NISS

Affiliates Update

Welcome!

This monthly Affiliates Update highlights upcoming NISS sponsored events and activities.

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS AFFILIATES UPDATE TO YOUR COLLEAGUES!

NISS sponsored events encourage cross-sector and cross-disciplinary networking. Let us know if you are planning an event and would like NISS to co-sponsor it. NISS affiliates can use their award funds to support these events or receive discounted registration. For more information about the NISS Affiliate program, see: https://www.niss.org/affiliate-program-information.

James Rosenberger
Director NISS

UPCOMING EVENT: VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR - NATIONAL LABS

Wednesday, January 19, 2022
12 noon - 1:30 pm ET

Interested in getting a better sense of what it's like to work as a statistician at a National Lab? What kind of research do these institutions get involved in? What sorts of opportunities exist?

If you are interested in the answers to these questions - and more about National Labs - then this webinar is for you!

More importantly, how do you prepare yourself for obtaining a position?

Once again, NISS will be gathering senior statisticians who bring extensive experience working in these specialized federal laboratories. In addition, these individuals have graciously made it a priority to share their experiences so that others may better understand and be better prepared for working in a national lab.

Each presenter will have 15 minutes to address the following general topics:

1. What are the job opportunities for statisticians/data scientists/analysts in your National Lab?

2. Describe the range of skills statisticians/data scientists/analysts need to succeed in your National Lab?

3. What is the career path for statisticians/data scientists/analysts in your lab?

4. Is your agency currently hiring statisticians/data scientists/analysts?

5. What advice would you give to students based on your experience?

This is a unique session not to be missed!

Speakers

Nancy McMillan, (Battelle)
Emily Michele Casleton, (Los Alamos)
Gabriel Huerta, (Sandia)

Moderator

Seiyon (Ben) Lee, (Department of Statistics, George Mason University)

Register for this Event Today!

UPCOMING EVENT: HOW TO BE A GOOD MENTOR

Friday, February 25, 2022 12 pm to 1:30 pm ET.

Offering good mentorship is often an important hallmark of a successful career, be it in academia, industry or government. Yet mentoring can be a rather challenging task, especially when you are starting your career and trying to balance other responsibilities such as research, teaching and service.

What is expected of a good mentor in terms of time, availability, resources, types of support or otherwise?

What do you need to learn about your mentees in order to form a successful working relationship?

Should you adapt your mentoring style depending on your mentee's level of education (undergraduate or graduate), goal (research or teaching), or even the number of people you are mentoring (big teams or small teams)? How do you manage this?

Register for this Event Today!

The NISS Academic Affiliates Committee is very excited about being able to bring together four accomplished professors who have extensive experience of mentoring. We hope that it will be interesting to hear their perspectives and gain from their experience!

Webinar Speakers

Joel Dubin, (University of Waterloo)
Nick Horton, (Amherst College)
Dan Jeske, (University of California, Riverside)
Renee Moore, (Drexel University)

Moderator

Y. Samuel Wang, (Cornell University)

UPCOMING EVENT SERIES: NISS CAREER FAIRS

Attention all Graduate Students, Graduate Student Advisors, and anyone else who is interested in learning about the opportunities and the type of research that statisticians and data scientists get involved in within a variety of different sectors!

Through the past few years NISS Career Fairs have proven to be very popular and valuable opportunities and this Spring NISS is working on the following line-up that you will want to add to your calendars!

Virtual Career Fair - National Labs
January 19, 2022 - 12 - 1:30 pm ET

Virtual Career Fair - Government Agencies
February 9, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET

Virtual Career Fair - Insurance and Finance Companies
March 9, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET

Virtual Career Fair - Pharmaceutical Companies
April 13, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET

Virtual Career Fair - Academic Departments
May 11, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Wednesday in January and the 2nd Wednesdays for the months following through May, 2022.

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.

UPCOMING EVENT: NISS WRITING WORKSHOP FOR EARLY RESEARCHERS!

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) has been hosting the Writing Workshop for Early Researchers since 2007!

Each year, in conjunction with JSM, NISS gathers 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 junior faculty and early researchers. Evidence of the value of this workshop experience can be judged by:
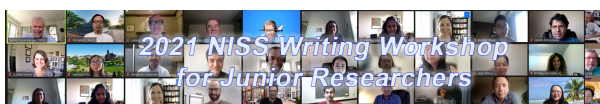
1) the number of experienced, senior statisticians, authors and editors that have volunteered for years on end to share their wisdom and advice and 2) the number of session contributors that were once actual participants in the workshop!

Writing Workshop in 2022? You bet!

