mathematical Statistics).

Task force committee members include: Yoav Benjamini (Tel Aviv University), Richard De Veaux (Williams College), Bradlet Effron (Stanford University), Scott Evans (George Washington University), Mark Glickman (Harvard University), Barry Grubard (National Cancer Institute), Xuming He (University of Michigan), Xiao-li Meng (Harvard University), Nancy Reid (University of Toronto), Stephen Stigler (University of Chicago), Stephen B. Vardeman (Iowa State University), Christopher K. Wilke (University of Missouri), Tommy Wright (United States Bureau of the Census), Linda Young (National Agricultural Statistics Service) and Karen Kafadar (University of Virginia).



Xuming He (University of Michigan), reviews the timeline of the task force.



Luncheon Speakers included: Karen Kafadar- 2019 ASA President, (University of Virginia), Xuming He - Task Force Co-chair, (University of Michigan), Linda Young - Task Force Co-chair, (NASS), Steven Stigler, (University of Chicago), Nancy Reid (University of Toronto) and Yoav Benjamini, (Tel Aviv University).

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On Monday, August 2, 2021 NISS Affiliates and other invited guests got together to celebrate the work of three individuals. NISS confers three prestigious awards each year to honor these efforts. Here are the recipients of this years awards.

Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research

The Jerome Sacks Award recognizes sustained, high quality cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences and NISS is pleased to present the 2021 Jerome Sacks Award for Exemplary Cross-Disciplinary Research in the statistical sciences to

Marc Suchard, Professor at UCLA with joint appointments in the Department of Computational Medicine, Biostatistics and Human Genetics.



From the evidence submitted in his nomination packet Professor Marc Suchard has clearly earned this distinction. Mark is a prolific researcher, with over 230 peer reviewed research publications, book chapters and 10 published proceedings and abstracts. Several of Marc's statistical publications have achieved legendary status having over 15,000 citations. In addition, Marc's work has also been instrumental in placing Bayes factors as a standard model selection tool in the field of genetics. He has also supervised 15 Ph.D. students and many of his past students have gone on to become highly successful statisticians. Marc has received the Savage Award, the Mitchell Prize, a Guggenheim fellowship, the 2011 Ray Carol Young Investigator Award and the COPSS President's Award.

Marc's citation reads:

"For his highly influential and innovative contributions to the cross-disciplinary field of computational biology, including rigorous mathematical developments, advanced numerical and statistical computing, and software development, particularly in the area of phylogenetics."

Upon receiving this award Marc commented, "Today, more than ever, in the middle of a global pandemic, trying to ensure that reliable and replicable inferential based evidence really does help our communities move forward towards safety, and this is an important laudable goal, and also a key role to play for many of us as statisticians."

NISS Distinguished Alumni Award

NISS is also pleased to present the NISS Distinguished Alumni Award to **Nancy McMillan**. Nancy is currently the Division Manager of Advanced Analytics at Battelle, an organization with over 90 staff members composed of a mix of data and computer scientists. Over the past 25 years she has been a research leader at Battelle and her team participates in over 150 research projects each year, bringing data analytics capability to cross disciplinary research and development teams. Nancy earned a master's and Ph.D. in statistics from the Ohio State University.



From 1993 to 1995 she served as a NISS postdoctoral fellow and

then worked at Battelle until 1999 and then after two years as a professor and a consultant she then rejoined Battelle and has served as principal and senior research scientist, associate manager and research leader and now division manager. NISS is very pleased to present this award and of the NISS Distinguished Alumni Award to Dr Nancy MacMillan to honor her work over the years.

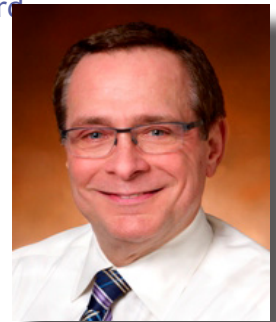
Nancy's citation reads:

"Honoring her distinguished career at Battelle and her leadership in the development of statistical methods and models for a wide variety of complex problems, including environmental pollution, bioterrorism risk assessment and forensic genomics."

