NISS

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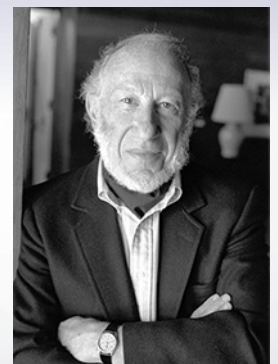Chong Ho (Alex) Yu, Azusa Pacific University

PANELISTS

Moderator:
Daniel Jeske
U.C., Riverside

NISS INGRAM OLKIN FORUM S³ SERIES

ADVANCING DEMOGRAPHIC EQUITY BY PRIVACY PRESERVING METHODOLOGIES

IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

THURSDAY-FRIDAY
JAN 12-13, 2023
LOCATION: URBAN INSTITUTE WASHINGTON DC

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Welcome to the Fall 2022 NISS Parameters Newsletter!

As reported in the August Newsletter, the NISS board of directors approved the announcement of the incoming NISS Director David Matteson, from Cornell University. He was introduced at the NISS reception at JSM and has begun meeting the NISS staff and committees since then. He anticipates the creation of a new NISS hub at Cornell to undertake some of the outreach activities targeting our affiliates, and establishing additional hubs in other regions. He is looking forward to tuning his vision for NISS this year and initiating new research activities with the affiliates of NISS in the Spring.

This newsletter features some of the recent actions from our annual board of trustees meeting, held November 4 via Zoom. Many NISS activities are described in the 2021-22 Annual Report (niss.org/annual-reports), including the outreach activities that NISS hosts for the benefit of our affiliates and the profession. The report also presents the research activities that NISS provides for two government agencies, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). These activities showcase the work of our research associates, Lu Chen, Haley Jeppson, Luca Sartore, and Ruiyi Zhang. Luca Sartore and Lu Chen were both recognized with special awards for their outstanding work on NASS projects.

Highlights from the board meeting included actions that signified a reinvigoration of the NISS mission and changes in leadership.

Briefly some of the actions reported:

- Nell Sedransk resigned as the Director of the DC office effective October 31. As the PI of the past NCES contract Nell mentored NISS Associate Director Brian Habing during the past two years, and now hands the baton to Brian as the PI for the renewal proposal.
- The board heard reports from Associate Director Lingzhou Xue regarding activity sponsored and hosted by the Penn State hub, and from Brian Habing, who reported on progress towards the submission of the successor NCES ID/IQ proposal titled PRESTO due in November.

Given the many activities that NISS provides for the profession, career fairs, webinars, meetups, and Ingram Olkin Forums, the board acted to seek major gifts to support these activities and strengthen NISS' financial base. Tim Hesterberg, a member of our executive committee and former board member, offered a generous match of $10,000 to challenge support from members of the board and friends of NISS by year end.

We are also seeking major gift donations from former board members, from former NISS post-doctoral fellows, and other friends of NISS. A fund-raising letter in November will indicate opportunities for directing major gifts. 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. Gifts of any size are welcome and are tax deductible.

In this newsletter you can read about our recent and upcoming activities. We hosted a very successful Academic Career Fair, featuring two Statistics departments, Ohio State University, and North Carolina State University (NCSU), and the Biostatistics Department at the University of Michigan. A panel discussion on the shift in naming departments of statistics to data science occurs on November 30. We are planning another virtual Government Career Fair on December 14, featuring three agencies. In January, we will feature several industries in the virtual Industry Career fair.

To celebrate the end of the pandemic, the Ingram Olkin Forum committee has planned an in-person forum in Washington DC at the Urban Institute, on January 12-13, 2023. Registration will be limited to a maximum of 90 attendees in person. See NISS.org/events. 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.

We are looking to grow our family of affiliates. 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.

As the current NISS Director, I will continue through this transition period to enable David to put his full focus on his priorities for implementing his vision for NISS and for quickly moving forward on his initiatives for NISS.

Thank you for your continued support of our affiliate activities.

