

IASS News March 2020

In this issue we have an update on IASS representation in various fora, pay our respects to Chris Skinner, celebrate the career of Ray Chambers, provide a report on a recent IASS-sponsored conference, and list upcoming conferences of interest to members.

Please feel free to send items to publish in future IASS newsletters to james.chipperfield@abs.gov.au

Links to more information

- The January 2020 issue of *The Survey Statistician* is available at: http://isi-iass.org/home/wp-content/uploads/Survey_Statistician_2020_January_N81.pdf
- IASS Twitter account [@iass_isi](https://twitter.com/iass_isi)

IASS Representation

IASS now has representatives on the following working groups and committees:

- Isabel Molina Peralta is a member of the working group called ISI Data Science which was recently formed by the ISI to develop a strategy, material and a statement highlighting data science.
- Nadia Lkhoulf is on the working group for the International Year of Women in Statistics and Data Science. The aim is to celebrate the contributions of women and promote gender diversity in statistics and data science.
- Monica Pratesi is on the Programme Committee for the WSC2021.

Sad News about Chris Skinner

The London School of Economics and Political Science released a statement following the death of Professor Chris Skinner on 21 February 2020. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Statistics/People/Professor-Chris-Skinner> I am sure many IASS members knew Chris well and will be saddened by the news. For those who would like to know more about Chris' life, last year he gave a biographical interview for the International Statistical Review <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/insr.12356> .

Advances in Statistical Methodology: A symposium to celebrate the career of Professor Ray Chambers

To celebrate the career of Professor Ray Chambers a symposium on advances in statistical methodology was held on Thursday 6 February 2020 at the National Institute for Applied Statistics Research Australia, University of Wollongong.

The symposium considered some of the important areas of statistical methodology in which Ray has extensive interests. Ray has made significant contributions in a range of areas, including Sample Survey Design and Analysis, Robust Statistical Methods, Small Area Estimation, Graphical Methods in Statistics, Computer Intensive Statistical Methods, Statistical Modelling and Inference, Longitudinal Data Analysis, and Analysis of Computer-Linked Data.

Over 40 people attended the workshop including many from overseas, reflecting the high regard in which Ray is held internationally and his involvement in research, collaboration and consulting in many countries. Ray's career includes senior appointments at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, The Australian National University, the University of Southampton, and the University of Wollongong.

Speakers included: Roberto Benedetti, James Brown, Robert Clark, Alan Dorfman, Paul Smith, Siu-Ming Tam, Nikos Tzavidis, Suojin Wang, Alan Welsh, and Li-Chun Zhang.

To mark the occasion Ray was presented with a case of Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon, labelled "The Robust Statistician".

Further details can be found at:

<https://niasra.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@inf/@math/documents/doc/uow263248.pdf>



[Report on the IASS–Sponsored Event: Conference for Population Surveys, Data Users and Producers, 5-6 February 2020, Nigeria, Africa](#)

The conference was held at the Federal University of Agriculture and was organised by the Royal Statistical Society Nigeria Local Group. The theme of the conference was Population data for informed national planning and development. Fifty two papers were accepted and forty six were presented at the conference. Over 350 participants attended from universities, the National Bureau of Statistics, the National Population Commission, the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Ministry of Finance. Keynote speakers were Professor T. A. Bamiduro and Professor Kayode Ayinde who addressed the core conference theme of the statistics, planning and

development. The conference allowed participants to share their research ideas and promote collaboration and networking.



Upcoming 2020 Conferences Supported by IASS

ICES VI - The International Conference on Establishment Statistics will take place on 15–18 June in New Orleans, U.S. Website:

<https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2020/conferenceinfo.cfm>

SAE2020- BigSmall - Conference on Small Area Estimation will be held on 6–8 July in Naples, Italy, with a general theme "Big Data for Small Areas". Website:

<https://sae2020.org/>

Summer School on Survey Statistics 2020 will be held on 24–28 August in Minsk, Belarus. Website: <https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/BNU/Events>

11e Colloque International Francophone sur les Sondages - 11th International Francophone Conference on Surveys will be held on 13–16 October in Brussels, Belgium. Website: <http://sondages2020.sciencesconf.org>

Other 2020 Conferences on survey statistics and related areas

Use of R in Official Statistics 2020 - 8th International Conference will take place on 6–8 May in Vienna, Austria. Website: <http://r-project.ro/conference2020.html>

American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference will be held on 14-17 May in Atlanta, U.S. Website: <https://www.aapor.org/Conference-Events/Annual-Meeting.aspx>

12th International Conference on Transport Survey Methods will take place on 31 May – 5 June at the Hotel Golf Mar in Porto Novo (near Lisbon), Portugal. Website: <https://www.isctsc2020.pt/>

Symposium on Data Science & Statistics will take place on 3-6 June in Pittsburgh US.
Website: <https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2020/>

Australian and New Zealand Statistical Conference will take place on 6-10 July, Gold Coast, Australia. Website: <https://anzsc2020.com.au/>

Q2020 - 10th European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics will be held on 9–12 June in Budapest, Hungary. Website: <http://q2020.hu/>

Joint Statistical Meeting with the theme *Everyone Counts: Data for the Public Good* will take place on 1-6 August in Philadelphia, US. Website: <https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2020/index.cfm>

BigSurv20 - Big Data Meets Survey Science will be held on 4–6 November in Utrecht, Netherlands. Website: <https://www.bigsurv20.org>

The Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) of the ASA

Information on activities of the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA) are available at:

<https://community.amstat.org/surveyresearchmethodssection/home>