



NEWS from CNSTAT

— August 29, 2015 —

PEOPLE *News*

We congratulate **Norman Bradburn**, senior fellow with NORC at the University of Chicago, on receiving the first **Monroe G. Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research**. He delivered the 2015 Sirken Lecture, “Surveys as Social Interactions,” at a session of the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, WA, on August 12. It would be hard to think of a more deserving first awardee—someone who has written classic texts on asking survey questions and made seminal contributions to survey research. Norman served as CNSTAT chair from 1993–1998 and as vice chair and member beginning in 1987. He received a B.A. from the University of Chicago, a B.A. in philosophy, politics, and economics from the University of Oxford, and an M.A. in clinical psychology and a Ph.D. in social psychology from Harvard University. Most recently, he was the assistant director for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation. He is Tiffany and Margaret Blake distinguished service professor emeritus at the University of Chicago and former vice president and director of research at NORC. He was provost of the University of Chicago from 1984–1989. He chaired the National Research Council’s Board on International Comparative Studies in Education and was a member of its Advisory Committee for Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, a fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

We wish all the best to **Manuel de la Puente** on his retirement from the **Social Security Administration** (SSA), where he served as associate commissioner for research, evaluation and statistics, and thank him for his many years of distinguished service to the federal statistical system. He joined SSA in March 2008 to serve as associate commissioner in the Office of Research and Statistics (ORES). From August 2013 through March 2014 he served as acting assistant commissioner in the Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, returning to his previous position in ORES as associate commissioner in April 2014. Prior to joining SSA, Manuel worked for the U.S. Census Bureau for 18 years. He began his career in the federal government in February 1984 and has extensive knowledge and experience in survey methodology as well as in research and evaluation methods. He received a B.A. in political science and sociology from Saint Peter’s College in New Jersey, an M.A. in sociology from Fordham University, and both a Ph.D. and an M.Phil. in sociology from Columbia University.

We congratulate **Stephen Fienberg**, Maurice Falk university professor of statistics and social science at Carnegie Mellon University, on his selection to give the **R.A. Fisher Lecture** at the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, WA, which occurred August 12. The R.A. Fisher Lectureship was established in 1963 by the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) to honor both the contributions of Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher and the work of a present-day statistician for her or his advancement of statistical theory and applications. We further congratulate Steve on receiving the **2015 Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research** from the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS).

According to NISS, Steve received the award “for a remarkable career devoted to the development and application of statistical methodology to solve problems for the benefit of society, including aspects of human rights, privacy and confidentiality, forensics, survey and census-taking” and for “exceptional leadership in a variety of professional and governmental organizations, including the founding of NISS.” At Carnegie Mellon, Steve holds appointments in the Department of Statistics, the Heinz College, the Machine Learning Department, and Cylab. He served as a member of CNSTAT from 1978–1987 and as chair, 1981–1984 and 1985–1987. He received a B.Sc. in mathematics and statistics from the University of Toronto and an A.M. and Ph.D. in statistics from Harvard University. He previously served as vice president of York University, Toronto, and was on the faculty of the University of Minnesota. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, served on the advisory committee of the Academies’ Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, and co-chairs the Academies’ Report Review Committee. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the International Society for Bayesian Analysis, the Royal Society of Canada, and the Royal Statistical Society, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

We congratulate **Susan Murphy**, H.E. Robbins distinguished university professor of statistics, professor of psychiatry, and research professor at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, for her selection as the **2015 [Abraham] Wald Memorial Lecturer** at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, WA, August 11-13. She gave three (!) lectures: “Sequential Decision-Making and Personalized Treatment: The Future Is Now,” “Offline Data Analysis Methods and Learning Algorithms for Constructing Mobile Treatment Policies,” and “Continual, Online Learning in Sequential Decision-Making.” Susan is a new member of CNSTAT, a fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the College on Problems in Drug Dependence, a former editor of the *Annals of Statistics*, president-elect of the Bernoulli Society, a member of the National Academy of Medicine, and a 2013 MacArthur Fellow. She served as a member of the CNSTAT panel that produced the 2010 report, *The Prevention and Treatment of Missing Data in Clinical Trials*.

