NISS

Affiliates Update

WELCOME!

This monthly Affiliates Update highlights upcoming NISS sponsored events.

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

FEATURED UPCOMING EVENT!

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!

ITSEW 2021

Total Survey Error in the Age of COVID-19

September 24, October 1, October 8, 2021

Academic Career Fair, Fall 2021

September 8, 2021

Three NISS Affiliate institutions were represented by faculty intimately familiar with the hiring process. They included **Murali Haran**, Professor of Statistics and Head of the Department of Statistics at Penn State University, **Tian Zheng**, Professor of Statistics and Chair of the Department of Statistics at Columbia University and **Joshua M. Tebbs**, Professor of Statistics and Chair of the Department of Statistics at the University of South Carolina.

1) THE GOOD NEWS! All three academic departments are seeking to fill multiple positions within their departments!

2) THE EVEN BETTER NEWS! Each of these panelists described what these open positions involve in terms of the required qualifications. They also provided insights into the community each department is building, how the department is situated within their universities, as well as a general description of the campus and surrounding area.

3) MOST IMPORTANT HOWEVER! Each panelist spoke at length providing personal advice about so many things that anyone on the job market will definitely want to think about when it comes to the process of obtaining a position in academia. Topics discussed included preparing yourself for the job market, searching for a position, how to get an interview, how to prepare for an onsite interview, how to prepare for the future, and how to find research collaborators.

> *"One of the best surrogates to measure potential for teaching is your job talk. All eyes are on you for that 50 minutes. The entire department stops to listen to what you have to say."*
>
> Joshua M. Tebbs (University of South Carolina)

> *"Your job talk is very important. So, often I hear people say "sell yourself". People are uncomfortable many times with "selling themselves". We're not salespeople, even though people like to say you need to "sell" what you do. I prefer to say communicate very clearly. If you communicate very clearly, that will accomplish the task. Make sure people understand you well."*
>
> Murali Haran (Penn State University)

For this reason alone, if you are considering a position in academia – either next year or any future year - you will want to review this session!

Read the full news story, where you can find a recording of this session along with copies of the slides that the speakers used.

Tian Zheng (Columbia) responds to a question posed by session moderator Irina Gaynanova (Texas A&M).

> *"One thing that I invite my own students to think when they are thinking about academic job is to think as early as possible about what you need in order to succeed. This is actually not an easy exercise. First, everybody's definition of success is different and we all have different role models. Second, what do you need? One can think about this in terms of environment, types of resources, such as, access to a world class science department? Collaborators? What are those things that are important to you?"*
>
> Tian Zheng (Columbia University)

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 missions of each affiliate.

WELCOME NEW NISS AFFILIATE!

Proctor & Gamble Company

The Procter & Gamble Company (P&G) is one of the largest consumer packaged goods (CPG) companies and is considered one of the leading companies contributing to growth and innovation in an evolving market. P&G's mission is to provide branded products and services of superior quality and value that improve the lives of the world's consumers, now and for generations to come.

The insight, innovation and passion of talented teams has helped P&G grow into a global company that is governed responsibly and ethically, that is open and transparent, supports good causes and protects the environment. Throughout its ten-category portfolio of products, P&G leverages advanced statistics and data science to build deep consumer knowledge and category-changing innovation to identify consumer unmet needs and develop new technologies to address these needs..

SEPTEMBER

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)

International Total Survey Error Workshop (ITSEW) 2021 - Day 1

Event Date: September 24, 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

International Total Survey Error Workshop (ITSEW) 2021 - Day 2

Event Date: October 1, 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)

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, October 1, 2021, 11am ET
Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: ihong Wu, (Yale University)

2021 SRCOS and SURE Conference

Event Date: October 3 - October 6, 2021
Event Location: Jekyll Island, Georgia

The Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS) Summer Research Conference (SRC) has been successful for 55 years. This summer conference is particularly valuable for graduate students, providing them with the opportunity to interact closely with internationally-known leaders in the field... (read more)

ICDS Symposium: The Future of Digital Fairness

Event Date: Wednesday, October 6 — Thursday, October 7, 2021
Event Location: Virtual and University Park, Pennsylvania

Digital fairness is a crucial consideration for any scientist who relies on computation. Who owns artificial intelligence models and who owns the data in those models? What biases are unintentionally embedded in the models? How transparent are the data manipulation processes? How reproducible are... (read more)

International Total Survey Error Workshop (ITSEW) 2021 - Day 3

Event Date: 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)

AISC 2021

Event Date: October 8 - 10, 2021
Event Location: Greensboro, North Carolina

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)

Industry Virtual Career Fair

Event Date: October 13, 2021
Event Location: Virtual Career Fair

Find Full Details for All Events on the NISS Website!