It is never too late to think about who might benefit next from this workshop at 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!

Virtual or In-Person? NISS is already in the planning stages for this year's Writing Workshop for Early Researchers 2022! You should be planning for it too!

Keep your eye on NISS Events webpage for the latest information!

2021 NISS Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers

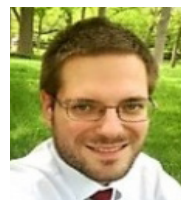*NISS Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers (at JSM)*

NISS serves as an independent research organization, assembling state-of-the-art information and developing theory and methodology to solve problems of import to science or to policy. To this end NISS engages the expertise of Research Fellows and Research Associates to assist a variety of federal agencies in their work. Here is a quick summary of the type challenges being addressed. In future issues of the newsletter we will share a more in-depth and technical description of this work.

Ya Mo (NISS Research Fellow) is researching quantitative methods and psychometric measures and applying them to study substantive topics in education. There are mainly three types of work involved:

- Studying important predictors that explain students' academic performance in large-scale assessments using quantitative methods.
- Developing and validate instruments for intervention by investigating how items function using psychometric measures.
- And, analyzing process data to better understand students' abilities and learning or assessment strategies.
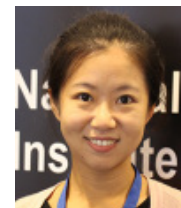
Luca Sartore (NISS Senior Research Associcate) is involved in the following activities at the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS):
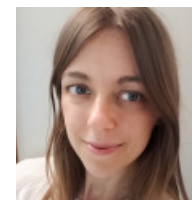- Developing ancillary variables using geospatial data to improve survey results for planted acreage.
- Testing several models for yield predictions to account for survey and non-survey data.
- Developing initial state-level models for estimating planted acreage.
- And, testing several crop-rotation models for improving several survey aspects (such design, sample allocation, and imputation).

Lu Chen (NISS Research Associate) is engaged in the following research challenges also at NASS:

- Working on the development and implementation of small area models for Crops County Estimates to provide official estimates, along with the one year revision of this work.
- Developing the initial small area model for the number of farmers to support the Agriculture Labor production.
- Development and implementation of the modeling and calibration procedures for Agriculture Labor program to provide official estimates.
- Developing the initial small area model for the total rented acres to support the cash rent program production, the implementation and testing of county-level cash rental rate models to support the production as well as testing state-level cash rental rate models to support 2022 production.
- Developed a *XGBoost* model to predict the value of comments in the Machine Learning pilot study.

Haley Jeppson (NISS Research Associate) researches best practices regarding data visualization techniques and applies this in advise for enhancing data visualizations, ensuring that they highlight the comparison of interest and convey the information effectively. The revisions range from editing the titles and captions, adjusting how and what colors are used, to rearranging how the variables are presented. She is working on compiling the suggestions into a handbook and supporting the suggestions with literature cited and summarized in a reference library.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT NISS

NISS Postdoctoral Fellows / Early Career Statisticians and Data Scientists

New Research Positions at NISS for Spring and Summer 2022!

RESEARCH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Early career researchers at NISS have the opportunity to work with researcher leaders to develop innovative data science technology and statistical modeling methodology to address high impact problems. Projects are variously located at NISS-DC, at a NISS Affiliate/hub or at federal statistical agencies. and to see the impact as these solutions are implemented. Research projects at NISS make a difference by developing innovative data science technology and statistical modeling methodology for high priority projects at federal statistical agencies. Primary focus of each project may call for specific expertise such as:

◊ statistical and AI modeling of massive, high dimensional data,
◊ Bayesian modeling for prediction of highly defined small subset properties, including small area estimation/prediction,
◊ latent factor analysis to define new metrics of difficulty
◊ visualization of statistical data,

◊ statistical/mathematical/AI space-time modeling that integrates heterogeneous data types (satellite image, GIS, sample survey, theoretical/empirical model),
◊ GANS or other AI simulation for synthetic networks and complex data as suitable surrogates for privacy-restricted large scale data
◊ other data science and statistical computation tools.

NISS Research Associates are highly successful and publish and present their research regularly. As testimony to their research on high-priority challenges, especially for methodology defining key national statistics and indicators, NISS Research Associates continue to receive awards both for individual contributions and for work with multidisciplinary teams.
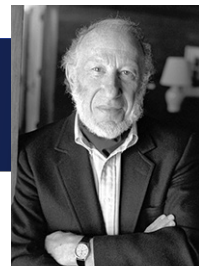
NISS appointments are for one year with expectation of renewal. Positions are open as early as February 2022. Applicants must be able to work in multidisciplinary context and to bring statistical theory and data science technology to a research team with the goal of formulating a comprehensive technical approach problem solving.