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.
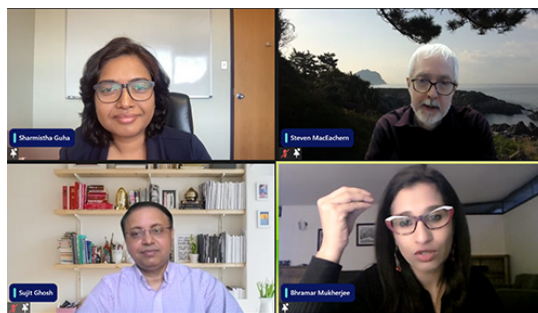
For those on the job market or even anyone in the middle of a career these career fairs are a unique and knowledgeable window into the positions that become available in a variety of professional settings for statisticians. This session focuses on professorial positions at academic institutions. However, it will also become clearly evident that the advice that these experienced administrators will share, is not just about professional careers, but also about life in general.

The speakers for this career fair session were **Steve MacEachern** (Department of Statistics at The Ohio State University), **Bhramar Mukherjee** (Department of Biostatistics at University of Michigan) and **Sujit Ghosh** (Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University) were the speakers for this event. **Sharmistha Guha** (Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University) was the moderator for this session. All of the speakers took the time to describe their own department, the types of research and teaching opportunities that exist at each as well as their philosophy for each of their respective departments. In addition, all of the speakers described the variety of resources that are available to new faculty at each of their institutions.

"Faculty careers change through time. So, what somebody is doing in their Ph.D. disstertation might be completely different than what they are doing 10, 20 years later. That kind of evolution and change is actually very healthy. Our hope is that people continually pick up more things, broader knowledge, deeper knowledge and then they can use that in the future."

Steve MacEachern - Ohio State.

"No mentoring, at any step of your career gets wasted - these are words of wisdom. Advice is always free and you hold it all your life so that you can dip into it as the need arises."

Bhramar Mukerjee - University of Michigan

"The importance of a mentor is obvious. You just need to think of sports. Can you think of any sport where you don't have a coach? The same thing goes with education. Although we don't call them a coach, that is what the mentor is for."

Sujit Ghosh - NC State

Review the News Story and Recording of this Event!

INGRAM OLKIN FORUMS: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The *Statistics Serving Society* is a series of forums to honor the memory of Professor Ingram Olkin. Each forum focuses on a current societal issue that might benefit from new or renewed attention from the statistical community. The forums aim to bring the latest innovations in statistical methodology and data science into new research and public policy collaborations, working to accelerate the development of innovative approaches that impact societal problems. As the Forum will be the first time a particular group of experts will be gathered together to consider an issue, new energy and synergy is expected to produce a flurry of new ideas and approaches.

S3 Forums aim to develop an agenda of statistical action items that are needed to better inform public policy and to generate reliable evidence that can be used to mitigate the problem.

Upcoming Forum
Advancing Demographic Equity with Privacy Preserving Methodologies
• Webinar - November 1, 2022 (*News Story*)
• In-Person Workshop - Mid-January 2023

Previous Forums
• Police Use of Force
• COVID and the Schools: Modeling Openings, Closings and
• Learning Loss
• Algorithmic Fairness and Social Justice
• Unplanned Clinical Trial Disruptions
• Gun Violence - The Statistical Issues

IOF Website: https://www.niss.org/ingram-olkin-forums

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR INGRAM OLKIN FORUMS

Ingram Olkin Forums (IOF) aim to promote Statistics Serving Society and bring statisticians into areas of important national interest where they are not already well represented. Great candidate proposals will envision presentations that encourage future collaborative work. Financial needs and locations can be discussed with the IOF committee.

More information on IOFs is summarized here along with examples of past forums and Tips for Planning a Forum on our website at https://www.niss.org/call-ingram-olkin-forums-proposals.

Timeline for Submitting and Reviewing Proposals: There are two deadlines per year, March 30 and Sept 30, for submissions via officeadmin@niss.org.

Check out NISS on YouTube
for Recordings of Previous Events!