We congratulate **Kenneth Prewitt**, Carnegie professor of public affairs at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs, on being named **president** of the **American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS)** as of May 2015. Previously, Ken was named 2001 Harold Lasswell Fellow of AAPSS. Ken is a former member of CNSTAT and chairs the Academies’ Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education’s Advisory Committee. Previous positions he has held are: director of the U.S. Census Bureau, president of the Social Science Research Council, senior vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation, director of the National Opinion Research Center, and professor at the University of Chicago. Among his awards are a Guggenheim Fellowship, honorary degrees from Carnegie Mellon and Southern Methodist University, a Distinguished Service Award from the New School for Social Research, and The Officer’s Cross of the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He chaired a recent CNSTAT panel that produced the 2014 report, *Civic Engagement and Social Cohesion: Measuring Dimensions of Social Capital to Inform Policy*.

We note with sadness the just-received news of the passing of **Al Zarate**, formerly of the **National Center for Health Statistics**, on August 27, 2015. Al served for many years as the confidentiality officer for NCHS and was a great contributor to interagency work on privacy, confidentiality, and statistical disclosure limitation. Al was active in the ASA Privacy and Confidentiality Committee and the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology’s Confidentiality and Data Access Committee.

REPORT *News*

Reminder: PDF versions of CNSTAT and NAS reports are available for free download at *The National Academies Press* website, <http://www.nap.edu>. NOTE: The download site asks for your e-mail and a password. If you don't have an NAP account and don't want to have one, then provide your e-mail and click "I don't have an account;" on the next page click "accept NAP policies" and "log in as guest".

Reminder: Slides from previous CNSTAT public seminars are available on the CNSTAT [public seminars and symposia](#) page; slides from several major workshops are available on the [presentations](#) page on the CNSTAT website.

EVENT & OTHER *News*

The *Association of Public Data Users* (APDU) invites attendance at its **2015 Annual Conference on Innovating with Public Data**, September 1-2, 2015, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA. From the conference announcement: "Federal data agencies serve as the mainstay for evidence-based policymaking, but budget cuts and traditional thinking are bogging down the statistical system. Adaptable data producers are considering new ways to gather and share information. Discerning data users are seeking out the most creative data aggregation and dissemination tools. Creative producers and users alike are linking existing administrative records to survey data to help close information gaps and reduce data collection costs. In short, data innovations are integral to solving the public data resource crisis. Join us at the APDU conference where experts and novices alike come together to learn more about how Federal agencies and their stakeholders are creating new data products, developing new methods for sharing data, and identifying creative ways to collect data while reducing response burden." **Robert Groves**, provost, Georgetown University, and former U.S. Census Bureau director and former CNSTAT member, will give the keynote luncheon address on September 1.

The *Bureau of Labor Statistics* invites attendance at a meeting, September 17, 2015, at the BLS Conference Center in Washington, DC, to celebrate the **50th anniversary of the National Longitudinal Surveys**. BLS notes: "For 50 years, the NLS has followed nationally representative samples of men and women to gather extensive information about their employment experiences, education, training, health, children, and much more. NLS data have informed social science research, policy, and the public about issues of vital concern. Join us as we look back over the last 50 years of the NLS and look forward to the future of this rich data resource."

The *Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology* (FCSM) invites attendance at the **2015 FCSM Research Conference** hosted by the *Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics* (COPAFS). The conference will be held December 1-3, 2015, at the Washington Convention Center. Based on the preliminary agenda, the conference looks to offer dynamite sessions on innovative developments at many leading federal statistical agencies. According to the conference site: "The 2015 FCSM Research Conference provides a forum for experts from around the world to discuss and exchange current research and methodological topics relevant to federal government statistical programs. Each day of the conference will offer papers on a wide range of topics including: adaptive survey design, address-based sampling, administrative records, Bayesian statistical methods, coding, confidentiality and disclosure, crowdsourcing, data quality, economic statistics, editing, frame development, imputation, mobile devices, multi-mode and web data collection, nonresponse and measurement error, paradata and metadata, questionnaire and survey design, record linkage, small area estimation, survey redesign, variance estimation, and weighting." The keynote speaker is **Raj Chetty**, Bloomberg professor of

economics at Harvard University, co-director of the Public Economics group at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and editor of the *Journal of Public Economics*. His widely cited research on tax policy, unemployment, and education makes innovative use of IRS administrative data and other sources.

