



NEWS from CNSTAT

— April 21, 2017 —

PEOPLE *News*

We congratulate **Cynthia Dwork**, Gordon McKay professor of computer science at Harvard University, and her co-authors Frank McSherry, Kobbi Nissim, and Adam Smith, on receiving the **2017 Gödel Prize** from the **European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS)**. The prize is for their paper, “Calibrating noise to sensitivity in private data analysis,” *Journal of Privacy and Confidentiality*, volume 7, issue 3 (2016). The prize will be awarded at the Annual ACM Symposium on the Theory of Computing, June 19-23, 2017, in Montreal, Canada. Cynthia is a member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and is serving on the CNSTAT Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods.

We congratulate **Barry Nussbaum** on recently becoming an *elected member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI)*. Barry is president of the **American Statistical Association (ASA)**, having retired March 3, 2016, after more than 40 years of federal service. At the time of his retirement, he was chief statistician of the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** in the Office of Environmental Information. His work included statistical analyses leading to new emissions programs, support for enforcement cases, the phase-down of leaded gasoline, the regulation of fuel additives, and the assessment of motor vehicle emission control tampering. For these efforts, he was awarded two EPA Silver Medals for Superior Service.

We congratulate the **NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN)** on receiving a **Statistical Partnerships Among Academe, Industry & Government (SPAIG) 2017 Award** from the American Statistical Association SPAIG Committee. The award will be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings, August 1, 2017, in Baltimore, MD. NCRN is recognized “for addressing methodological questions of interest to the federal statistical system and training future generations to design, conduct, analyze and report official statistics.” Information on the NCRN is available [here](#).

We thank the following distinguished individuals who recently retired, for their years of hard and dedicated work in the service of federal statistics, evidence-based policy, and social science research:

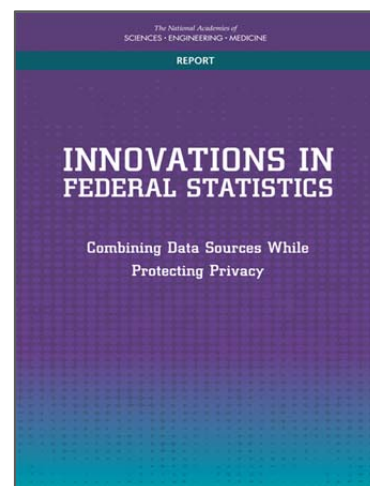
- **Shirin Ahmed**, who retired after many years of government service at the U.S. Census Bureau. At the time of her retirement, she was assistant director for decennial census programs and prior to that had been assistant director for economic programs.
- **Nat Schenker**, who retired from his position as associate director for research and methodology of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) on March 31, 2017, having previously served as deputy director, associate director for research and methodology, and senior scientist for research and methodology. He is a member of CNSTAT’s Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations. He is a past president of ASA. Before working at NCHS, he was a faculty

member in the Department of Biostatistics at UCLA and prior to that on the staff of the U.S. Census Bureau. He received NCHS's Elijah White Outstanding Scientist Award and its Owen Thornberry Excellence in Leadership Award.

- **Allen Schirm**, who retired in January 2017 after 28 years with Mathematica Policy Research. He held a number of positions at Mathematica, most recently as director of methods and senior fellow. He is an expert in small-area estimation, census methods, and sample and evaluation design, with application to studies of child well-being and welfare, food and nutrition, and education policy. He has served on many CNSTAT study panels and was recognized as a National Associate of the National Academies for his outstanding service. He is a fellow of ASA.

PUBLICATION *News*

Principles and Practices for Program Evaluation: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief, released March 20, 2017, is a summary of a fuller proceedings to be released later in the spring from a workshop held in October 2016, chaired by Russ Whitehurst, The Brookings Institution. Workshop participants focused on reviews of existing policies of the Administration for Children and Families, the Institute of Education Sciences, the Chief Evaluation Office in the U.S. Department of Labor, and other federal agencies. The scope of the workshop included evaluations of interventions, programs, and practices intended to affect human behavior, carried out by the federal government or its contractual agents and leading to public reports intended to provide information on impacts, cost, and implementation. This publication briefly summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop. It is available as a free [PDF](#) and in print.



Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy, released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, is the first report of the Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods, chaired by Robert M. Groves (Georgetown University), and sponsored by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. The report, edited by Robert Groves and Brian Harris-Kojetin, is available as a free [PDF](#) and in print.