Upon receiving this award Nancy's comments included: "I have very fond memories .. it's hard for me to believe it was 26 years ago when I was at NISS starting out a career in cross disciplinary research, which was really why I went to NISS. ... I appreciate the discipline, more and more over time and I appreciate the time that I had at NISS to grow some of my experience as a statistician working with researchers and scientists, so thank you very much."

NISS Distinguished Service Award

The NISS Distinguished Service Award is being awarded this year to Raymond Bain who has recently completed six years on the NISS Board of Trustees. During this time he has served on the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and for the past two years, he served as chair of the Board of Trustees. Ray is Senior Vice President at Merck in the Division of Biostatistics and Research.



Ray's citation reads:

"For his exceptional and dedicated service on the NISS board of trustees, serving as the chair of the strategic planning committee, chair of the finance committee, vice-chair, and chair of the board for the past two years. And for his strong support of NISS including the NISS-Merck meetings?"

The NISS 2021 Awards Committee was comprised of Jim Booth (chair), Karen Bandeen-Roche, Michael Brundage, Jerome Reiter and Nicholas Jewell.

Complete comments from the award recipients can be viewed in a [recording of the Awards Ceremony](#) found on the NISS YouTube channel.

Hey there! Stay connected with us on Twitter for the latest events information!



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LinkedIn

Do you know that NISS is also active on LinkedIn?

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NISS CO-SPONSORS AFFILIATE EVENTS

NISS

There are two events listed in the Upcoming Events that are being co-sponsored by NISS.

The Department of Statistics at Purdue is hosting the [Distinguished Theme Seminar Series 2021 on Causal Inference](#) and the Department of Statistics at Florida State University is hosting their annual [2021 Myles Hollander Distinguished Lecture](#).

NISS as Co-Sponsor - How This Works

NISS Affiliates can choose to use up to \$1,000 of their Academic Affiliate Award Fund (AAF) to support events that they host which can include conference expenses if their event is co-sponsored by NISS. Affiliates may also want to use their AAF to reimburse affiliate members for travel expenses and registration fees for NISS hosted events, other NISS co-sponsored events, any CANSSI events, any SAMSI events or costs associated with statistical conferences at North American Mathematical and Statistical Institutes.

Co-sponsorship also involves advertising by NISS. Co-sponsored events are included in the Upcoming Events listing on the NISS website, newsletters and included in mailing out to those on NISS contact lists

In the past NISS has co-sponsored numerous events hosted by NISS Affiliates including:

- Analytics Without Borders Conference (Bentley)
- Annual Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials: Electronic Health Records (EHR) in Randomized Clinical Trials: Challenges & Opportunities (U Penn)
- Bradley Lecture (Georgia)
- Clemson University/University of Georgia Joint Statistics Colloquium



- Design & Analysis of Experiments (DAE 2017) Conference (UCLA)
- James R. Thompson Distinguished Lecture Series (Rice)
- Midwest Statistical Machine Learning Colloquium (Iowa State)
- NOGGINS Workshop (Georgia)
- Rao Prize Conference (Penn State)
- USCOTS (Penn State)
- Women in Statistics & Data Science (WSDS) 2017 (Duke)
- Workshop on Biostatistics & Bioinformatics (Georgia State)
- WuFest: A Conference on Engineering Statistics & Related Topics (Georgia Tech)

There are many more events hosted by institutions or organizations that NISS also co-sponsors.

NISS Affiliates - As you plan your next event, make sure you consider NISS Co-Sponsorship!
The sooner you decide, the sooner NISS can start advertising for you!

NISS CAREER FAIR SERIES STARTS UP AGAIN - POSITIONS OPEN!

Wednesday, September 8 - 12-1:30pm ET

Interested in pursuing a career as a statistician at an academic institution? Then you won't want to miss this next career fair sponsored by NISS that will offer essential information about job opportunities for statisticians/data scientists in different academic environments.

