

# Parameters

WINTER | 2023

IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

## EVENTS



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**INDUSTRY CAREER PANEL**  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023 12:1:30PM ET  
*Navigating Massive Layoffs, Hiring Freezes, and Tech Industry Careers in 2023*

 JIE CHEN WELLS FARGO	 SHANNON DONG BOEING	 MARTIN TINGLEY NETFLIX	 DHANUSHI WIJEYAKULASURIYA MICROSOFT
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## RESEARCH



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## LEARN

**COPSS NISS** National Institute of Statistical Sciences  
Leadership Webinar Series  
  
March 28, 2023  
12 - 1 pm ET  
**NISS** National Institute of Statistical Sciences  
Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies

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## MEETUPS



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## Welcome to the Winter 2023 NISS Parameters Newsletter!

This newsletter announces an upcoming [special career fair](#) on Wednesday, February 15 which takes an in-depth look at the job market for statisticians and data scientists, to see how they may be impacted by the recently announced large layoffs by many of the high-tech industry companies. How does this impact statisticians? We will be watching this trend over the next several months as the economy decides whether to shrink or remain strong. Will this decline in tech hiring provide an opportunity for the academic and government sectors to attract the best talent available? We also have representatives from companies that are hiring, and in future career fairs we will again feature government careers, and academic openings. Go to [niss.org/events](https://niss.org/events) to register for all our upcoming activities.

In March we have two exciting events planned. On March 15, the [Ingram Olkin Forum](#) will sponsor a three-hour event, featuring world leaders discussing the research needed to [help combat human trafficking](#). Organized by [David Banks](#) (Duke University), [Daniel Manrique-Vallier](#) (Indiana University), and [Megan Price](#) (Human Rights Data Analysis Group), the speakers include [Margaret Henderson](#) (UNC), [Tyler McCormick](#) (U of Washington), [Nancy Hagan](#) (NC Human Trafficking Commission), [Rowland Seymour](#) (U of Birmingham) and [Sir Bernard Silverman](#) (Oxford). This forum welcomes participants who would like to participate in ongoing working groups to advance the methodology needed to understand this social scourge.

Also, in March we are hosting the [COPSS-NISS event Leadership in Statistical Research](#), with [Lingzhou Xue](#) (Penn State) moderating the panel with speakers [Susan Murphy](#) (Harvard) and [Trevor Hastie](#) (Stanford) speaking about their careers and views on providing leadership in statistical research.

This NISS winter newsletter showcases our recent events since the November newsletter appeared.

Despite the transition in staff, we continue to host and co-host a myriad of activities, some organized by our affiliates committee, many sponsored by our affiliates in their local region, and we are now returning to in-person events, rather than exclusively via Zoom, as we did during the pandemic. The new year began with a virtual career fair, featuring speakers from [RAND](#), [Instacart](#), and [Fidelity Investments](#), described below.

The inaugural event of the Leadership Webinar Series, cosponsored by COPSS Leadership Academy and NISS, was organized and moderated by [Natalie Dean](#) (Emory University) and featured [presentations on academic leadership](#). The speakers were [Sally Morton](#) (ASU) and [Ron Brookmeyer](#) (UCLA), who shared their personal journey to their current positions, and responded to questions – well worth viewing the recordings on our website or YouTube channel. See the article below, with watch for future events featuring leadership in research, government, and community service.

Although we will continue to hold virtual events, we were excited to finally be able to return to in-person activities. [The Ingram Olkin Forum on Advancing Demographic Equity with Privacy Preserving Methodologies](#) was held in-person (with a live stream option) at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC on January 12-13. See the story below for more information on this successful event. For those who attended, follow-up working groups will be continuing to work on issues raised in the forum that will benefit from pursuing research on these ideas. An [introduction to this forum on Privacy and Confidentiality](#) was held on November 1, via Zoom, and anyone interested in the forum can view the recording of this event at [NISS.org/news](https://niss.org/news).

We invite you to contribute to the ongoing mission of NISS by clicking our Donate button on the NISS website home page: [niss.org/about/contribute-niss](https://niss.org/about/contribute-niss). Gifts of any size are welcome and are tax deductible.

