

Editorial

As you can see from the list of contents, there is no shortage of topics and issues covered in this issue of the Journal. I will highlight just a few of them here.

From time to time, we compile a special issue on a topic we feel will interest a wide audience. Following the very successful ISI World Statistics Congress in Rio de Janeiro, and to honor Mr. Shigeru Kawasaki, Gemma Van Halderen from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) offered to oversee the preparation of manuscripts relating to the integration of statistical and geospatial information and data. We are very grateful to her for taking on this task. She has prepared an introduction to the special section of manuscripts as well as contributed with a manuscript of her own co-authored by Minchin, Scott and Brady: "Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information, Cultures and Professions."

You will learn from the interview with Ms. Van Halderen that she currently works on the transformation of statistical programs, legislation and strategies for data sharing, data integration and microdata access. She would like to see improvement in the range, accessibility and visibility of statistics and data for research, analysis and public policy.

Our interview editor, Katherine Condon, also prepared a conversation piece for this issue. The conversation is with Monica Dashen. She is a Statistics without Borders (Swb) volunteer. She talks about several projects including a project in Myanmar about maternal and infant care. You will find more details about this research in two of her papers in this issue: "Survey Methodology for Humanitarian Intervention," and "Case Study: Burmese Healthy Mothers and Babies" co-authored with Chu, Silva and Suchowski.

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.

We are very pleased to publish the winning paper of the 2015 IAOS Prize for Young Statisticians, "Big

Data and Semantic Technology: A Future for Data Integration, Exploration and Visualization," by Andreas Mayer and Andrew Harwood (Australia). The third prize winner: "Iterative Method for Reducing the Impact of Outlying Data Points: Ensuring Data Completeness" by Svetlana Jesilevska (Lativa) was published SJAOS, Vol. 32, No 2. The annual prize is meant to encourage young statisticians to take an active interest in official statistics by submitting papers that address and propose solutions to processing methodological or strategic issues in the area of official statistics at the regional, national and international level. Congratulations to all participants in the competition.

Earlier this year, the IAOS and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) signed an agreement to publish each other's manuscripts in their respective journals. With regular intervals, the SJAOS will select a manuscript from *Estadística* to reproduce and *Estadística* will do likewise. The arrangement will allow greater dissemination at the international level of papers of interest to both organizations. "Statistics as Instruments for Prosperous, Transparent and Democratic Societies" by Malaguerra and MacDonald is the first manuscript to be published in SJAOS under this agreement.

When this issue becomes available, the 15th IAOS Conference is on its way in Abu Dhabi. Some of the papers presented at this event will no doubt appear in future issues of the Journal. I am looking forward to sharing the insight and knowledge offered by these papers about current topics of concern for producers and users of official statistics all over the world.

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