The *National Center for Health Statistics* is seeking an *associate director for research and methodology* (to replace the irreplaceable Nat Schenker who is now deputy director of NCHS). The associate director serves as a member of the NCHS Senior Staff and directs the Office of Research and Methodology (ORM), which comprises an Office of the Director and three staffs: Questionnaire Design and Research Laboratory; Statistical Research and Survey Design Staff; and NCHS Research Data Center. The position will be filled at the level of Title 42 Distinguished Consultant or via a term-limited appointment under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act. It is open to all groups of qualified persons, including U.S. citizens, noncitizens (permanent residency required), and Public Health Service Commissioned Officers. No previous federal experience or tenure is required. A candidate for the position should have a doctoral degree in statistics, biostatistics, or a related field; a strong record of research and applications; an appreciation for the importance of all aspects of measurement, collection, analysis, and dissemination of data; knowledge of and experience with survey sampling; and a demonstrated ability to lead. Salary is based on qualifications and experience. Relocation expenses may be authorized. A complete application consists of a curriculum vitae, a cover letter addressing the qualifications listed in the previous paragraph, and contact information for three references. Application materials should be sent to Jackie Smith of NCHS by e-mail (jasmith@cdc.gov) or regular mail (3311 Toledo Road, Room 7217, Hyattsville, MD 20782). Review of applications will begin September 1 and continue until the position is filled. For further information, contact Dr. Nathaniel Schenker, Deputy Director, NCHS, by e-mail (nschenker@cdc.gov) or phone (301-458-4483).

CNSTAT Meetings

CNSTAT holds three regular meetings each year, with its spring and fall meeting dates following a set formula; our May meetings are always the Thursday–Friday preceding Mother’s Day and our October meetings are always the second-to-last Thursday–Friday of the month. Here are the next three meetings:

CNSTAT’s 128th meeting will be held **October 22–23, 2015**, in the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the 23rd, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads, followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 2 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm. The seminar will include a tribute to the late BLS commissioner, Janet Norwood, and presentations and discussion on the nature of “evidence.” Stay tuned for more information.

CNSTAT’s 129th meeting will be held **February 11–12, 2016**, at the *Keck Center of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine* at 500 Fifth Street NW, in Washington, DC. It will be a retreat meeting; there will be no agency head luncheon or public seminar.

CNSTAT’s 130th meeting will be held **May 5–6, 2016**, in the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the 6th, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads, followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 2 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

NOTE: Presentations from the joint CNSTAT/NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN) set of workshops and public seminar at the May 8, 2015, CNSTAT meeting are available on the NCRN [site](#).

Active **PANELS & WORKSHOPS**

[Listed by sponsor agency, beginning with federal departments. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are in Washington, DC, and include open sessions. For further information, contact the person listed as the study director or project assistant (e-mail addresses follow the formula of first initial plus last name as oneword@nas.edu). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under “Our Work.”]

Department of Agriculture

Panel on Methods for Integrating Multiple Data Sources to Improve Crop Estimates

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2014–September 2017

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: First in-person meeting scheduled for November 12-13, 2015, in Washington, DC

Workshop on Model-Based Methods for Producing Estimates of Livestock with Appropriate Measures of Uncertainty

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2014–September 2017

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Workshop summary

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Workshop on Rationalizing Rural Area Classifications for ERS/USDA

Sponsor: Economic Research Service

Duration: September 2014–December 2015

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; senior program officer: Gooloo Wunderlich; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: David Brown (Cornell University)

Report planned: Workshop summary is in review

Meeting: Workshop held April 16-17, 2015, at the NAS Keck Center in Washington, DC

Department of Commerce

Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau’s Annual Economic Surveys

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2015–May 2018

Study director: Glenn White; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Katharine Abraham (U. Maryland)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: First in-person meeting scheduled for October 29-30, 2015, in Washington, DC

Panel to Review and Evaluate the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation Content and Design

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2013–November 2016

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; research associate: Adrienne Bradford

Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting scheduled for October 1-2, 2015, in Washington, DC

Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau's annual economic surveys (see above) and will spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning. A website for the committee is maintained at this [link](#).

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting (closed) scheduled for September 8-9, 2015, in Washington, DC

Department of Education

Committee on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Achievement Levels Evaluation (joint with the Board on Testing and Assessment, which has the lead)

Sponsor: National Center for Education Statistics

Duration: September 2014–March 2016

Study director: Judith Koenig (BOTA); program officer: Jordyn White (CNSTAT); project assistant: Kelly Arrington (BOTA)

Chair: Christopher Edley, Jr. (University of California, Berkeley)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting (closed) scheduled for September 21, 2015, by teleconference

Department of Health and Human Services

Standing Committee on Integrating New Behavioral Health Measures into SAMHSA's Data Collection Programs (joint with the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences and the Board on Health Sciences Policy)

Sponsors: Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Duration: August 2014–July 2016

Study director: Krisztina Marton; senior program officer: Jeanne Rivard (BBCSS); senior program officer: Adrienne Stith Butler (BHSP); project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: James Jackson (University of Michigan)

Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee is facilitating workshops on the topics of serious emotional disturbance in children (workshop summary is being drafted), specific mental illness diagnoses with any functional impairment, trauma, and recovery. A website is maintained for the committee at this [link](#).

