



A Sea Change for Public Data

Association of Public Data Users Annual Conference

September 16 – 17, 2013

George Washington University, Washington, DC

Speaker List with Biographies

Liz Accetta

Liz is currently the Section Chief for the Government Organization Branch for the Governments Division at the U.S. Census Bureau, where she oversees the legal research, classifications, and definitions of the universe for several Governments Division surveys, including the Census of Governments. She also directs the technical preparation and review for the Individual State Descriptions, a reference report updated and released for the Census of Governments. Working at the Census Bureau for over six years, Liz has also been the Lead Business Analyst, gathering software application requirements for the Governments Division processing systems, and a Survey Statistician, compiling work for a number of annual finance surveys related to the Census of Governments.

Liz received her MPA focused in Policy Research and Analysis from the University of Pittsburgh, and her BA in Economics from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Jonathan Auerbach

Jonathan Auerbach is a statistician at the Finance Division of New York City's legislative body, the New York City Council. During the day, he analyzes city expenditures ranging from labor contracts, pensions and fringe benefits to debt service, city financing and economic development. He also tracks and forecasts the revenue side of the City's \$70 billion budget and works on various special projects. Previously he worked as an aide to New York City Council Member Robert Jackson. At night, Jonathan is finishing his M.S. in statistics at Columbia University. He received his B.A. from Cornell University. Recently he was a fellow at the Data Science for Social Good Fellowship in Chicago which will be the focus of his presentation.

Robert B. Avery

Robert B. Avery is the Project Director of the National Mortgage Database at the Federal Housing Finance Agency. He joined the FHFA after retiring as a Senior Economist from Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the fall of 2012. Previously he had held positions as a Professor at Cornell University and as an Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University. His work at the Federal Reserve focused on supervisory issues related to community affairs and bank supervision. He was one of the founders of the tri-annual Survey of Consumer Finances and designed the loan sampling

systems used for the Federal Reserve's examinations of small bank safety and soundness and for large syndicated loans. He heads a new inter-agency effort at the FHFA designed to create a comprehensive residential mortgage database to better serve supervisory and policy concerns.

Bryan Beecher

Bryan Beecher leads the technology engineering and operations team at ICPSR. His team designs and builds new products and services, and manages all ICPSR's technology systems, including those residing in University of Michigan and Amazon Web Services cloud platforms. Serving as a member of the executive management team, he helps shape overall strategic direction and organizational goals. Before coming to ICPSR in 2002, Bryan managed large and diverse technology teams at America Online and MCI Worldcom, and later co-founded Caimis, a software company specializing in data networking management tools. Caimis was acquired by Ixia Communications in 2001. Bryan has a BA in Computer Science and Creative Writing & Literature and an MS in Computer Engineering from the University of Michigan.

Cathy Cowan

Cathy Cowan is an economist in the National Health Statistics Group with the Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). For the past 25 years she has worked on various aspects of estimating historical, state-based and projections of national health spending in the United States. Currently her areas of concentration include health financing, such as sponsors of health spending (business, household and government), out of pocket spending, and private health insurance, comparisons of health expenditure data with household surveys, as well as international comparisons of health expenditure data. She earned a bachelor's degree in business from Indiana University and masters of business administration from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Christopher Emrich

Dr. Emrich is a research assistant professor at the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute within the University of South Carolina's Department of Geography. His research interests include the application of geospatial web-based technologies to emergency management planning/practice, long term recovery from disaster, and the intersection of social vulnerability and community resilience in the face of disaster. He is a strong advocate of the transition of knowledge from academia and research to real-world application and has been a key player in the development of theory, data, metrics, methods, applications, and spatial analytical models for understanding the newly emergent field of vulnerability science.

Ren Essene

Ren Essene is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau where she leads the Bureau's efforts to reform the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA). Previously she served as a Supervisory Policy Analyst for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and co-authored a book chapter with Allen Fishbein entitled, "The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act at Thirty-Five: Past History, Current Issues" for Moving Forward: The Future of Consumer Credit and Mortgage Finance (Brookings Press). Prior, Ren conducted research and engaged in policy efforts at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard. Prior to her national policy work, Ren spent twelve years leading a community-based development organization. Ren earned her MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School.

John M. Galvin

John M. Galvin became Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in September 2011. From January 2012 through January 2013 he served as Acting Commissioner of Labor Statistics. BLS is the principal Federal statistical agency responsible for measuring labor market activity, working conditions, and price changes in the economy. Its mission is to collect, analyze, and disseminate essential economic information to support public and private decision-making. Like all Federal statistical agencies, BLS executes its mission with independence, serving users by providing products and services that are accurate, objective, relevant, timely, and accessible.