The early career faculty liaisons have been actively involved in moderating and planning NISS events. We are also pleased to see the growing Graduate Student Network (GSN) activities and encourage graduate student liaisons from each of our academic affiliates to participate. They invite other graduate students to join. See the link on our website: <https://www.niss.org/niss-graduate-student-network>

As I wind down my activities as the current NISS Director, I look forward to this transition period to enable [David S. Matteson](#) (Cornell University), incoming Director of NISS, to put his full focus on his priorities for implementing his vision for NISS.

Thank you for your continued support of our affiliate activities.

*Jim Rosenberger, Director, NISS*  
*David Matteson, Deputy 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.

## RECENT EVENT: IOF WORKSHOP ON DATA PRIVACY OUTCOMES AND FUTURE WORK

In January 2023, NISS, Vassar College, and the Urban Institute hosted an in-person two-day NISS IOF workshop: Advancing Demographic Equity with Privacy Preserving Methodologies at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. This forum made possible by the generous support of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the incredible organization and management thanks to Jingchen (Monika) Hu and Claire McKay Bowen along with members of the IOF Committee including David Banks, Wendy Martinez, Nancy Flournoy, and our NISS Director Jim Rosenberger. The forum aimed to help improve and strengthen the relationships among privacy experts, researchers (e.g., social scientists, economists, and demographers), data stewards, data practitioners, and public policymakers.

This workshop comes after our pre-workshop webinar held on November 1, 2022 with four panelists from academia, government, NGOs/Think Tank, and data users/practitioners on “[Current Challenges and Potential Future Work](#)”.

Full details on the workshop can be accessed on the event’s [main webpage](#), which includes the agenda for the two days and the list of speakers and participants.

[Review the Full News Story and for this Event!](#)

[Slideshow of IOF Workshop Day 1](#)

[Slideshow of IOF Workshop Day 2](#)



## RECENT EVENT: INDUSTRY CAREER FAIR FEATURES FIDELITY, INSTACART AND RAND

NISS hosted yet another career fair session as part of its Career Fair Series. In fact this event was the 29th virtual career fair hosted by NISS! Recordings of all of these sessions are available for review on the NISS YouTube channel. So, if you are on the job market, getting the inside scoop in terms of what kinds of opportunities exist and general advice for taking steps towards getting that next position, these sessions are for you!

This first career fair of 2023 focused on the role of data scientists and statisticians in industry. The companies featured were Fidelity Investments, InstaCart and the RAND Corporation. Fidelity was represented by **Jonathan Legare**, a Data Science Practice Leader and Vice President at Fidelity Investment. **Tim Hesterberg**, spoke about InstaCart where he is a Staff Data Scientist. And finally, **Bonnie Ghosh-Dastidar**, head of the Statistics Group and a senior statistician at the RAND Corporation (and the new incoming President of the American Statistical Association (ASA)!) shared information about RAND.

Each of the speakers provided an informative review of the company that they work for. Beyond this general description the speakers directed most of their comments in terms of the role and activities of statisticians and data scientists within their companies and the qualifications of people that are needed to work on the projects their company is focused on. From here, most of the speakers honed in on some specifics regarding the work that they get involved in and why this is important. Besides qualifications related to statistical methods, communication and soft skills were also emphasized.

*“When I think back to my time at Fidelity as an intern, it was life changing. ... It was the best decision I have made in my whole life!”*

Jonathan Legare, (Fidelity)

*“Ultimately, you want to find a job that challenges you while you find work/life balance. Find your passion!”*

Bonnie Ghosh-Dastidar, (RAND Corporation)



[Review the Full News Story and for this Event!](#)

## RECENT EVENT: COPSS-NISS KICKS OFF LEADERSHIP WEBINAR SERIES: FOCUS ON ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

The Committee of the Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) Emerging Leaders in Statistics and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is hosting a new webinar series that will focus on leadership. The purpose of the webinar series is to promote leadership skills for members of the statistical societies at any stage in their careers. The series features conversations with leaders throughout the discipline, including leaders from major academic and government institutions, and companies. Invited speakers will share their leadership stories and answer questions about their experiences. Each webinar will be moderated by a member of the COPSS Emerging Leaders in Statistics program.