Upcoming meetings: Workshop/third meeting on Specific Mental Illness Diagnoses with Functional Impairment scheduled for September 24-25, 2015; Workshop/fourth meeting on Trauma scheduled for December 17-18, 2015; Workshop/fifth meeting on Recovery scheduled for February 24-25, 2016 (all meetings in Washington, DC)

Department of Homeland Security

Committee on Affordability of National Flood Insurance Program Premiums (joint with the Water Science and Technology Board, which has the lead, and the Board on Mathematical Sciences and Their Applications)

Sponsor: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Duration: September 2013–September 2015

Study director: Jeffrey Jacobs (WSTB); CNSTAT director: Constance Citro; BMSA director: Scott Weidman

Chair: Leonard Shabman (Resources for the Future)

Reports planned: *Affordability of National Flood Insurance Premiums—Report 1* released in prepublication format, March 26, 2015; available in print and [PDF](#); second report being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fifth and final meeting held May 6-7, 2015, in Irvine CA

Department of Justice

Panel on Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics (joint with the Committee on Law and Justice)

Sponsor: Bureau of Justice Statistics and Federal Bureau of Investigation

Duration: September 2013–March 2016

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Seth Hauser; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Reports planned: First report is being drafted; second report is being planned

Upcoming meetings: Tenth meeting (closed) scheduled for November 17-18, 2015, in Washington, DC

Department of Transportation

Panel on Research Methodologies and Statistical Approaches to Understanding Driver Fatigue Factors in Motor Carrier Safety and Driver Health (joint with the Board on Human-Systems Integration and Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: September 2013–September 2015

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; Board on Human-Systems Integration director: Poornima Madhavan; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Co-chairs: Hal Stern (University of California, Irvine); Matthew Rizzo (University of Nebraska Medical Center)

Report planned: Final report is being drafted

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting (closed) held July 13-14, 2015, in Washington, DC

National Science Foundation

Forum on Open Science

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: October 2013–October 2016

Study director: Hermann Habermann; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: David Ward (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

Reports: Forums do not issue reports; they meet for discussion among a wide range of stakeholders; they can also facilitate separate workshops or consensus panels

Upcoming meetings: Fourth and last meeting held March 27, 2015, in Washington, DC; follow-on activities to be scheduled

Standing Committee on the Future of Major NSF-Funded Social Science Surveys

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2015 – June 2016

Study director: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Eileen LeFurgy

Chair: Barbara Entwisle (University of North Carolina)

Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they may also facilitate separate workshops or consensus panels

Upcoming meetings: TBD

The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Standing Committee on Creating the American Opportunity Study, First Phase

Sponsor: The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Duration: April 2015–March 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Michael Hout (NYU)

Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee will facilitate workshops on the design and research uses of the American Opportunity Study (AOS), which is being developed to measure intergenerational mobility by linking 1990 census records (after capturing the necessary information) with subsequent census records, American Community Survey records, and administrative records that become available. The result will be a facility for researchers to obtain extracts of linked files for analysis within the Federal Statistical Research Data Center network (formerly the Census Bureau RDC network). The First Phase AOS is intended to address the challenges of capturing linking information for the 1990 census short- and long-form records, to evaluate the likely quality of matches with other records, and to propose the next phase of work. A website will be maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: First meeting scheduled for October 15, 2015, in Washington, DC

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Panel on the Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration

Sponsor: The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Duration: May 2013–March 2016

Study director: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Francine Blau (Cornell University)
Report planned: Final report is being drafted
Upcoming meetings: Seventh and final meeting (closed) scheduled for September 11-12, 2015, in Washington, DC

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–September 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown U)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: First meeting scheduled for September 4-5, 2015, in Washington, DC

• CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •

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– See our website for previous issues of *News from CNSTAT*, under “CNSTAT News” –

The Committee on National Statistics was established in 1972 at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to improve the statistical methods and information on which public policy decisions are based. The committee carries out studies, workshops, and other activities to foster better measures and fuller understanding of the economy, the environment, public health, crime, education, immigration, poverty, welfare, and other public policy issues. It also evaluates ongoing statistical programs and tracks the statistical policy and coordinating activities of the federal government, serving a unique role at the intersection of statistics and public policy. The committee’s work is supported by a consortium of federal agencies through a National Science Foundation grant.