US citizenship may be required for some NISS positions.

Applications are accepted on the NISS website. Please include citizenship/visa status and date of availability with the application.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR NEW INGRAM OLKIN FORUMS
STATISTICS SERVING SOCIETY

S³ | Statistics Serving Society

Do you have a research topic of particular social concern that could benefit from the attention of other researchers?

Ingram Olkin Forums (IOF) aim to promote statistics in service to 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 from past forums and Tips for Planning a Forum. Send questions to officeadmin@niss.org.

The Unplanned Clinical Trial Disruptions forums held last year spawned four working groups to prepare publications, including a special issue dedicated to the use of Randomization Tests in Clinical Trials. Please see this link for more information about contributing articles

Timeline for Submitting and Reviewing Proposals

There are two deadlines per year, March 30 and Sept 30, for submissions via officeadmin@niss.org. The proposal review committee will meet April 20 and Oct 20, and respond within a month. Accepted proposals may be scheduled throughout the coming year; those not accepted may be revised based on feedback and resubmitted for the next cycle.

For the April deadline, online forums could be scheduled for the fall (Sep-Nov) and in-person forums could be scheduled for Winter (Dec-Feb). For the Sept deadline, the online forums could be scheduled to begin in Spring (Mar-May) of the following year, and in-person forums could be scheduled to begin in the Summer (June-Aug). Hybrid in-person and online forums will be considered. Special consideration may be given to time-constrained opportunities.

NISS CALL FOR 2022 JEROME SACKS AWARD

Nominations are being sought for the 2022 National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) Jerome Sacks Award for Outstanding Cross-Disciplinary Research. The prize recognizes sustained, high-quality, cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical and data sciences. An award of $1,000 will be presented during the National Institute of Statistical Sciences reception at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Washington, D.C. August 6-11, 2022.

To nominate an individual, submit as one PDF document the following information to officeadmin@niss.org by April 1, 2022:

- Nomination letter (maximum two pages)
- Supporting letters from two individuals (other than nominator)
- The Nominee's most current CV

Send questions or comments to officeadmin@niss.org

Past award recipients represent the cutting edge in statistical research. Recent recipients Marc Suchard, Professor of Computational Medicine, Biostatistics and Human Genetics at the UCLA (2021 Sacks Award Recipient), Francesca Dominici, the Clarence James Gamble Professor of Biostatistics, Population and Data Science at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Co-Director of the Data Science Initiative at Harvard University (2020 Sacks Award Recipient) and Jeremy Taylor,

the Pharmacia Research Professor of Biostatistics, Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics at the University of Michigan (2019 Sacks Award Recipient) were invited to be the featured speakers at an invited session hosted by NISS at JSM.

This session will focus on the new developments and challenges in the cross-disciplinary research on health data science. Nowadays, statisticians and biostatisticians actively collaborate with biomedical scientists, computer scientists, and mathematicians to work at the frontier of biological, medical, and public health research. Transdisciplinary collaboration not only develops the foundations of Health Data Science but also accelerates the pace of scientific discovery and innovation. James Rosenberger (Director, National Institute of Statistical Sciences) will serve as the discussant.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US — NISS LinkedIn — @NISS_DataSci

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!*

JANUARY 2022

Virtual Career Fair - National Labs

Event Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET
Event Type: Webinar

Interested in getting a better sense of what it's like to work as a statistician at a National Lab? What kind of research do these institutions get involved in? What sorts of opportunities exist? Learn more about National Labs - then this... (read more)

Postdoctoral Panel

Event Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022 - 2:00pm
Event Type: Webinar

Learn about postdoctoral positions in statistics. Hosted by the NISS Graduate Student Network. (read more)!

NISS Statistically Accurate Interactive Displays ... in Graphics!

Call to Competition Date: January 31, 2022
Event Type: Student Competition

Do you love to make insightful discoveries in education data and cutting-edge visualizations to display them? NISS has a New COMPETITION FOR YOU! Great examples of data visualization and interactive graphics are popping up everywhere! See the examples collected at these sites: The 34 Best... (read more)

FEBRUARY

Graduate Student Network Homework/Writing Group
(recurring monthly)

Event Date: February 2nd, 1pm-2:30pm ET
Event Type: Online Meeting

Grad students - If you are not a member of the Network, sign up on the NISS Graduate Student Website to so that you can join this study / support group for NISS Affiliate students.

