

News from the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)

August 2016

Dear IAOS members and supporters,

Introduction

Welcome to the IAOS newsletter.

I would like to begin this newsletter by offering congratulations to our SJIAOS Editor-in-Chief Emeritus, Fritz Scheuren who has been awarded the ASA Mentoring Award. This award is given each year to an American Statistical Association member who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to providing significant early-career support to statistics students, statisticians or statistical researchers. The award honours those recognized by their colleagues for their sustained efforts to champion the work and develop the careers of statisticians.

This timely award recognises Fritz's career-long superior mentoring, tireless encouragement, generosity of time and knowledge and positive influence on generations of statisticians and non-statisticians alike. As you know, Fritz is a passionate statistician, who has contributed much to American and official statistics throughout the world. On behalf of the IAOS members, I offer our congratulations. There is more about the award at the ASA website - <https://www.amstat.org/newsroom/pressreleases/JSM2016/JSM2016-Awards.pdf>

I would also like to congratulate the winners of the 2016 IAOS Young Statistician Prize. This year's winner is Rolando Gonzales Martinez, from Bolivia. The winning paper will be presented at the 2016 IAOS conference. (More on the YSP16 below).

I am also pleased to announce the launch of the YSP 2017 competition. There is more information about the competition later in the newsletter and on the IAOS website.

The programme for the IAOS 16 conference is now finalised and is available on the [IAOS2016 website](#) . My thanks to the IAOS Programme Committee (chaired by Eric Rancourt, Statistics Canada) and the Local Programme Committee in Abu Dhabi (under the leadership of HE Butti Al Qubaisi of SCAD, our hosts).

As the newsletter shows, the SJIAOS under the editorship of Dr Kirsten West, goes from strength to strength. One exciting initiative is the agreement between IAOS and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), to publish material from each other's journals. This will allow greater dissemination of material of papers to both organisations.

The newsletter contains a wide range of information on these items and other topics of interest to those involved in official statistics. On behalf of the IAOS Executive, I thank you for your support and encourage you to continue to participate in our Association activities.

In particular, I would like to encourage you to attend the IAOS16 conference. Early bird Registration closes soon. See the [IAOS2016 website](#).

Key Dates for Members

IAOS 16 Conference - Early bird Registration

Early bird registration - closes **25 September, 2016**. See the [IAOS2016 website](#) for more information.

IAOS 16 World Bank funding

The closing date for applications for World Bank funding to attend this year's IAOS 16 conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE is September 8, 2016. See <http://www.iaos-isi.org/Doc/IAOS2016FundSApp.doc>

ISI-WSC - Special Topic Sessions proposals

The final closing date for STS proposals is 15 September 2016. See [here](#) for more information.

ISI-WSC Lunch Roundtable Discussions proposals

Submission of proposals for lunch roundtable discussions will open on November 15, 2016

YSP 2017

The 2017 competition closes on 15 December, 2016. See [here](#) for all the information

IAOS 18 Conference

The IAOS 18 conference will be held in Paris, from 3- 5 October, 2018.

IAOS16 Conference - Abu Dhabi, 6 - 8 December 2016 Update

Conference Program

We now have a full program for the conference. There will be 3 plenary sessions (one on each day), 13 invited sessions, 11 contributed sessions and 2 workshops.

The rich program includes Ola Rosling from Gapminder, a plenary session on Measuring progress for Arab women, invited papers on topics such as the Data Revolution, Fundamental Principles, Innovation in GCC Statistics, Dissemination in the European Statistical System, Statistical Literacy and the 2030 SDG Agenda, and lots more.

The over 50 contributed papers also cover a wide range of topics. While presenters come from across the world, it has been great to see great representation from across the GCC region. See the [IAOS2016 website](#) for the full programme.

World Bank Fund Support

The closing date for applications for World Bank funding to attend this year's IAOS 16 conference is **September 8, 2016**.

To be eligible for support, applicants must

- a) be a permanent resident of a developing country
- b) be a member of the ISI and the IAOS
- c) have a role in the conference such as speaker, session organiser, discussant or chair.

- d) have not received funding from the IAOS or World Bank to attend a statistical conference previously (or at least for the last four (4) years)
- e) not be receiving funding from another source to attend the IAOS16 conference

More information can be found at:-<http://www.iaos-isi.org/Doc/IAOS2016FundSApp.doc>. The closing date is September 8, 2016.

Note that new members of the ISI are eligible for this support. This is a great opportunity for any colleagues who meet the other criteria, but who are not yet members of the ISI. Membership information can be found [here](#). Remember that membership of the ISI can cost as little as €10.

Our thanks to the World Bank Group for their support.

