

Editorial

The September issue reflects topics and issues of relevance to official statistics no matter where it is practiced and by whom. The issue contains a special section on data fabrication, followed by a section of general papers and it concludes with interviews and conversations.

The papers in support of the theme “Data Fabrication” grew out of a series of conferences and workshops held in the Washington, DC area over the last twelve months. Fabrication is not a new threat for data quality, but some of the traditional methods for detecting and dealing with this challenge may no longer be adequate. Mr. Steve Koczela, one of the Journal’s emphasis editors, and Dr. Fritz Scheuren, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus introduce the papers included in the special section in their guest editorial. “Assuring the Quality of Survey Data: Incentives, Detection and Documentation of Deviant Behavior” by Dr. Peter Winker from the University of Giessen, Germany has been selected to have open access. There will be more papers on this topic in future issues of the Journal.

As the list of contents suggests the papers in the general section cover a wide spectrum of topics: guidance rules for deriving indicators for process and chain management within national statistical organizations, the statistical system, how to avoid gender bias in agricultural surveys, calibration for non-response treatment, an application for summarizing data, and methods for linkage error estimation. We are even including a paper that examines official FIFA rankings and socioeconomic development indicators! The manuscripts represent research from many different countries: Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

In the interview and conversation section you will find two interviews and a conversation piece. The views and opinions expressed in the interviews and conversations are those of the interviewee and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the Journal, nor IOS Press.

The first interview is with Mr. Jean-Louis Bodin. Mr. Bodin is one of the founding members of IAOS and its second president. He visited Washington, DC last fall

and found time in his busy schedule to sit down with the SJIAOS interview editors. Mr. Bodin has had a distinguished career as an official statistician in France, and to this date is still taking an active role in the organization of public statistical systems throughout the world. He has given freely of his time to professional organizations, including serving as president for the ISI (1999–2001). We are grateful to him for the interview.

We are also pleased to publish a conversation between Mr. Gary Shapiro and Dr. Nilupa Gunaratna. They talk about creating continuing and sustainable volunteer organizations. Dr. Gunaratna is a research associate at the Harvard School of Public Health. Mr. Shapiro is a co-founder of Statistics without Borders. He worked at the US Census Bureau from 1965 to 1993 overseeing sample design, weighting, and variance estimation for the demographic surveys. He then went on to become a Senior Statistician, first at Abt Associates and then at Westat.

Finally, the Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) will host the 15th IAOS Conference in December 2016. In recognition of this event, we bring an interview with H.E. Butti Al Qubaisi on leading SCAD and hosting such a significant conference. The interview with His Excellency was prepared by Ms. Raba’a Baniyas, Director of Statistics Training Institute SCAD.

I am looking forward to continuing the conversation in forthcoming issues about how best to address the challenges posed by data fabrication as well as the many other topics of interest to official statistics.

Kirsten West
Editor-in-Chief

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