Virtual Career Fair - Government Agencies

Event Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET
Event Type: Webinar

Government institutions have a unique mission when it comes to the data they collect as well as the importance of the research they engage in. This research becomes the principle foundation for informing policy issues that impact all aspects of society. What is it like to work as a statistician... (read more)

How to be a Good Mentor

Event Date: Friday, February 25, 2022 - 12 pm to 1:30 pm ET.
Event Type: Webinar

Offering good mentorship is often an important hallmark of a successful career, be it in academia, industry or government. Yet mentoring can be a rather challenging task, especially when you are starting your career and trying to balance other responsibilities such as research, teaching and service... (read more)

MARCH

Virtual Career Fair - Insurance & Finance Companies

Event Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET
Event Type: Webinar

Interested in a statistics or data science position in the insurance or finance industry sector? Then this session should interest you! NISS hosts Career Fair sessions that focus on academic positions, others on positions in government agencies and industry. This session will describe ... (read more)

APRIL

14th Annual Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials: Subgroup Analysis

Event Date: April 12, 2022, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM ET
Event Location: University of Pennsylvania, Philadephia

Conference Theme is Subgroup Analysis. Save the Date! Registration will open beginning in January 2022! (read more)

Virtual Career Fair - Pharmaceutical Companies

Event Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET
Event Type: Webinar

The pharmaceutical industry provides interesting and challenging career and research opportunities for statisticians and data scientists. Is work in the pharmaceutical sector something that you would like to know more about? Then this session is for you! NISS hosts Career Fair sessions that focus ... (read more)

MAY

Virtual Career Fair - Academic Departments

Event Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 - 12 noon - 1:30 pm ET
Event Type: Webinar

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 session... (read more)

JUNE

ISBIS CONFERENCE 2022 on "Statistics and Data Science in Business and Industry"

Event Date: June 20-21, 2022
Event Type: Conference

The ISBIS CONFERENCE 2022 on "Statistics and Data Science in Business and Industry" will take place at University of Napoli Federico II in Naples June 20-21, 2022. The Program and Organizing Committees hope to offer the opportunity to meet in person to share perspectives on the newest developments... (read more)

AUGUST

International Total Survey Error Workshop (ITSEW) 2022

Event Date: 31 August - 2 September, 2022
Event Location: University of Manchester, UK

Theme: "Total Error in Official Statistics: Current Practices and New Methods." The International Total Survey Error Workshop 2022 will take place from the 31st of August through the 2nd September 2022. It will be hosted by The Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research and The Social Statistics Department,... (read more)

Find Full Details for All Events on the NISS Website!
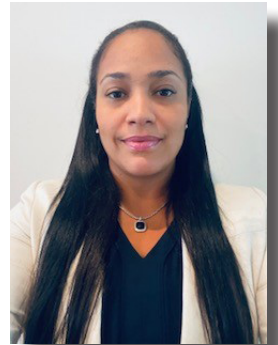
NISS WELCOMES NEW STAFF!

Lola Stevens brings fifteen years of expertise exercising a wide variety of organizational management, finance and accounting and business development. Several of those years were spent working in higher education. She received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with a Minor in Management from George Mason University. Lola is a native of Washington, D.C. and is a committed leader in serving her community to help young detached individuals overcome barriers, especially those who are in underserved populations.

In addition to her work at NISS, Lola is currently involved with empowering young individuals across the world from underserved communities helping them develop their sense of purpose. She is committed to working together to inspire young individuals around the world to pursue their dreams and engage in education. Lola has worked with a number of leading institutions and public high schools around the Washington, D.C. area that are committed to working together to inspire young individuals to engage in higher education and STEM programs.

Lola currently lives is Maryland, and her hobbies include cooking, exercising, and spending time with family.

She replaces Candyce Hughes who spent almost three years as the Human Resource and Finance Specialist for NISS. Everyone at NISS wishes Candyce all the best regarding her future endeavors.

When you get a chance, please join us in welcoming Lola! We look forward to working with and getting to know her as a new member of the NISS family!

Affiliates! Post Your Job Announcements On the NISS Website!

A link to the Job Announcements page can be found at the bottom of of every page of the NISS website! Share your announcement with other organizations associated with NISS or other visitors to our website. Interested in the positions that have been posted?

Current job opportunities at NISS and with NISS Affiliates. This might be the career opportunity that you have been looking for!

Visit the NISS Job Annoucements Page

Check out NISS on YouTube!

NISS ▶ YouTube

Subscribe to this Newsletter!

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is an organization whose mission fosters cross-disciplinary research and advocates for statistical engagement in data science.

NISS