

September 10, 2008

## *News from the Committee on National Statistics*

### PEOPLE NEWS

>We congratulate the following members of our community who received the honors listed below (courtesy of the GSS newsletter):

>**John Czajka**, senior fellow at Mathematica Policy Research in Washington, DC, is the 2008 recipient of the Patricia J. Doyle Award for exceptional service to the Government Statistics Section of ASA. John has a long history of serving the ASA and the GSS. He is a fellow of ASA. He has served on CNSTAT panels that produced reports on *Measuring a Changing Nation: Modern Methods for the 2000 Census* (1999); *Evaluating Welfare Reform in an Era of Transition* (2000); and *State and Local Government Statistics at a Crossroads* (2007). He is currently serving on our Panel on the Census Bureau's Reengineered Survey of Income and Program Participation.

>**Elizabeth (Betsy) Martin** is the 2008 recipient of the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics, which is sponsored jointly by the Washington Statistical Society and the Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections of ASA. She retired from the Census Bureau in 2007, where she had been Senior Survey Methodologist since 1998 and Chief of the Center for Survey Methods Research from 1986 through 1998.

Betsy was one of the leaders of the Cognitive Aspects of Survey Methodology movement. Her contributions and innovations at the Census Bureau include: expanding the scope of social science research conducted at the Bureau; building one of the first cognitive laboratories in the federal government; developing and mentoring the largest interdisciplinary staff of sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, statisticians, political scientists, and sociolinguists in the federal statistical system, bringing together their intellectual perspectives to address measurement errors in Census Bureau surveys and the decennial census; and developing and implementing an official pretesting policy for demographic surveys at the Census Bureau. Betsy was named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1998 and awarded the Department of Commerce Silver Medal in 1997. She is a former president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. She co-edited the National Academy of Sciences report *Surveying Subjective Phenomena* (1984).

>We welcome **Dan Melnick** to the CNSTAT staff as senior program officer. He has an 8-month part-time appointment to direct a panel on economic indicators for the State of the SUSA (SUSA), Inc., web site, to be launched in spring 2009. Dan was for many years on the Congressional Research Service staff; he has held positions with NSF and SAMHSA and operates his own consulting service.

### REPORTS RELEASED

>**Ballistic Imaging**, the report of the Committee to Assess the Feasibility, Accuracy, and Technical Capabilities of a National Ballistics Database, chaired by John Rolph, University of Southern California, is now available from the National Academies Press at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12162](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12162)). It was released in prepublication format in March.

>*The National Children's Study: A Review*, the report of the Panel to Review the NCS Research Plan, chaired by Samuel Preston, University of Pennsylvania, is now available from the National Academies Press at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12211](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12211) (free PDFs may be downloaded). It was released in prepublication format in May.

>*Using the American Community Survey in the National Science Foundation's Science and Engineering Workforce Statistics Program*, the report of the Panel to Assess the Benefits of the ACS for the NSF Division of Science Resources Statistics, chaired by Hal Stern, University of California at Irvine, is now available from the National Academies Press at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12244](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12244) (free PDFs may be downloaded). It was released in prepublication format in June.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### 107<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee

Friday, October 31, 2008

NAS Main Building, 2100 C St., NW, Washington, DC

*Public Seminar and Reception, 2:00 – 5:00 pm*

*Topic: Measuring Immigration Flows: What Do We Know? How Can We Learn More?*

*Chair: Douglas Massey, Professor of Sociology, Princeton University, NAS and CNSTAT Member*  
*Panelists:*

*Michael Hoefer, Director, Office of Immigration Statistics, Dept. of Homeland Security*

*Alexa Kennedy-Puthoff, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau*

*Jeffrey Passel, Senior Demographer, the Pew Hispanic Center*

### 108<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee

Thursday and Friday, February 6-7, 2009

Retreat—NAS Beckman Center, Irvine, CA

### 109<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee

Friday, May 8, 2009

NAS Keck Center, Room 100, 500 5<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Washington, DC

*Public Symposium and Reception, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm*

*Topic: Federal Statistics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

[title is not final; the idea is to underscore the importance of the federal statistical system for policy, research, and public understanding; papers will be presented and published in the *Annals* of the AAPSS]

**Co-sponsored with the American Academy of Political and Social Science**

## Currently Active Panels and Workshops

[Organized by sponsor; chair and current and former CNSTAT members are listed; unless otherwise noted, meetings are in Washington, DC, and include open portions; for further information, contact the study director or project assistant, or visit <http://nationalacademies.org>, click on Current Projects, and then on Search for Projects.]