Early bird Registration

Early bird Registration closes on **25 September 2016**. Remember early bird registration gives you a significant discount on conference fees. The registration page also contains information about the wide range of hotels near the conference venue. See the [IAOS2016 website](#) for more information.

Conference Promotion

Please continue to promote the conference to colleagues and contacts. There are still some limited opportunities for sponsorship. The [IAOS2016 website](#) has more information. **You can also follow the conference on Twitter - #IAOS2016**

2016 IAOS General Assembly

The 2016 General Assembly will be held on day 1 , 6 December, at 6 pm. This will be a great opportunity for all IAOS members to review progress over the last year.

The agenda for the Assembly will be circulated later, but if you have any items for discussion, please send them to the President Ola Awad at contactIAOS@gmail.com

Questions about the IAOS 16 conference.

Contact the Program Chair, Eric Rancourt (Eric.Rancourt@statcan.gc.ca) or check out the [IAOS2016 website](#).

IAOS 18 conference

A reminder that the IAOS 18 conference, to be held in Paris from 3-5 October, 2018 and will be a joint event in conjunction with the OECD.

Details of the Programme will be determined by IAOS and OECD and announced in the coming months. If you have questions, please contact President- elect Mario Palma mpalma@inegi.org.mx

WSC 2017



Invited Paper Sessions (IPS)

The full list of approved IPS sessions are [now available](#) on the WSC 2017 website. Congratulations to those IAOS members who are organizing IPS sessions.

Special Topic Sessions (STS)

The final closing date for STS sessions is 15 September 2016. See [here](#) for more information.

Call for Lunch Roundtable Discussions

Submission of proposals for lunch roundtable discussions will open on November 15, 2016 and it will close on January 24, 2017. A lunch roundtable discussion is an opportunity to enjoy food, fellowship and a conversation with colleagues about a statistical concept or related topic in practice while eating lunch. These lunches also provide a great chance to interact and to network with other colleagues. See [here](#) for more information.

Contact Rolando Ocampo for more information (Rolando.Ocampo@inegi.org.mx)

SJIAOS - Update

SJIAOS September 2016 issue

The [September 2016 issue](#) is now available. The theme of the issue is 'Data Fabrication'. There have been a series of meetings, seminars and workshops on this topic in the past year in the Washington, D.C. area resulting in several papers. Four of these papers are in this issue with an [introduction](#) prepared by one of our associate editors, Steve Koczela. He was assisted by Fritz Scheuren. We will publish more in future issues.

The September issue also features an [interview with Mr. Jean-Louis Bodin](#). Mr. Bodin is one of the founding members of IAOS and its second president. We also publish a [conversation between Gary Shapiro, one of the co-founders of Statistics without Borders \(SwB\) and a researcher with SwB, Dr. Nilupa Gunaratna](#). They talk about creating continuing and sustainable volunteer organizations. Finally, we have an [interview with H.E Butti Al Qubaisi on leading SCAD and hosting the IAOS 2016 Conference](#).

The remaining manuscripts in the issue cover topics that should have appeal to a wide audience of official statisticians. They were prepared by authors from many different countries: Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

IAOS and Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) Joint Project

Earlier this month, the editor-in-chiefs of the IASI and IAOS Clyde Charre and Dr Kirsten West, signed an agreement to publish each other's manuscripts in their respective journals. With regular intervals, the SJIAOS will select a manuscript from Estadística to reproduce and Estadística will do likewise. Evelio Fabbroni, the Executive Director of IASI, and Fritz Scheuren, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of SJIAOS were instrumental in establishing this agreement of collaboration. The arrangement will allow greater dissemination at the international level of papers of interest to both organizations. Right now we are working out all the practical details of implementing this agreement. The first manuscript is expected in the December 2016 issue.

Promoting the SJIAOS

Over the last few months, the Journal has been promoted at several European statistical conferences and at the Joint Statistical Meeting in Chicago. If you know

of a conference or event for promoting the journal, contact Dr Kirsten West, Editor in Chief, kwestiaos@gmail.com

Contributing manuscripts to the Journal

The main aim of the journal is to support the IAOS mission by publishing articles to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and to foster the development of effective and efficient official statistical services on a global basis. The journal publishes papers on current and emerging issues and challenges related to the management, production and use of official statistics and related public policy matters. All papers are refereed.

For manuscript submission and author instructions, please go to <http://www.iospress.nl/journal/statistical-journal-of-the-iaos/>

Be even more involved. Become a special issue editor

Do you have an idea for a topic you would like to see covered in the Journal? Consider becoming a guest editor for a special issue or a special section of an issue. All manuscripts will go through the usual SJIAOS review process. The editorial staff will be available to assist you. For more information, contact the SJIAOS Editor-in-Chief - Dr Kirsten West at kwestiaos@gmail.com.