Federal government statistics provide critical information to the country and serve a key role in a democracy. For decades, sample surveys with instruments carefully designed for particular data needs have been one of the primary methods for collecting data for federal statistics. However, the costs of

conducting such surveys have been increasing while response rates have been declining, and many surveys are not able to fulfill growing demands for more timely information and for more detailed information at state and local levels. *Innovations in Federal Statistics* examines the opportunities and risks of using government administrative and private sector data sources to foster a paradigm shift in federal statistical programs that would combine diverse data sources in a secure manner to enhance federal statistics. This first publication of a two-part series discusses the challenges faced by the federal statistical system and the foundational elements needed for a new paradigm.

Evaluation of Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016, is the final report of the Committee on the Evaluation of NAEP Mathematics and Reading Levels, chaired by Christopher Edley, Jr. (UC Berkeley), and sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics. The report, edited by Christopher Edley, Jr., and Judith Koenig, is available as a free [PDF](#) and will be in print shortly.

Since 1969, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been providing policymakers, educators, and the public with reports on academic performance and progress of the nation's students. The assessment is given periodically in a variety of subjects: mathematics, reading, writing, science, the arts, civics, economics, geography, U.S. history, and technology and engineering literacy. NAEP is given to representative samples of students across the United States to assess the educational progress of the nation as a whole. Since 1992, NAEP results have been reported in relation to three achievement levels: basic, proficient, and advanced. However, the use of achievement levels has provoked controversy and disagreement, and evaluators have identified numerous concerns. This publication evaluates the NAEP student achievement levels in reading and mathematics in grades 4, 8, and 12 to determine whether the achievement levels are reasonable, reliable, valid, and informative to the public, and recommends ways that the setting and use of achievement levels can be improved.

The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration, released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016, is the final report of the Panel on the Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration, chaired by Francine Blau (Cornell University) and sponsored by the John T. and Catherine D. MacArthur Foundation and the Independent Funds of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The report, edited by Francine Blau and Christopher Mackie, is available as a free [PDF](#) and will be in print shortly. The report has been covered in at least 148 media articles and has been downloaded almost 10,995 times by people in at least 30 countries.

More than 40 million people living in the United States were born in other countries, and almost an equal number have at least one foreign-born parent. Together, the first generation (foreign-born) and second generation (children of the foreign-born) comprise almost one in four Americans. It comes as little surprise, then, that many U.S. residents view immigration as a major policy issue facing the nation. Not only does immigration affect the environment in which everyone lives, learns, and works, but it also interacts with nearly every policy area of concern, from jobs and the economy, education, and health care, to federal, state, and local government budgets. The changing patterns of immigration and the evolving consequences for American society, institutions, and the economy continue to fuel public policy debate that plays out at the national, state, and local levels. *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration* assesses the impact of dynamic immigration processes on economic and fiscal outcomes for the United States.

Reminder: PDF versions of CNSTAT and National Academies reports are available for free download at *The National Academies Press* website, <http://www.nap.edu>. 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. Presentations from the October 2016 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "Taking

Surveys to People's Technology: Implications for Federal Statistics and Social Science Research," are available [here](#).

Slides from several major workshops are available on the [presentations](#) page on the CNSTAT website. This page also includes a section on "[Multiple Data Sources Presentations](#)," which links to presentations from workshops and meetings for CNSTAT's [Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods](#).

EVENT & OTHER *News*

The spring 2017 meeting of the *NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN)* will be held April 24, 2017, at the Census Bureau's headquarters in Suitland, MD. Topics will include: linkage and geography, privacy and confidentiality, 2020 census cost-benefit analysis, and the 2017 economic census. Registration and program information are available [here](#).

The *Washington Statistical Society's President's Invited Address* will be held April 25, 2017, 12:30–2:00 pm, at Mathematica's offices, 1100 1st St, NE, Washington, DC. The speaker is John Thompson, director of the U.S. Census Bureau. See the **attached flyer** for details.

The annual meeting of the *Population Association of America (PAA)* will feature a session on the CNSTAT report *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration* on April 28, 2017, from 10:15–11:45 am. The PAA meeting is being held at the Hilton Chicago. The session will be chaired by Francine Blau (who chaired the study panel) and include presentations by several panel members. Registration and program information are available [here](#).