This session features opportunities for statisticians/data scientists from three companies. Senior statisticians from Proctor & Gamble, Merck and Eli Lilly will be on hand to provide attendees with an inside look at the research that statisticians in these organizations get involved in and career opportunities for you to consider! *Details available soon!*

Webinar Series: Mathematical Foundations of Data Science

Event Date: Friday, October 29, 2021, 11am ET
Event Type: Online Webinar

Speaker: Itai Ashlagi, (Stanford University)

NISS/Merck Meetup on Diversity & Inclusion Issues in Pharma

Event Date: Late October / Early November
Event Type: Online Webinar

Details Available soon!

NISS Postdoctoral Fellow / Early Career Researcher

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is a research institute focused on bringing advances in statistics to high priority projects with national / international impact. Early career researchers at NISS have the opportunity to work with researcher leaders to develop innovative statistical solutions to high impact problems and to see the impact as these solutions are implemented.

RESEARCH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

NISS researchers make a difference by developing innovative data science technology and statistical modeling methodology for high priority projects at federal statistical agencies. Primary focus a of specific project may use statistical and AI modeling to analyze massive and high dimensional data, or develop models that integrate heterogeneous data types (satellite image, GIS, survey, theoretical or empirical model) or create statistical data visualizations. NISS Research Associates have received many awards for their contributions in innovation of statistical processes for key national statistics and indicators.

Appointments are for one year with expectation of renewal. Projects are not limited to the examples below.

Work with multidisciplinary team to formulate comprehensive technical approaches problem solving.

Develop, implement and test statistical/computational technologies for high-dimensional spatial, image, survey and/or administrative record data to create models for estimation and forecasting.

Conduct research to meet one of the following challenges:

1. Develop innovative models that integrate biological development/function (theoretical or empirical) models with historical patterns and current observed data.

2. Use deep learning technologies to analyze complex data and to create high-dimensional synthetic populations for research purposes that fully incorporate fine structure from large-scale original data.

3. Extend small-area estimation to time domain to allow interim predictions with model updating based on partial new information.

4. Create interactive graphics examples for federal data display that includes representation of uncertainty.

See the Job Announcement on the NISS website for all details, application instructions and contacts.

NISS Seeking Next Director

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) seeks a talented statistical/data scientist to serve as its Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). In 2020, NISS celebrated its 30th anniversary with a renewed focus on its mission to identify, catalyze and foster high-impact research and to offer exceptional opportunities for training to promote and advance the statistical and data sciences in the United States. The NISS legal corporate home is in North Carolina; its scientific and professional activities currently are centered at hubs at Penn State University, and Washington, DC, with future locations anticipated.

NISS delivers research on critical issues in science and in public policy by leveraging the rich expertise of its staff with that of its 48 affiliated organizations in academia, industry, and government. The hallmark of a NISS project is the high level of expertise that leads to relevant and implementable solutions. NISS achieves high-quality results by pairing experienced senior leadership with teams of talented (post-PhD) junior researchers and technical staff. Current activities include research contracts with the Departments of Agriculture and Education as described on the NISS website: www.niss.org.

NISS also serves as a national thought leader and catalyst, hosting conferences and workshops for the statistical science community. NISS annually convenes conferences on topics of high current interest, e.g., the COVID Data Science webinar series presented in 2020-21. In addition, small "think tank" working sessions are convened so problem-holders in a science or public policy community can bring their pressing issues and challenging problems to select experienced statistics researchers. The goal of these workshops is to articulate the needs of the community and to explore potential technical statistical solutions. NISS additionally sponsors series of workshops such as the International Total Survey Error Workshop (ITSEW), which it co-founded to meet the need for survey methodology.

NISS seeks a Director to expand its focus, retaining and growing its active hubs and increasing its engagement with the broader statistical community. The Director of NISS is responsible for every aspect of the Institute's vision and operation, including:

- Serve as NISS' most articulate and persuasive advocate.
- Envision, develop, and execute the scientific programs of NISS.
- Ensure continued independence, unassailable quality, and the relevance and timeliness of the NISS research portfolio.
- Recruit, nurture, and strengthen community engagement in support of NISS.
- Develop new sources of funding with grants and contracts.
- Safeguard the fiscal health of NISS while maintaining the strength of the NISS Affiliates Programs.

See the Job Announcement on the NISS website for all details, application instructions and contacts.

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!*

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?

Visit the NISS Job Annoucements Page

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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