Young Statistician Prize

YSP 2016 results

The IAOS is very pleased to announce the results of the 2016 IAOS Prize for Young Statisticians, as follows:

First Prize [Balancing Input-Output tables with Bayesian Slave-raiding ants](#) by:
Rolando Gonzales Martinez (Bolivia)

Second Prize: [Variance reduction using a non-informative sampling design](#) by:
Thomas Zimmerman (Germany)

Third Prize: [CURIOS: A framework to optimize CAPI surveys using paradata](#) by:
Antoine Rebecq and Thomas Merly-Alpa (France)

The IAOS congratulates the winners and commends all the candidates for the effort that went into preparing their papers. The IAOS Executive would also like

to express its gratitude to the Selection Committee members for their considerable contribution.

YSP 2017 competition

The YSP 2017 competition has been launched. Information on the announcement and the technical guidelines can be found on the IAOS website - see <http://iaos-isi.org/index.php/statistics-prize> .

Entries close on 15 December 2016.

Apart from attractive prizes, the winning paper will be presented at the World Statistics Congress in Marrakech, Morocco.

Publicity material, including posters in all of the six UN languages are also available on the IAOS website. Please use these to share information about the competition.

SCORUS Update

The annual conference of the IAOS Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS) co-organised by Statistics Portugal, Eurostat, SCORUS and OECD took place in Lisbon from 29 June - 1 July, 2016. The theme of this conference was "Indicators for territorial policies: closing data gaps by using traditional and new sources and methods".

The conference aimed to address the development and progress of regional and urban statistics under the scope of the cross-cutting issues that have been put forward in European and global agendas. It was an opportunity to discuss the place of territorial statistics within the scope of the strategic challenges set up by the EU, OECD and UN agendas. These include the use of administrative data, geospatial information analysis and modeling, multi-source statistics, open data and big data, so as to produce relevant indicators for the monitoring of territorial policies.

More than 100 participants from both national and international organisations attended; bringing together professionals from National Statistical Institutes, public administration agencies, universities and reference research centres. The conference strived to promote the sharing of knowledge and experiences on the most recent developments, opportunities and challenges for regional and urban statistics and tried to promote the co-operation between producers, users and

researchers around the topics discussed. All of the presentations were followed by a brief debate and participants greatly contributed to the conference stimulating discussions.

Abstracts, papers and presentations are available for download in the Conference website - <https://www.ine.pt/scripts/scorus/Presentations.html>.

Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)

In late 2015, the IAOS accepted an invitation to be one of the stakeholders in the GPSDD initiative. The GPSDD initiative was established to convene and facilitate stakeholders across sectors, countries and regions worldwide , in order to galvanize and sustain political commitments, align strategic priorities and norms, strengthen capacities, foster innovation and build trust in the booming data ecosystems of the 21st century.

These in turn are seen as having a key role in the provision of indicators to support the 2030 SDG agenda.

To date, IAOS has focused its work on data principles, where the GPSDD seeks to promote new data principles and norms when needed and strengthen those that already exist.

GPSDD involves public and private sector, as well as NGOs and academics. This has the potential to change the arrangements for how information, including official statistics are used to inform and monitor decisions.

If you are interested in the GPSDD, and keen to bring an official statistics perspective to its work, contact Nancy McBeth (nancyembeth@gmail.com).

IAOS Executive Meetings

As we prepare for the 2016 conference, the Executive have met regularly by conference call. The Executive has been reviewing ways of attracting more members for the Association, as well as reviewing progress on the items in this newsletter.

Remember if you have an item for discussion, contact the IAOS President Ola Awad (contactiaos@gmail.com).

Upcoming conferences of interest to members

IAOS 16 - 6-8 December, 2016 Abu Dhabi, UAE, Early Bird Registration closes ** September 2016. See <http://www.iaos2016.ae>

WSC 2017 - 16-21 July 2017, Marrakech, Morocco, see <http://www.isi2017.org/>

IAOS 18 - 3-5 October, 2018, Paris, France

Invitation to share other items of interest to members.

We welcome short items of interest to members of the IAOS, official statisticians, providers and users of official statistics for publication in this newsletter and/or on the IAOS website. Please send your contributions to contactIAOS@gmail.com or nancyemcbeth@gmail.com.

Finally I really welcome any feedback and suggestions that you may have on matters relating to Official Statistics and the work of the IAOS in particular. Thank you for your continued interest and support in the IAOS activities and I look forward to seeing you in Abu Dhabi in December 2016.

Thank you again for your support

Ola Awad
President IAOS

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