IOF Committee Kicks Off Preliminary Webinar

On November 1, 2022 the NISS hosted an Ingram Olkin event featuring a very interesting preliminary look at the upcoming Ingram Olkin Forum on the topic of Privacy and Confidentiality that is planned for early in the new year - January 12 and 13, 2023. As a preliminary event it is hoped that these speakers and the discussion that follows will energize the thinking and encourage wide participation in the Ingram Olkin Forum that is being planned. As has been demonstrated in previous forums, the synergy of a wide array of experts and interests has been successful in bringing attention to and moving forward understandings related to this topic.
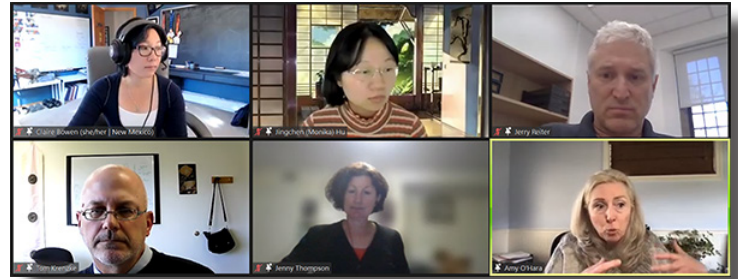
NISS Director, James Rosenberger opened the webinar and introduced Nancy Flournoy who reviewed the goals of the IOF by giving a brief history of the Ingram Olkin forum series which NISS has been hosting since 2019 beginning with the inaugural forum: Gun Violence: the statistical issues.

The speakers of this webinar event included: Jerry Reiter, Professor of Statistical Science at Duke University, Tom Krenzke, Vice President and Senior Statistical Fellow in Westat's Statistics and Data Science group, Jenny Thompson, Senior Mathematical Statistician in the Economic Directorate of the Census Bureau and Amy O'Hara, Research Professor in the Massive Data Institute and Executive Director of the Federal Statistical Research Data Center at the McCourt School for Public Policy at Georgetown University.

The issues of privacy and confidentiality arise in all forms of data collection by government and federal, and state, and agencies. Many federal agencies do not collect and/or release detailed demographic data due to growing concerns about disclosure risk. All federal agencies have been asked to review and update their privacy protection methodologies.

> *"There is a lack of communication among policymakers, privacy researchers and data practitioners about what data privacy methods should be taken and what their implications are."*
>
> *Claire Bowen - Urban Institute*

Moderators Claire Bowen (Urban Institute) and Monika Hu (Vassar College) pose questions for the panelists Jerry Reiter (Duke), Tom Krenzke (Westat), Jenny Thompson (Census Bureau) and Amy O'Hara (Georgetown).

Rather than a series of individual talks, and speakers sharing slides, this panel discussion was expertly moderated by Claire Bowen, Urban Institute and Monica Hu, Vassar College, who are also the organizers of the upcoming Ingram Olkin forum to be held in January. They first asked each of the speakers to tell a little bit about themselves and how they see their connection to the topic of data privacy and confidentiality and then followed this up by asking each speaker to talk about a recent project that they worked on focusing on the challenges they faced and the potential impact they perceived the project would have. Several more in depth questions followed and from each of the speakers' responses you could immediately get a sense of the passion and committment they hold for these topics, methods and the importance of this work.

The webinar also received a number of very interesting and challenging questions from the audience which were also brought to the attention of the panelists. The conversations that ensued tackled issues such as protecting privacy when small samples are encountered, the tension between usefulness and protection of data and advice for those early or mid-career thinking about getting involved in data privacy issues.

Read the full news story including a Recording of the Session!

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IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

THURSDAY-FRIDAY JAN 12-13, 2023

LOCATION: URBAN INSTITUTE WASHINGTON DC

S³ Statistics Serving Society

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!

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 11 am - 12:30 pm ET

Academic departments have recently decided to either merge Statistics and Data Science in one degree or change their department's name to Data Science, leaving out Statistics completely. NISS has put together a panel with four speakers in academia to discuss recent changes in academic departments as well as identify the reasons why these changes are occurring.

Moderator, **Dan Jeske** (UC Riverside), will lead discussion about this topic with the following invited panelists:

About the Panelists

Heike Hofmann is a Professor in the Department of Statistics and Professor in Charge of the Data Science Program at Iowa State University. Dr. Hofmann is an internationally recognized expert on data visualization. Her research on visual inference provides a framework to evaluate the statistical significance of a graphical finding, thereby establishing a p-value for a chart. Some of her most recent work is as part of the Center for Statistics and Applications for Forensic Evidence, where her focus is on techniques for matching striae on bullet lands. She has been a key contributor to the work that received the ASA SPAIG (Statistical Partnerships Among Academe, Industry, and Government) award in 2018. She is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association. Area of Expertise: Data Visualization.

