

22nd  
Annual

# Morris Hansen Lecture

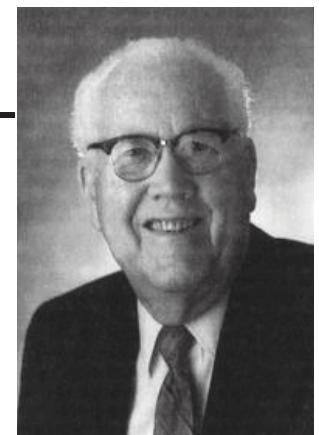
## Thank you Morris et al., for Westat et al.

*Speaker: Kenneth Prewitt*

Discussants

Margo Anderson, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Dan Gaylin, NORC at the University of Chicago



**Tuesday, October 9, 2012**

**3:30 – 5:30 pm**

**Jefferson Auditorium, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
South Building**

**Independence Ave. (between 12th and 14th Streets)**

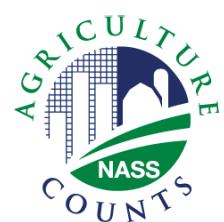
**Smithsonian Metro Station (Blue/Orange Lines)**

**Abstract:** The production of social knowledge is never independent of its institutional base (think monasteries and religious knowledge). In this talk, I discuss the role of the “Westats” (Westat, NORC, RTI, Abt, Mathematica, etc.) in partnering the expansion of government support for (and influence over) policy and research-relevant survey databases and in facilitating the 1960s arrival of “big social science.” How have—and why it is important that—the contract houses avoided the partisanship now prevalent among think tanks? The answer instructs us in whether social science can engage sites where power roams and yet not compromise the praised principle—“speak truth to power.”

A reception will follow at 5:30pm in the Whitten Building Patio

Please pre-register for this event to help facilitate access to the building online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/>

Sponsors: the Washington Statistical Society, Westat, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service



**Kenneth Prewitt** is vice-president for Global Centers and Carnegie professor of public affairs at Columbia University. He taught for fifteen years at the University of Chicago, and for shorter periods at Stanford, Washington U, and in Kenya and Uganda. His other positions include: director of the Census Bureau, the National Opinion Research Center, and the Social Science Research Council, senior vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation, and dean at the New School University. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and the Russell Sage Foundation, and a member of other professional associations including the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Prewitt has received numerous awards including: Guggenheim fellowship; honorary degrees from Carnegie Mellon and SMU; Lifetime Career Award from the Amer. Pol. Sci. Assoc. He has authored and coauthored a dozen books and more than 100 articles and book chapters, most recently *America's Statistical Races: Do We Still Need Them?* For the National Research Council, he is currently chair of the advisory committee for the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education and chair of its Committee on Social Science Evidence for Use and formerly served on the Committee on National Statistics. He has a B.A. from Southern Methodist University, an M.A. from Washington University, and a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University.