## Department of Commerce

### **Panel on the Census Bureau's Reengineered Survey of Income and Program Participation**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: October 2006 – June 2008; extended through December 31, 2008

Study director: Patricia Ruggles; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Karl Scholz (U. Wisconsin); panel member: V. Joseph Hotz (Duke)

Report planned: Final report is being drafted

**Upcoming meetings:** Third meeting held March 10-11, 2008; no more meetings are planned

### **Panel on Coverage Evaluation and Correlation Bias in the 2010 Census**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: April 2004 – January 2006; extended through June 30, 2008

Study director: Michael Cohen; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; fellow: Stephanie Jaros

Chair: Robert Bell (AT&T Research); panel members: Lawrence Brown (U. Pennsylvania), Alan Zaslavsky (Harvard)

Reports planned: Interim report, *Research and Plans for Coverage Measurement in the 2010 Census: Interim Assessment*, released in prepublication format (there will be no printed version), May 11, 2007 (free PDFs available at [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11941](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11941)); final report is in response to review

**Upcoming meetings:** Last meeting, July 18, 2007; no more meetings are planned

### **Panel on the Design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments (CPEX)**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: October 2006 – September 2009

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Daniel Cork; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Lawrence Brown (Wharton School, U. Pennsylvania); panel members: Vijay Nair (U. Michigan), Roger Tourangeau (U. Maryland), Nora Cate Schaeffer (U. Wisconsin)

Reports planned: Interim report, *Experimentation and Evaluation Plans for the 2010 Census: Interim Report*, released in prepublication format (there will be no printed version), December 7, 2007 (free PDFs available at [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12080](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12080)); final report, September 2009

**Upcoming meetings:** Fifth meeting scheduled for November 10-11, 2008 (the 10<sup>th</sup> is open)

### **Workshop to Assist BEA Development of a Satellite Health Account**

Sponsor: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Duration: September 2006 – September 2007; extended through March 2008

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant, Michael Siri

Chair: Joseph Newhouse (Harvard)

Report planned: Workshop summary has cleared review and is being prepared for publication and release

**Upcoming meetings:** Workshop held March 14, 2008

## Department of Defense

### **Oversight Committee on Industrial Methods for the Effective Test and Development of Defense Systems** (Joint with the Board on Army Science and Technology)

Sponsor: Office of the Secretary of Defense, Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, and Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

Duration: September 2007 – September 2009

Study director: Michael Cohen; project assistant, Michael Siri

Chair: TBD  
Report planned: Final report (including workshop summary)  
**Upcoming meetings:** To be determined

## **Department of Health and Human Services**

### **Panel to Advance a Research Program on the Design of National Health Accounts**

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging  
Duration: October 2005 – September 2008; extended through March 29, 2009  
Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri  
Chair: Joseph Newhouse (Harvard)  
Report planned: Final report is being drafted  
**Upcoming meetings:** Fifth meeting held March 13, 2008; no more meetings are planned

### **Panel on Collecting, Storing, Accessing, and Protecting Social Survey Data with Biological Measures** (joint with the Committee on Population)

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging  
Duration: October 2007 – September 2009  
Study director: Barney Cohen; project assistant, Michael Siri  
Chair: Robert Hauser (U. Wisconsin)  
Report planned: Final report (including workshop summary)  
**Upcoming meetings:** Workshop scheduled for November 17-18 (open), followed by closed panel meeting, November 19, 2008

### **Panel to Review the National Children's Study Research Plan** (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families and the Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice)

Sponsor: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
Duration: April 2007 – April 2008; extended through July 31, 2008  
Study director: Gooloo Wunderlich; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; project assistant: Bridget Edmonds  
Chair: Samuel Preston (U. Pennsylvania); panel member: William Kalsbeek (U. North Carolina)  
Report: Final report released in prepublication format, May 22, 2008 (see [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12211](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12211)); printed copies are available at the same url (PDFs may be downloaded free)  
**Upcoming meetings:** Third meeting held January 24, 2008; no more meetings are planned

### **Workshop on New Measures of Disability: Going Beyond ADLs and IADLs** (joint with the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences)

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging  
Duration: October 2007 – September 2009  
Study director: Gooloo Wunderlich; project assistant, Bridget Edmonds  
Chair: Alan Jette (Boston U.)  
Report planned: Workshop summary  
**Upcoming meetings:** Workshop scheduled for January 8-9, 2009 (open)

