



NEWS from CNSTAT

— October 20, 2015 —

PEOPLE *News*

On World Statistics Day, Tuesday, October, 20, 2015, the U.S. Department of Labor inducted commissioners of labor statistics **Carroll D. Wright** and **Janet L. Norwood** into the **Labor Hall of Honor**. Carroll Wright was the first commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), then the Bureau of Labor, serving from 1885 to 1905. He simultaneously served as superintendent of the census from 1893 to 1897, finalizing work on the 1890 census. Janet Norwood, who passed away recently, was the first woman to serve as BLS commissioner and led the Bureau for 12 crucial years (1979–1991), modernizing it and raising the profile of its work. Both former commissioners ensured that BLS produced the high quality of statistics necessary to the proper functioning of a democratic government. This was the first time BLS commissioners were inducted into the Labor Hall of Honor, which was established in 1988 to honor Americans whose distinctive contributions in the field of labor have elevated working conditions, wages, and over-all quality of life of America's working families. During their time as commissioner, Wright and Norwood each strongly emphasized the necessity of accurate data to help workers suffering from economic hardships.

We congratulate **Angus Deaton** on winning the **2015 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel** “for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare.” His work “linking detailed individual choices and aggregate outcomes” has helped to “transform the fields of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and development economics.” Professor Deaton is a Britain-born economist, who earned his Ph.D. in economics at Cambridge University before moving to America; he is now the Dwight D. Eisenhower professor of economics and international affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Economics Department at Princeton University. In Britain he taught at Cambridge University and the University of Bristol. He is a corresponding fellow of the British Academy, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Econometric Society, and the first recipient (in 1978) of the Econometric Society's Frisch Medal. He was president of the American Economic Association in 2009. In 2012 he received the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award. In April 2014, he was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society, and in April 2015, he was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He served a term on CNSTAT (1989–1992) and was a member of the CNSTAT panels that produced *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach* (1995) and *At What Price? Conceptualizing and Measuring Cost-of-Living and Price Indexes* (2002). He is currently serving on the CNSTAT Standing Committee on the Future of Major NSF-Funded Social Science Surveys. He gave the CNSTAT seminar in May 2014 on his book, *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*, published in 2013.

We note with sadness the passing of **Robert F. Gillingham** at age 70 in late September 2015. He was most recently an independent consultant from Potomac Falls, VA, whose clients included the

International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and OECD. Prior to becoming a consultant, he held several positions at the International Monetary Fund, including chief of the Expenditure Policy Division and chief of the Poverty and Social Impact Analysis Group. He also worked at the U.S. Department of the Treasury—the last 10 years as deputy assistant secretary for economic policy. He began his career at BLS, rising to the position of deputy associate commissioner for prices and living conditions. He was a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and served on the board of the Western Economic Association International and as an associate editor of the *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*. He was widely published in the field of international economics and fiscal policy. He received a B.A. from Haverford College, an M.A. from Duke University, and a Ph.D. in economics from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He served on the CNSTAT panel that produced *Measuring What We Spend: Toward a New Consumer Expenditure Survey* (2013).

We say a fond farewell to **Seth Hauser**, who worked as a senior program officer on a temporary assignment to CNSTAT from February 23, 2015, to October 16, 2015. He previously worked at CNSTAT from 2002 to 2003, contributing to two reports: *Measuring Racial Discrimination* (2004) and *The 2000 Census: Counting Under Adversity* (2004). Seth has returned to his work as an analyst and manager of analysts in the U.S. intelligence community, focused largely on security dynamics in East Asia. We are grateful to Seth for his outstanding efforts in support of the Panel on Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics and in organizing a planning meeting for the National Institute on Aging on the design and analysis of observational studies to enhance their usefulness in providing causal inference.

REPORT News

The Integration of Immigrants into American Society, the final report of a panel organized under CNSTAT's sister Committee on Population, was released in prepublication format on September 21, 2015. The panel was chaired by Mary Waters (Harvard University) and funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the National Science Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The report examines social factors that affect the well-being of immigrants as they integrate into American society through the identification of such measurable outcomes as socioeconomic status, language abilities, and employment. The report finds that, as immigrants and their descendants become integrated into U.S. society, many aspects of their lives improve, including educational attainment, occupational distribution, income, and language ability, but their well-being declines in the areas of health, crime, and family patterns. At the same time, several factors impede immigrants' integration into society, such as their legal status, racial disparities in socioeconomic outcomes, and low naturalization rates. [PDFs](#) of the report are available for free downloading at The National Academies Press website. Meanwhile, a report of the CNSTAT Panel on the Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration is nearing completion.