Mr. Galvin has worked at the BLS since 1978. During his BLS career Mr. Galvin served as Associate Commissioner for Employment and Unemployment Statistics; Assistant Commissioner for Industrial Prices and Price Indexes; Director of the Quality and Information Staff; and in a variety of positions in the Consumer Price Index program.

Mr. Galvin received a B.A. degree in Economics from the University of Illinois and an M.S. degree in Economics from George Washington University. Mr. Galvin gained the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive award for sustained accomplishments in 2008.

John R. Gawalt

Mr. John Gawalt serves as Division Director for the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES). As a federal statistical agency within the NSF's Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, NCSES designs, supports, and directs periodic national surveys related to the science and engineering enterprise, analyzes the data, and distributes results through a variety of reports including Science and Engineering Indicators for the National Science Board and Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering. The Center also performs a variety of other tasks, such as supporting research using NCSES data, research on methodologies in areas related to the work of the Center, and educating and training researchers in the use of large-scale data sets.

Mr. Gawalt is a long-time employee of NSF. He has also served as Deputy Division Director for NCSES and prior to that as Program Director for its Information and Technology Services Program, where he was responsible for traditional and electronic publishing, Internet development, database management, and general information technology support.

Patricia (Pat) Hu

Patricia (Pat) Hu is the Director of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). Prior to that appointment, she was the Director of the Center for Transportation Analysis at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. As BTS Director, she is focusing on enhancing the quality, timeliness, accessibility, and availability of transportation statistics to inform transportation decisions. For the past two decades, Ms. Hu has led numerous research projects in the areas of travel behavior, traffic operations, transportation safety and security, data models, and visualization. Pat Hu is an active member of the National Research Council's Transportation Research Board (TRB). She chaired TRB's Standing Committee on National Data Requirements and Programs, and serves on many other committees and expert panels. She served on the editorial advisory board of the international journal Accident Analysis & Prevention from 1996 to 1999, and on the editorial advisory board of the Journal of Transportation and Statistics from 1998 to 2005. Pat Hu received her B.S. in Statistics from the Chengchi University in Taiwan, and an M.S. in Statistics from the University of Guelph at Canada.

Linda Jacobsen

Linda Jacobsen is Vice President of U.S. Programs at the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). She is a demographer with more than 30 years of experience analyzing population trends and their implications. She has extensive research experience with the American Community Survey (ACS), and co-authored two of the U.S. Census Bureau's handbooks for understanding and using ACS data. Dr. Jacobsen is a member of the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) panel addressing priority technical issues for the next decade of the ACS, and served on the Steering Committee for CNSTAT's workshop on the ACS in 2012. She also leads PRB's team in the development and coordination an ACS data users group. Dr. Jacobsen is Chair of the Government and Public Affairs Committee of the Population Association of America, Chair of the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association, and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. She has been a featured speaker on U.S. demographic trends at the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism and at Harvard University's Program for Newly Elected Members of Congress. Prior to joining PRB in 2005, Dr. Jacobsen was a senior executive and chief demographer for two leading marketing information companies; the research director at American Demographics magazine; and a faculty member at Cornell University and the University of Iowa. She holds an M.S. and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a bachelor's in sociology from Reed College.

Tom Levine

Playing with computers since he was young, Tom eventually developed back and wrist pain, so he started studying ergonomics and conducting quantitative ergonomics research. Then he realized that he'd accidentally become a data scientist. And his back and wrists now hurt less. Tom likes using data to help people work less and think more. He also has a band called CSV Soundsystem that makes music from spreadsheets.

Dr. Nancy Potok

Dr. Nancy Potok is the Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Census Bureau. She has more than 30 years of public, private, and nonprofit senior management experience. She was the Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Chief Operating Officer of McManis & Monsalve Associates, Senior Vice President and Director of the Economic, Labor and Population Studies Department at the University of Chicago National Opinion Research Center, and the Principal Associate Director and Chief Financial Officer in charge of Field Operations, Information Technology, and Administration during the 2000 Census. Dr. Potok is also an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and adjunct professor at The George Washington University.

Jessica Russell

Jessica Russell is a Research Analyst at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, where she works to make public data more user-friendly. She also co-authored the CFPB's congressional report on reverse mortgages last year. Prior to joining the CFPB, she spent five years as an economic consultant, building analytical models for complex business litigation cases. Ms. Russell has an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management and a BA in economics from Mount Holyoke College.

Edward Salsberg

Mr. Salsberg joined the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, as the first Director of the new National Center for Health Workforce Analysis in 2010. The Center was established to inform public policies and programs and private investments in the health workforce. The National Center is a focal point for the collection, analysis and dissemination of health workforce data and information.