This event is the first NISS Career Fair for the Fall of 2021 - several more are in the planning phases! Keep your eye on the list of upcoming events on the NISS website or subscribe to the NISS Newsletter.

This session features opportunities for statisticians/data scientists from three NISS Affiliate academic departments. Department Chairs from Penn State University's Department of Statistics, Columbia University's Department of Statistics and the University of South Carolina's Department of Statistics will be on hand to provide attendees with an inside look at the varying aspects of research, teaching and service that statisticians in these academic institutions get involved in and the career opportunities available for you to consider! All three institutions are currently looking to fill **multiple** positions!

This session will be moderated by Irina Gaynanova (Texas A&M University).

Academic Virtual Career Fair Open Positions Available!



September 8
2021

NISS

National Institute of
Statistical Sciences

Moderator: Irina Gaynanova (Texas A&M University), Speakers: Murali Haran (Penn State University), Tian Zheng (Columbia University), and Joshua Tebbs (University of South Carolina).

[Register for this Event Today!](#)

As in years past, NISS sponsored activities were in full swing at JSM sessions. Those who signed up for JSM2021 can still view the recordings of the sessions at the conference site.

Sunday, 8/8/2021

Statistically Accurate Interactive Displays for Educational and Government Reports (Session 52)

Chair, **Brian Habing** (NISS) reported a lively session that discussed the various entries into NISS's SAID in Graphics Competition earlier this year. Of particular interest were what those entries said about the possibilities for government reports like those published by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and about how today's graduate students experience constructing statistical graphics.

The panelists were **Nola Du Toit**, (NORC; a contest judge), **Andrew White**, (NCES), **S. Lynne Stokes**, (SMU) and **Mark Wilson** (UC Berkely).



A video interview of **Maria Haji-Georgi**, **Xinyun Xu** and **Oxana Rosca** (SUNY University at Albany) was featured in the session. The three of them were part of the team that won the *Judges Choice Award* along with **Falon Treis** and **Elie Yu**. Below is a glimpse of their winning entry.



[Read the complete news coverage from this competition on the NISS website!](#)

Wednesday, 8/11/2021

NISS at 30: Highlights from the Early Years and Emerging Trends (Session 271)

The panelists for this session included: **Daniel Jeske**, (University of California Riverside), **David Banks**, (Duke University & SAMSI), **Jerome Sacks**, (NISS), **Nancy Flournoy**, (University of Missouri), **Nell Sedransk**, (NISS).

Chaired by **Jim Rosenberger** and organized by **Lingzhou Xue**, NISS Associate Director, the invited panel of *NISS at 30: Highlights from the Early Years, and Emerging Trends* proceeded to look back to when the vision

for NISS was formed and then look forward to the emerging issues that NISS is now addressing.

Dan Jeske highlighted the many activities during the past few years aimed at the NISS affiliates.



David Banks reminisced from the initial workshop that birthed NISS, to the many years NISS and SAMSI cooperated on programs and shared space in the NISS building in RTP.



Nancy Flournoy recalled the formation of the NSF sponsored IMS committee that produced the 1988 Cross-disciplinary Report which called for the formation of NISS, starting her recollections with the 1984 IMS President **Ingram Olkin** scheming with colleagues at their annual meeting at Lake Tahoe. Leaders in the Statistics Community were concerned about the deep divide that then existed between theory and applications. **Bruce Tumbo**, then IMS Treasurer and also NSF Program Director for Statistics, encouraged a grant application to support the development of a panel report to provide recommendations for promoting crossdisciplinary research in statistics. Bruce was happy to shepherd their grant application through the review process; **Judy Sunley**, then Deputy Director of NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences, had also listened to community concerns at Lake Tahoe and was happy to sign off on the grant award. The distinguished panel had several in-person working meetings at NSF in Washington DC, producing their report in 1988. This report advocated for promoting the "interactive process between theory, method and application that is the very essence and life-blood of statistical sciences." We can thank the effort of all those involved in producing this report for this understanding of "statistical sciences" becoming commonly accepted!