This inaugural webinar focused on the topic of leadership in academia. The speakers for this first event included Professor **Sally Morton**, the Executive Vice President of Arizona State University's Knowledge Enterprise. She was also previously Dean of the College of Science at Virginia Tech. She was joined by Professor **Ron Brookmeyer**, Dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. The session was moderated by Dr. **Natalie Dean** of Emory University.

Both of the speakers provided a quick overview of their own personal career path, how they got to where they currently are, but after this the majority of the session was spent focusing on questions that were posed by the moderator or fielded from the many attendees that had joined this session. Here are a just a few of the points that were made by the speakers during this interactive session.



*"People need to know how the decision is going to be made, and even if they don't agree with it, at least they understand how it's made."*

Sally Morton (Arizona State University)

*"Disruptive innovation" investments support research. "Leaders can be helpful to move resources to people who need it and get influence others to do the same."*

Ron Brookmeyer (UCLA)

[Read the full news story including a Recording of this Session!](#)

## UPCOMING EVENT: PANEL ON NAVIGATING MASSIVE LAYOFFS, HIRING FREEZES, AND TECH INDUSTRY CAREERS IN 2023

Wednesday, February 15, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET

It's all over the news: companies in big tech have drastically diminished their positions and stopped hiring in the last few months. There were a huge rise of positions available during the rise of the pandemic, but many companies indeed over estimated how many positions they would need and this has lead to the massive declines we're seeing today.

*"Nearly 200,000 tech employees have been laid off since the start of 2022, according to Layoffs.fyi, a site that tracks job cuts in the sector. Four of the largest tech companies — Alphabet, Amazon, Meta and Microsoft — have announced a total of more than 50,000 job cuts in recent months."*

– NY Times Article

Many students studying statistics and data science degrees dream to enter the kind of jobs that the tech industries provide, is this still possible given the drawbacks of positions in recent months? As an early-career statistician and data scientist ready for finding your next position, how can you secure your position in this industry? What opportunities currently exist for those job searching right now?

NISS is bringing together statisticians to discuss the issue of finding a job during the massive layoffs, hiring freezes, and give advice to prospective employees on getting hired in the tech industry in 2023.

[Check out NISS on YouTube for Recordings of Previous Events!](#)

### INDUSTRY CAREER PANEL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023 12-1:30PM ET

#### *Navigating Massive Layoffs, Hiring Freezes, and Tech Industry Careers in 2023*

JIE CHEN  
WELLS FARGO

SHANNON DONG  
BOEING

MARTIN TINGLEY  
NETFLIX

DHANUSHI WIJYAKULASURIYA  
MICROSOFT

#### Speakers

**Jie Chen**, Decision Science and Artificial Intelligence Model Validation in Corporate Model Risk at Wells Fargo. **Shuonan (Shannon) Dong**, Boeing Commercial Airplanes Product Development at UW Boeing Advanced Research Center. **Martin Tingley**, Leading the Analysis Team (Experimentation Platform) at Netflix. **Dhanushi Wijeyakulasuriya** is a Data Scientist on the Experimentation Platform Team at Microsoft.

NISS  YouTube

# UPCOMING EVENT: INGRAM OLKIN FORUM: STATISTICAL METHODS FOR COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 - 1 pm - 4 pm ET

Human trafficking is a crime, and those who engage in it seek to avoid discovery. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate its prevalence. That difficulty is compounded by the fact that sex trafficking is different from labor trafficking, each operative under a distinct business model. This webinar has expert speakers who will describe statistical approaches for estimating prevalence, especially multiple systems estimation, respondent-driven sampling, and economic modeling. The pros and cons of these methods will be discussed.

This will be a three-hour webinar with one 10-minute break. Each speaker will have 30 minutes, with 30 minutes for a panel discussion. All participants are welcome to join breakout groups with each speaker following the panel, then synthesis and next steps afterwards.