Funda Güneş is the Director of the Master's Program in Statistical Science at Duke University. She joined Duke after ten years at SAS Institute as a machine learning researcher. Her research focuses on combining well-established statistical methods with algorithmic approaches to solve challenging predictive modeling problems. Her recent research interests include health equity research focusing on Responsible AI and the intersection of causal inference and machine learning for analyzing large electronic health records data. She has a patent for an efficient automated machine learning technique. Dr. Güneş is passionate about mentoring and advising students and supporting women in the data science community

by creating learning and networking opportunities through partnerships with leading companies and accomplished professionals.

Rachel (Ray) Levy is a Professor in the Department of Mathematics and is the Executive Director of the North Carolina State University Data Science Academy (DSA). Ray Levy is the inaugural leader of the Data Science Academy. She incubates data science research partnerships within NC State University, across NC and beyond, leads the design and implementation of the DSA's ADAPT course model (All-Campus Data Science Accessible Project Based Teaching and Learning), and communicates about data science with national and international audiences.

Chong Ho (Alex) Yu holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with a focus on Measurement, Statistics and Methodological Studies, and also a Ph.D. in Philosophy with specialization in History and Philosophy of Science (Arizona State University). He joined Azusa Pacific University in 2012 and has served in various positions, including Professor (full) of Behavioral and Applied Science, Adjunct Faculty of Mathematics, Quantitative Research Consultant, and Committee chair of the Big Data Discovery Summit. Currently he is the Director of Data Analytics at the Office of Institutional Research. He is a three-time winner of SAS faculty scholarship (2016, 2017 SAS Global Forum and 2017 Western Users of SAS Software Conference). In addition, he also won the Distinguished SAS Educator Award in 2021..

PANELISTS

HEIKE HOFMANN (IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY)
FUNDA GÜNEŞ (DUKE UNIVERSITY)
RACHEL (RAY) LEVY (NORTH CAROLINA STATE)
CHONG HO (ALEX) YU, AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

MODERATOR:
DANIEL JESKE
U.C., RIVERSIDE

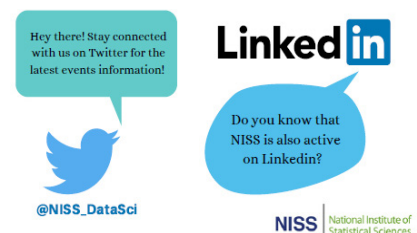Hey there! Stay connected with us on Twitter for the latest events information!

@NISS_DataSci

Do you know that NISS is also active on Linkedin?

Linked in

NISS — National Institute of Statistical Sciences

NOVEMBER

Panel on Integrating Statistics & Data Science Environments in Academic Departments

Event Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 11 am - 12:30 pm ET
Event Type: Webinar Panel

Academic departments have recently decided to either merge Statistics and Data Science in one degree or change their department's name to Data Science, leaving out Statistics completely. NISS has put together a panel with three speakers in academia to discuss recent changes in academic... (read more)

JANUARY 2023

International Conference on Health Policy Statistics

Event Date: January 9–11, 2023
Event Location: Scottsdale, Arizona,

Upgrading the Pipeline from Health Data to Health Policy ICHPS provides a unique forum for practitioners, health service researchers, methodologists, health economists, and policy analysts to exchange and build on ideas to disseminate to the broader health policy community. The multidisciplinary... (read more)

IOF Workshop: Advancing Demographic Equity with Privacy Preserving Methodologies

Event Date: Thursday, January 12, 2023 - 8:00am to Friday, January 13, 2023 - 5:00pm
Event Location: Washington, DC

The in-person two-day NISS IOF workshop: Advancing Demographic Equity with Privacy Preserving Methodologies will be held at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC in January 2023! From this workshop, we will summarize the current challenges and future directions of this collaborative research and... (read more)

FEBRUARY

Annual Lange Symposium: Genomics and Computational Statistics

Event Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 9:30am - 5:00pm
Event Location: Los Angeles, California,

The UCLA Department of Computational Medicine are pleased to announce our Third Annual Lange Symposium. This year's topic is Computational Statistics. This annual event is hosted by the UCLA Department of Computational Medicine and supported in part by a grant from the National Human Genome... (read more)

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)

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 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.

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!*

NISS