Prior to HRSA, Mr. Salsberg was the founding Director of the Center for Workforce Studies and a Senior Director at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Prior to AAMC, Mr. Salsberg was the Executive Director of the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the School of Public Health at the University at Albany of the State University of New York (SUNY). Mr. Salsberg is on the faculty at George Washington University. He has authored and co-authored numerous reports and papers on the health workforce.

Rolf Schmitt

Rolf Schmitt is Deputy Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. He has been a policy analyst and has guided data programs in the US Department of Transportation for over 30 years, and helped establish the Bureau in the 1990s. He holds a PhD in geography from the Johns Hopkins University.

Mark Silverberg

Mark is a cofounder of Social Health Insights, a consulting and custom development company that straddles the health and IT sectors. The company is a group of passionate clinicians, developers, and designers serving their clients which include healthcare providers, government, and fellow startups trying to work in the evolving healthcare space. Social Health Insights formed after the team won a Health and Human Services app challenge centered around social media data and biosurveillance. Mark lives in the DC area and will receive his Masters of Information Systems in spring 2014. In late 2012, Mark was named one of Healthcare IT News' "6 health IT up-and-comers under 30".

Edward J. Spar

Mr. Spar is a consultant to Sabre Systems Corporation as a principal researcher working on statistical projects associated with the U.S. Bureau of the Census decennial census and statistical data relevant to the Affordable Care Act. He is also working as a senior project officer at the Committee on National Statistics, part of the National Academy of Sciences. He also teaches a course at the U.S. Census Bureau on uses of economic data. From 1992 to 2012, Mr. Spar was Executive Director of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. Before that he was President of Market Statistics, a demographic research company.

Dean Stoecker

Dean Stoecker is the Chairman, CEO & Co-Founder of Alteryx, Inc., recently identified by Forbes Magazine as one of the 'Top 10 Big Data Pure Play' software firms and one of the fastest growing BI & analytics companies in the world. Dean began his career on Census Day 1980 and for the past 33 years has promoted the consumption and application of public and private sector data to drive enhanced public policy and private sector decision making. From his management positions at National Planning Data Corporation, Market Statistics and Donnelley Marketing, to the many global content partnerships nurtured while leading Alteryx, including the US Census Bureau and the National Bureau of Statistics of China, Dean has innovated technologies that advanced the use of demographic research, consumer segmentation, syndicated content and the vast array of unstructured content on the web. Dean is a graduate of the University of Colorado and received his MBA from Pepperdine University.

Rich Taylor

Rich Taylor is a Transportation Specialist with the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Operations. Rich manages the Operations Performance Measures and Management Program. Prior to joining FHWA, Rich worked for ITS America, Wilbur Smith Associates, and was a Research Scientist for the Virginia Department of Transportation. Mr. Taylor holds

Bachelor of City Planning, Master of Planning (with a Certificate in Historic Preservation), and Master of Science in Civil Engineering degrees from the University of Virginia.

Michael T. Thieme

Michael has been with the Census Bureau for 15 years, and is the first Chief of the Center for Adaptive Design, which is a new Center launched in the Research and Methodology Directorate in October of 2012. As the Chief of the CAD, Michael leads the effort to research, design, and build tools and methods that enable the use of empirical data to facilitate intelligent business decisions prior to and during survey data collection. Michael began his Federal career in 1990 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Grenada, West Indies, where he was a Business Development Advisor. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas and the Federal Executive Institute. He also holds a Masters Certificate in Information Technology Project Management from George Washington University and is a certified Project Management Professional. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Falls Church, Virginia.

Jim Treat

Jim Treat is the Division Chief of the American Community Survey Office at the US Census Bureau. He is responsible for the overall program management of the American community Survey. He began his career at the U.S. Census Bureau in 1987. Jim earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the State University of New York, College at Brockport and received a Masters Degree in Survey Methodology from the University of Maryland. He also holds a Masters Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University.

Natalie Wowk

Natalie Wowk is a Presidential Management Fellow with the Small Business Administration's HUBZone Program. Currently, she is on rotation at the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, where her work focuses on economic development. Her central interests include GIS in public health and urban planning applications. She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Namibia '09) and has a B.S. in Math and Economics as well as a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan.

Garry Young

Garry Young is the Director of the Center for Washington Area Studies (CWAS) and the Interim Director of GWIPP, both at George Washington University. His research covers a wide range of political and policy subjects with emphasis on legislative institutions such as the U.S. Congress. His work appears in a variety of top political science journals including the American Journal of Political Science, the British Journal of Political Science, the Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law, the Journal of Politics, Political Research Quarterly, and Legislative Studies Quarterly. His past research funders include the National Science Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Trellis Fund, and others. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Rice University in 1994.