## Zoom Breakout Group Discussions

Participants who join breakout rooms will be visible on camera in Zoom. Please note these will not be recorded, and will not be included in the recording of the forum session. One participant in the group will serve as a note taker. Those interested in volunteering as notetakers in the Zoom breakout rooms can reach out to Megan Glenn at [mglenn@niss.org](mailto:mglenn@niss.org)



Each group will discuss the following with each other and the speaker:

1. Which methods do you think would work best for forced labor, child labor, sex trafficking, and so forth?
2. Can you think of other strategies for estimating prevalence?
3. List your group's statistical action items that are needed to better inform public policy, generate reliable evidence, and stimulate research that may mitigate the problem.

[Register for the Session Today!](#)

# UPCOMING EVENT: COPSS-NISS LEADERSHIP WEBINAR SERIES: LEADERSHIP IN STATISTICAL RESEARCH

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 | 12 - 1 pm ET / 9 - 10 am PT

Join us for our another insightful webinar on the topic of leadership in the field of statistics and data science. The focus of this webinar is on leadership in statistical research. Hear from two of the leading statisticians strategizing about the future of statistical research.

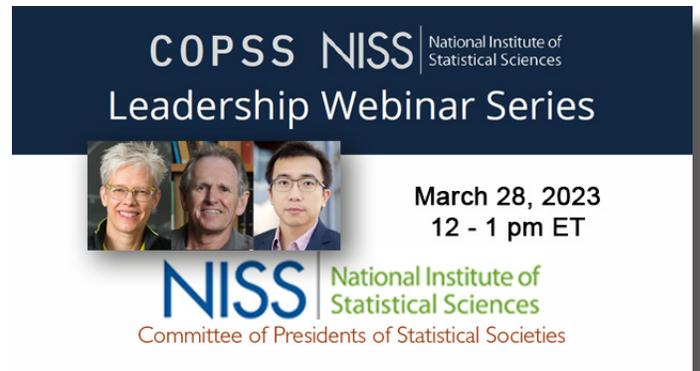
Professor **Susan Murphy** is Mallinckrodt Professor of Statistics and of Computer Science at Harvard University. Professor **Trevor Hastie** is the John A. Overdeck Professor of Mathematical Sciences at Stanford University. Our two distinguished panelists will share their leadership journeys and insights in a discussion moderated by Dr. **Lingzhou Xue** of Penn State University.

## About the COPSS-NISS Leadership Webinar Series

The COPSS-NISS Leadership Webinar Series is co-organized by the Committee of the Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) Emerging Leaders in Statistics and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS). The purpose of the webinar series is to promote leadership skills for members of the statistical societies at any stage in their careers. The series features conversations with leaders throughout the discipline, including leaders from major academic and government institutions, and companies. Invited speakers share their leadership stories and answer questions about their experiences. Each webinar is moderated by a member of the COPSS Emerging Leaders in Statistics program.

## Become a Sponsor of NISS Hosted Events!

NISS invites corporations, institutions and individuals to sponsor events that are hosted by NISS. Sponsorship helps to defray the cost of organizing events and is a great way to give your organization visibility that targets statisticians and other related professions who attend NISS events! [Learn More!](#)



[Register for this Session Today!](#)



# UPCOMING EVENTS!

## FEBRUARY

### Panel on Navigating Massive Layoffs, Hiring Freezes, and Tech Industry Careers in 2023

**Event Date:** February 15, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET  
**Event Type:** Online Webinar

It's all over the news: companies in big tech have drastically diminished their positions and stopped hiring in the last few months. There were a huge rise of positions available during the rise of the pandemic, but many companies indeed over estimated how many positions they would need... ([read more](#))

### COPSS-NISS Leadership Webinar Series: Community Leadership

**Event Date:** February 28, 2023 | 12 - 1 pm ET / 9 - 10 am PT  
**Event Type:** Online Webinar

Join us for our another insightful webinar on the topic of leadership in the field of statistics and data science. The focus of this webinar is on leadership in the community. Hear from two of the leading statisticians strategizing about leadership regarding the advocating and working with... ([read more](#))