The Cross-Disciplinary Report called for the establishment of an Institute of Statistical Sciences to:

- Identify important societal problems;
- Form research teams to attack these problems;
- Establish post-doctoral and sabbatical programs and fellowships;
- Organize workshops for science reporters, congressional staff, and other public groups; and
- Stimulate curricular improvement – in particular it should concern itself with statistics education issues that are important to the future of statistical science and its applications.

NISS was brought into being a short two years later as a non-profit corporation by ASA, AAAS's Section U, COPSS, and ENAR under the direction of **Jerome Sacks**. Nancy congratulated NISS for doing a great job with respect to all its charges for 30 years and for its nimbleness for adapting its charges to changing times.

NISS at 30: Highlights from the Early Years and Emerging Trends (Session 271) - cont'd

Nancy then turned to discuss one of the newer NISS programs, the Ingram Olkin Forums (IOFs). This forum series was established in 2018 to honor the memory of Ingram Olkin (July 23, 1924 – April 28, 2016), recognizing that Ingram had a passion for both the field of statistics and its impact and believing:

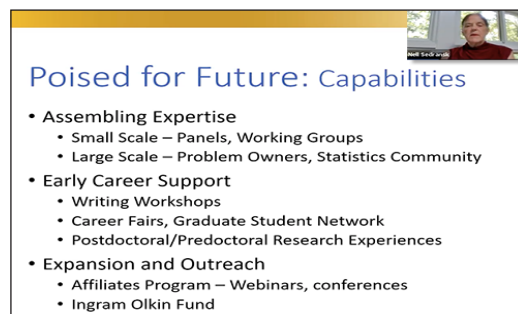
- Statistics are beautiful – theory and applications;
- Statistics are powerful;
- Statistics can make unique, center-stage contributions in service to society;
- Cross-disciplinary research is a fuel that can thrust Statistical Science forward;

IOFs, with the tag line “*Statistics Serving Society*”, focus on current societal issues that might benefit from new/renewed attention from the statistical community.



The NISS IOF Committee found the inaugural IOF on the Statistics of Gun Violence in 2019 an exciting demonstration that the Forum model could advance NISS goals. The Committee anticipated conducting one in-person forum per year. Then came COVID. A major component of IOFs is promoting participant interaction, the development of new research

agendas and the building of follow-on working teams. The second planned IOF was to be on the Opioid Crises. But it had been planned to coincide with another meeting that was postponed so was it also postponed; its scheduling is not yet fixed – stay tuned. In the meantime IOF series were started on Unplanned Clinical Trial Disruptions, Social Justice and Covid and the Schools. Nancy will discuss these and upcoming plans more specifically in a later newsletter.



Panelist Nell Sedransk reviews the future roles that NISS can play with regards to its role in support of the statistics and data science community.

Anyone who registered for JSM2021 can still view the recordings of the all of these sessions at the conference site.



NISS Research Paper Presentations

Thursday, 8/12/2021

Small Area Estimation, Analysis of Complex Sample Survey Data, and New Advances for Health Surveys (Session 352)

Chair(s): Lu Chen, NISS/USDA, NASS

Model-Based Estimates for Farm Labor Quantities (Session 403)

Recent Advances in Small Area Estimation

Lu Chen, National Institute of Statistical Sciences/USDA, NASS;
Nathan B. Cruze, NASS, USDA; Linda J Young, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

Estimation of Power Transformations in Capture-Recapture Models (Session 445)

GOVT CSpeed 2

Luca Sartore, NISS; Habtamu Benecha, USDA NASS; Clifford Spiegelman, Texas A&M

Controlled Microbiome Variable Selection Analysis (Session 432)

Novel Statistical Methods for Microbiome Data Analysis

Xiang Zhan, Penn State University; Arun Srinivasan, Penn State University; Lingzhou Xue, Penn State University and National Institute of Statistical Sciences

NISS SEEKING NEXT DIRECTOR

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), a multi-hub institute committed to advancing science and public policy through high impact research, training, and professional activities for the statistical community, seeks a talented statistical/data scientist to serve as its Director and CEO.