The annual meeting of the *American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)* will feature a session on the CNSTAT report *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy* on May 20, 2017, from 3:30–5:00 pm. The AAPOR meeting is in New Orleans, LA. Registration and program information are available [here](#).

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 133rd meeting will be held **May 11-12, 2017**, at the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **12th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm. The seminar will honor an important achievement of **Katherine Wallman**, former chief statistician of the United States, and is titled **CIPSEA at 15 Years: Benefits to Federal Statistics (Confidentiality Protection and Research); Unmet Needs (Data Sharing)**. CIPSEA is the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. See the **attached flyer** for registration information.

CNSTAT's 134th meeting will be held **October 19-20, 2017**, at the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **20th**, the meeting will feature a

luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

CNSTAT's 135th meeting will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, at the National Academies Beckman Center in Irvine, CA. It will be in retreat format; it will not have a public seminar or agency head luncheon.

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 in 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; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) scheduled for May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

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 2015–September 2018

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting scheduled for May 24-25, 2017, at UC Davis (CA)

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2015–September 2018

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

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

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 (University of Maryland)

Publication: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Sixth and final meeting (closed) scheduled for June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017

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

Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, 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)

Publications: 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 may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning. A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: Ninth meeting 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–April 2017

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

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

Publication: Final report, *Evaluation of the Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress*, was released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016 (see "Publication News" above)

Meetings: Eighth (last) meeting (closed) held November 16-17, 2015, in Irvine, CA

Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity (see listing under "The Atlantic Philanthropies et al." below)

Department of Health and Human Services

Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

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

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Workshop on a Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation

Sponsors: Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Department of Labor; Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education); and U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Jordyn White; senior program officer: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Grover (Russ) Whitehurst, Brookings Institution

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief was released March 20, 2017 (see “Publication News” above); full proceedings is being drafted

Meeting: Workshop held October 27, 2016, in Washington, DC

Workshop on a Research Agenda for Longitudinal Studies

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging, Division of Behavioral and Social Research

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: James Jackson, University of Michigan and Russell Sage Foundation

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief

Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for June 5-6, 2017, in Washington, DC

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–September 2017

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

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

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016; printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is being drafted

Meetings: Final in-person meeting (closed) held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

Department of Transportation

Panel to Review the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability Program of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: March 2016–September 2017

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; off-site research associate: Jacob Spertus (Harvard)

Co-chairs: Joel Greenhouse (Carnegie Mellon) and Sharon-Lise Normand (Harvard Medical School)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting held February 16-17, 2017; fifth meeting TBD

National Science Foundation

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

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting scheduled for April 24-25, 2017; sixth meeting scheduled for July 6-7, 2017; both in Washington, DC

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

Sponsor: National Science Foundation, Directorate on Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

Duration: March 2015–March 2017

Study director: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Eileen LeFurgy

Chair: Barbara Entwisle (University of North Carolina)

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

Meetings: Fourth (and last) in-person meeting held December 1-2, 2016, in Washington, DC

Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2017

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Hermann Habermann; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: Planning meeting held October 4, 2016, in Washington DC; workshop scheduled for June 21-22, 2017

The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation

Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity

Sponsors: See above list

Duration: December 2016–December 2018

Study director: Judith Koenig; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistants: Kelly Arrington (beginning April 2017) and Agnes Gaskin (January–April 2017)

Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (University of California, Berkeley); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: First meeting held April 20-21, 2017, in Washington, DC; second meeting 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)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee facilitated a workshop, May 9, 2016, on 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-form and long-form records, to evaluate the likely quality of matches with other records, and to propose the next phase of work. A “workshop in brief” proceedings of the May workshop was released July 19, 2016, and is available for download as a free [PDF](#). Presentation [slides](#) from the May workshop are also available.

Upcoming meetings: Third 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–October 2016

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

Chair: Francine Blau (Cornell University)

Publication: Final report, *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration*, was released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016 (see “Publication News” above)

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; research assistant: George Schoeffel; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Information While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017 (see “Publication News” above); second report is being drafted; a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: Seventh and final meeting (closed) held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT** •

Committee on National Statistics
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,
and Medicine
500 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat>

Dr. Constance F. Citro, *Director*
ccitro@nas.edu
(202) 334-3009 or 3096
Eileen LeFurgy, *Coordinator*
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, a National Agricultural Statistics Service cooperative agreement, and several individual agreements.