## MARCH

### Ingram Olkin Forum: Statistical Methods for Combatting Human Trafficking

**Event Date:** March 15, 2023 - 1 pm - 4 pm ET  
**Event Type:** Online Webinar & Workshop

Overview Human trafficking is a crime, and those who engage in it seek to avoid discovery. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate its prevalence. That difficulty is compounded by the fact that sex trafficking is different from labor trafficking, each operative under a distinct business model. This... ([read more](#))

### COPSS-NISS Leadership Webinar Series: Leadership in Statistical Research

**Event Date:** March 28, 2023 | 12 - 1 pm ET / 9 - 10 am PT  
**Event Type:** Online Webinar

Join us for our another insightful webinar on the topic of leadership in the field of statistics and data science. The focus of this webinar is on leadership in statistical research. Hear from two of the leading statisticians strategizing about the future of statistical research. Professor Susan... ([read more](#))

## APRIL

### UCLA Synthetic Data Workshop

**Event Date:** April 13th - 14th, 2023  
**Event Location:** Los Angeles, California, 90095

We are pleased to announce the UCLA synthetic data workshop. This 2-day workshop is hosted by the UCLA Department of Statistics and co-sponsored by IDRE and UCLA-Amazon Science Hub. The workshop is held at the UCLA Faculty Club. Synthetic data generation is a rapidly growing and highly disciplinary... ([read more](#))

### COPSS-NISS Leadership Webinar Series: Leadership in Government

**Event Date:** April 28, 2023 | 12 - 1 pm ET / 9 - 10 am PT  
**Event Type:** Online Webinar

Join us for our another insightful webinar on the topic of leadership in the field of statistics and data science. The focus of this webinar is on statistics leadership in government. Hear from two of the leading statisticians strategizing about the future of statistics in government. The... ([read more](#))

### 15th Annual Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials

**Event Date:** April 17, 2023 - 9 am - 5 pm ET  
**Event Location:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19104

The these of this year's conference is: Advances in Time-to-Event Analyses in Clinical Trials NISS is one of the co-sponsors for the 15th Annual Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials on 17 April 2023! NISS Affiliates can use their Affiliate Award Funds (AAF) to support their travel... ([read more](#))

## MAY

### Minitab Insights Global Conference 2023

**Event Date:** May 1-3, 2023  
**Event Location:** Scottsdale, Arizona

DISCOVER. PREDICT. TRANSFORM. ACHIEVE. Connect with innovators, peers, and professionals who help shape the future with data-driven insights and explore new solutions you can implement immediately! THE PREMIER DATA AND ANALYTICS EVENT Minitab Insights Global Conference is the premier, customer-... ([read more](#))

## JUNE

### QPRC 2023: QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

**Event Date:** June 6-8, 2023  
**Event Location:** Houston, Texas

The American Statistical Association (ASA) Quality and Productivity Research Conference (QPRC) will be held June 6-8, 2023, in Houston, TX at the University of Houston. The purpose of this conference is to improve the quality of products and services and the productivity of industries by... ([read more](#))

[Find Full Details for All Events on the NISS Website!](#)

NISS CONTINUES TO WORK TO IDENTIFY TOPICS OF INTEREST TO STATISTICIANS FROM ALL DIFFERENT SECTORS AND THEN GATHER EXPERTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A CONVERSATION THAT HELPS TO NOT ONLY INFORM BUT ALSO PROVOKE FURTHER THINKING ON THESE TOPICS. KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE NISS WEBSITE FOR FUTURE EVENTS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO YOU OR YOUR COLLEAGUES!

*AFFILIATES!*

*SEND YOUR JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS TO NISS!*

*A link to the Job Announcements page can be found at the bottom of every page of the NISS website! Share your announcement with other organizations associated with NISS or other visitors to our website.*

*<https://www.niss.org/careers>*

NISS Affiliates, if you would like to be featured in upcoming career fairs, please do not hesitate to contact NISS! NISS is always looking for ways to support the missions of each affiliate.

# NISS

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[www.NISS.org](http://www.NISS.org)

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