Reminder: PDF versions of CNSTAT and National Academies 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*

We take this opportunity to thank the many agencies that contribute **core support** to the Committee on National Statistics. Core funds enable CNSTAT to maintain a small executive staff who, among other things, organize the CNSTAT meetings, prepare the newsletter, are active in the Washington statistical community, develop new projects of interest to the entire statistical system, and every 4 years prepare a new edition of CNSTAT's flagship publication, *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*, now in its 5th edition (2013) and scheduled to be released in a 6th edition in early 2017. Agencies contributing core support during fiscal 2015 include:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, DHHS
- Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- Economic Research Service, USDA
- Energy Information Administration
- Food and Nutrition Service
- Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program, NSF
- National Agricultural Statistics Service
- National Center for Education Statistics
- National Center for Health Statistics
- National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
- National Institute on Aging
- Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD
- Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, Social Security Administration
- Statistics of Income Division, IRS
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Research Evaluation Division

The 25th **Annual Morris Hansen Lecture**, sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, Westat, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service, will be held Tuesday, November 17, 2015, from 3:30–5:30 pm at the USDA South Building, Jefferson Auditorium, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, followed by a reception in the USDA Whitten Building Patio across the street. The speaker is **Dr. Steve Thompson**, Shrum chair in science, professor of statistics, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada; his topic is “Adaptive and Network Sampling in Changing Populations.” His talk will be discussed by **Mark S. Handcock**, professor and chair of statistics, University of California, Los Angeles, and **Andrew Gelman**, professor of statistics and political science and director of the Applied Statistics Center, Columbia University. **ABSTRACT:** See the announcement for the program abstract and more information. **REGISTRATION:** Please [pre-register](#) for this event online to help facilitate access to the building. Registration will close on November 13, 2015.

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 Walter E. 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**, professor of economics at Stanford University (visiting at Harvard through December 2015), 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. [Registration](#) is now open. There is a registration fee.

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 “**Reengineering the 2020 Census.**” Registration is closed, except if you would like to attend via WebEx, in which case, contact Eileen LeFurgy, elefurgy@nas.edu, or call Eileen at 202-334-1616.

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

Panel on Improving Data Collection and Reporting about Agriculture with Increasingly Complex Farm Business Structures

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service

Duration: September 2014–September 2017

Study directors: Christopher Mackie and Tom Plewes; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

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 response to review

Meeting: Workshop held April 16-17, 2015, 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 held October 1-2, 2015, in Washington, DC; fifth meeting TBD

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: Fifth meeting (closed) scheduled for January 13-14, 2016, in Washington, DC

Workshop on the Census Bureau's Concept of Operations for Reengineering the 2020 Census

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2015–September 2016

Study director: Michael Cohen; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Workshop summary

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Workshop on Respondent Burden in the American Community Survey

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2015–December 2016

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

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Workshop summary

Upcoming meetings: TBD

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 is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Eighth meeting (closed) scheduled for November 16-17, 2015, in Irvine, CA

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 in review), specific mental illness diagnoses with any functional impairment, trauma, and recovery. A website is maintained for the committee at this [link](#).

Upcoming meetings: 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)

Workshop on Improving Data on Criminal Justice System Involvement in Population Health Data Collections

Sponsor: Office of Minority Health

Duration: September 2015–September 2016

Study director: Jordyn White; senior program officer: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Workshop summary

Upcoming meetings: TBD

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 is in review

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–December 2016

Study director: Daniel Cork; 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 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–December 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. A website will be maintained for the committee.

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

Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

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

Sponsor: Directorate on Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

Duration: March 2015–June 2016

Study director: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Eileen LeFurgy

Chair: Barbara Entwistle (University of North Carolina)

Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they may also facilitate separate workshops or consensus panels. A website will be maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: First in-person meeting scheduled for January 20-21, 2016, in Washington, DC

Workshop on Prioritizing and Implementing Improvements to Innovation Indicators

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–September 2016

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Workshop summary

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 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 held October 15, 2015, in Washington, DC; second meeting TBD

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) held 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–December 2017

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

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown U)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Second meeting and first workshop scheduled for December 15-17, 2015, in Washington, DC (public workshop on the 16th)

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •**

Committee on National Statistics Dr. Constance F. Citro, *Director*
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education ccitro@nas.edu
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,
and Medicine (202) 334-3009 or 3096
500 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001 Eileen LeFurgy, *Coordinator*
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat> elefurgy@nas.edu
(202) 334-1616 or 3096

– 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.