Qualifications: PhD in the statistical sciences or a related discipline, strong record of scientific accomplishment and cross-disciplinary research, experience in securing resources, and outstanding communication skills.

Based on the candidate's vision, the position could be full or part-time. Location also flexible.

See [NISS Director Search for more information](#).

Questions and inquiries can be submitted to: directorsearch@niss.org.

2021 WRITING WORKSHOP CONTINUES AS A HUGE SUCCESS!



NISS Writing Workshop for Early Researchers (before & after JSM)

On August 6 and 13 the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) hosted once again the Writing Workshop for Early Researchers. A successful workshop since its inception in 2007 and this year's workshop was no different!

NISS gathered a host of senior authors, editors, grant writers/reviewers—individuals who take valuable time out of their day to share their advice and experiences with a group of 29 junior faculty and early researchers.

The event started with a session on *Writing Skills, Evaluation, and Visualization* led by **Lee Wilkinson** (H2O.ai & U of Illinois at Chicago), then a session on *Choosing Where to Publish* presented by **Nick Jewell** (UC, Berkeley & London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine). The lunch hour was then spent in meetings between mentors and their early research mentees where comments, suggestions and advice was dispensed regarding pieces of writing they are currently working on. A panel was then convened on *Statistics and Data Science Journals*. **Xuming He** (Michigan), **Nicole Lazar** (Penn State), **Tyler McCormick** (U of Washington), **David Rocke** (UC, Davis) and **Karen Kafadar** (Virginia) all provided advice that comes from years of experience as editors of journals in the fields of statistics, biostatistics and other areas. A final session on *Reviewing and Revising* led by **Naomi Altman** (Penn State University) ended a busy first day!

The second day of the workshop was kicked on by **Regina Nuzzo** (ASA) who provided a number of tips for *How to Get Started and Avoid Writer's Block*. She was followed by **Susan Ellenberg** (University of Pennsylvania) who provided a very informative and valuable session on *How to Write a Collaborative Paper*. Susan was followed by an inspiring panel who spoke to *Speaking from Experiences and Career Development* that included **Emma Benn** (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai), **Eric Laber** (Duke), **Ali Shojaie** (U of Washington), and **Judy Wang** (NSF DMS Statistics Program Director & George Washington University).

Peter Imrey (Cleveland Clinic) presented a session on *Ethical Issues and Reproducibility* which was followed by a final panel on *Grant Writing* that included **Cheryl Eavey** (NSF SBE Program Director), **Karen Messer** (NIH BMRB Study Section Chair & UC, San Diego) and **Edsel Peña** (NSF DMS Statistics Program Director & U of South Carolina), moderated by **Keith Crank** formerly of NSF.

[Check out the slide show from both days on the NISS website!](#)

Writing Workshop in 2022? You bet!

It is never too late to think about who might benefit next from this workshop that will be associated in some manner with JSM 2022. Keep your eye on the NISS website or subscribe to our newsletter for all of the latest information about this and other professional development activities!

NISS BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES FOR 2021-2022

The work of NISS does not get done by itself! There are a number of committees that work throughout the year to ensure that the activities and outreach of NISS continues to fulfill NISS's mission.

Here is the list of the individuals that serve on the various committees that report to the NISS Board of Trustees:

Executive Committee: James Booth (Chair), Mimi Kim (Vice-Chair), Dan Jeske, Jerry Reiter, Leland Wilkinson, Ron Wasserstein, Alyson Wilson, James Rosenberger (Ex-Officio), Nell Sedransk (Ex-Officio)

Affiliates Committee: Dan Jeske (Chair), Sumanta Basu, Kate Crespi, Nathan Cruze, Joel Dubin, Dan Holder, Michael Jadoo, Megan Glenn, Glenn Johnson, Phil Kott, Esra Kurum, Kevin Lee, Piaomu Liu, Victor Lo, Sam Woolford, Lingzhou Xue, James Rosenberger (Ex-Officio)

Academic Planning: Esra Kurum (Chair), Sumanta Basu, Kevin Lee, Piaomu Liu

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NISS is always looking for new ideas and individuals willing to get involved in serving NISS Affiliates and the statistics and data science community in general.