### **Workshop on Revitalizing the Nation's Vital Statistics**

Sponsor: National Center for Health Statistics, Social Security Administration, U.S. Census Bureau, internal funding  
Duration: July 2007 – September 2008  
Study director: Constance Citro; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Louise Ryan (Harvard); planning committee members Janet Norwood (BLS, retired), Edward Perrin (U. Washington), Samuel Preston (U. Pennsylvania), Kenneth Prewitt (Columbia)  
Report planned: Workshop summary is being drafted  
**Upcoming meetings:** Workshop held April 30, 2008

## Department of Justice

### **Committee to Assess the Feasibility, Accuracy, and Technical Capabilities of a National Ballistics**

**Database** (joint with the Committee on Law and Justice, which has the lead, and the National Materials Advisory Board)

Sponsor: National Institute of Justice

Duration: September 2003 – December 2005; extended through June 2008

Study director: Carol Petrie; senior program officer: Daniel Cork; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: John Rolph (U. Southern California); panel members: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon U.), Vijay Nair (U. Michigan), Daryl Pregibon (Google)

Report: Final report released in prepublication format, March 5, 2008 (see

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12162](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12162)); printed copies are available at the same url

**Upcoming meetings:** No more meetings are planned

### **Panel to Review Programs of the Bureau of Justice Statistics**

Sponsor: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Duration: September 2006 – August 2008

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Carol Petrie; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Robert Groves (U. Michigan)

Reports planned: Interim report released in prepublication format, January 8, 2008, and published by the National Academies Press in mid-May (free PDFs available at

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12090](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12090)); final report at end of project

**Upcoming meetings:** Ninth meeting scheduled for November 15 in St. Louis, MO (closed)

## National Science Foundation

### **Committee on Gender Differences in Careers of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Faculty**

(congressionally mandated) (joint with Committee on Women in Science and Engineering, which has the lead)

Sponsor: Division of Science Resources Statistics, NSF

Duration: December 2003 – June 2005; extended through February 2006

Study director: Charlotte Kuh; program officer: John Sislin; project assistant: Elizabeth Scott

Chair: Claude Canizares (MIT); co-chair: Sally Shaywitz (Yale); panel member: Arleen Leibowitz (UCLA)

Report planned: Final report is in response to review

**Upcoming meetings:** No more meetings are planned

### **Committee on Technology and Privacy Dimensions of Information for Terrorism Prevention and**

**Other National Goals** (joint with the Committee on Law and Justice, which has the lead, and the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board)

Sponsor: National Science Foundation, Department of Homeland Security, National Agricultural Statistics Service, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2004 – June 2007

Study director: Betty Chemers; senior program officers: Michael Cohen and Herb Lin; project assistant: Janice Sabuda

Chair: Charles Vest (president emeritus, MIT); co-chair, William Perry (Stanford); panel members: William DuMouchel (Lincoln Technologies), Stephen Fienberg (Carnegie Mellon U.), Daryl Pregibon (Google)

Report planned: Final report has cleared review and is being prepared for publication and release

**Upcoming meetings:** No more meetings are planned

### **Panel to Assess the Benefits of the American Community Survey for the NSF Science Resources Statistics Division**

Sponsor: Division of Science Resources Statistics, National Science Foundation

Duration: October 2006 – February 2008; extended through November 30, 2008

Study director: Thomas Plewes; project assistant, Michael Siri

Chair: Hal Stern (U. California, Irvine)

Report: Final report released in prepublication format, June 2, 2008 (see

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12244](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12244)); printed copies are available at the same url (free PDFs may be downloaded)

**Upcoming meetings:** Third meeting held November 2, 2007; no more meetings are planned

### **Panel on Modernizing the Infrastructure of the NSF Federal Funds Survey**

Sponsor: Division of Science Resources Statistics, National Science Foundation

Duration: October 2007 – December 2008

Study director: Thomas Plewes; project assistant, Michael Siri

Chair: Christopher Hill (George Mason U.)

Report planned: Final report

**Upcoming meetings:** Third and final meeting scheduled for October 22-23, 2008 (closed)

### **Kauffman Foundation, Spencer Foundation, W.T. Grant Foundation**

#### **Workshop on Protecting Students' Records and Facilitating Education Research** (joint with the Center for Education and in cooperation with the American Educational Research Association)

Sponsor: Kauffman Foundation, Spencer Foundation, W.T. Grant Foundation

Duration: July 2007 – August 2008; extended through February 2009

Study director: Thomas Plewes; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Felice Levine (AERA)

Report planned: Workshop summary is in review

**Upcoming meetings:** Workshop held April 24-25, 2008

### **Contact Information for CNSTAT**

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**Note:** The most recent issues of *News from CNSTAT* are available on the “What’s New” portion of the CNSTAT web site.