If you are interested adding this type of service to your professional resume, please do not hesitate to contact Randy Freret at officeadmin@niss.org.

SEPTEMBER

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, August 20th, 11am ET

Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: Jason Hartline, (Northwestern University)

Distinguished Theme Seminar Series 2021: Causal Inference

Event Date: September 3, 2021 10:30 – 11:30 am ET

Event Type: Online Webinar

Clutter-Free Causal Inference Speaker Donald B. Rubin - Temple, Tsinghua, and Harvard Universities Abstract Many, if not most, data analyses aim at understanding relationships between quantities that we observe, and trying to understand what would happen if we intervened in our world in various... ([read more](#))

Career Fair Series Starts Up Again - Positions Open!

Event Date: Wednesday, September 8 - 12-1:30pm ET

Event Type: Virtual Career Fair

Interested in pursuing a career as a statistician at an academic institution? Then you won't want to miss this next career fair sponsored by NISS that will offer essential information about job opportunities for statisticians/data scientists in different academic environments. This event is the ... ([read more](#))

Distinguished Theme Seminar Series 2021: Causal Inference

Event Date: September 10, 2021 10:30 – 11:30 am ET

Event Type: Online Webinar

Single World Intervention Graphs (SWIGs): A Unification of the Graphical and Counterfactual Approaches to Causality with Applications Speaker James M. Robins - Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Abstract Counterfactuals (aka Potential Outcomes) are extensively used in Statistics, Political... ([read more](#))

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, September 10th, 11am ET

Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: Hongtu Zhu, (UNC Chapel Hill)

Distinguished Theme Seminar Series 2021: Causal Inference

Event Date: September 17, 2021 10:30 – 11:30 am ET

Event Type: Online Webinar

What is Causal Inference? - A Logical Perspective Speaker Judea Pearl, Samueli School of Engineering, University of California-Los Angeles Abstract The purpose of this talk is to explain the role of causal inference in the context of growing interests in machine learning and data science. I will... ([read more](#))

Check the [NISS Events webpage](#)
for up to date event info!

International Total Survey Error 2021

Event Date: September 24, October 1, and October 8, 2021

Event Type: Virtual Conference

Total Survey Error in the Age of COVID-19 After a hiatus in 2020, ITSEW returns this year as a series of three virtual weekly seminars on the theme Total Survey Error in the Age of COVID-19. As with earlier workshops, the goal is to promote discussion of questions of research, methodology and... ([read more](#))

2021 Myles Hollander Distinguished Lecture

Event Date: September 24, 2021 11 am ET

Event Type: Online Lecture

The Department of Statistics at Florida State University is pleased to announce Susan Murphy, Professor of Statistics at Harvard University, as the speaker for its annual endowed Myles Hollander Distinguished Lecture. Murphy will present "We used a Bandit Algorithm to Personalize But Did It Work?"... ([read more](#))

Distinguished Theme Seminar Series 2021: Causal Inference

Event Date: September 24, 2021 10:30 – 11:30 am ET

Event Type: Online Webinar

Statistical Learning: Causal-oriented and Robust Speaker Peter Bühlmann, Department of Mathematics, ETH Zürich Abstract Reliable, robust and interpretable machine learning is a big emerging theme in data science and artificial intelligence, complementing the development of pure black box prediction... ([read more](#))

OCTOBER

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, October 1st, 11am ET

Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: Yihong Wu, (Yale University)

AISC 2021

Event Date: October 8 - 10, 2021

Event Location: Greensboro, North Carolina, 27412

International Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics The main objective of the conference is to promote interdisciplinary research involving statistical techniques. These techniques are becoming increasingly important in all fields of scientific discovery. A unique... ([read more](#))

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