



**Morris Hansen  
Memorial Lecture Series**

Morris Howard Hansen has been described as the most influential statistician in the development of survey methodology in the twentieth century. Early in his Census Bureau career he put together a staff to define the principal problems in the conduct of surveys, investigate these problems, and develop statistical methods to address them. Morris and his staff then widely distributed the results of their efforts, thus influencing statistical agencies all over the world. Generations of statistical students have learned from and been influenced by *Sample Survey Methods and Theory, Volumes I and II* by Hansen, Hurwitz, and Madow, which are commonly referred to by the authors' names instead of the title, and Hansen's other publications.

Morris was also known as a procedures innovator and was a leader in adapting electronic tools, such as computers and mark-reading sensors, to statistics. After his outstanding Census Bureau career, Morris joined Westat which was at the time a fairly small statistical research company. Morris again assembled a strong staff and expanded Westat's scope to take on large Federal government statistical problems.

Morris also made outstanding contributions to professional organizations, serving as the President of both the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and as the first president of the International Association of Survey Statisticians. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1976 and was an important member of many Academy committees and panels.

There have been many tributes to Morris since his death in 1990, such as memorial issues of both the *Journal of Official Statistics* and *Survey Methodology*. Westat issued a grant to the Washington Statistical Society to honor Morris with an annual lecture series. The series has been so successful in attracting top quality presentations on a wide variety of topics—in keeping with Morris' broad interests—that Westat has added to the original grant.

**Sponsors**

The Washington Statistical Society  
Westat  
The National Agricultural Statistics Service

17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MORRIS HANSEN LECTURE



**ASSESSING THE VALUE OF  
BAYESIAN METHODS FOR  
INFERENCE ABOUT  
FINITE POPULATION  
QUANTITIES**

**Joe Sedransk  
Professor of Statistics  
Case Western Reserve University**

**Tuesday, October 30, 2007  
3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Jefferson Auditorium  
USDA South Building  
Independence Ave. (between 12th  
and 14th Streets) Smithsonian Metro  
Station (Blue/Orange Lines)  
For expedited entry to USDA, pre-register at  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/>



**Joe Sedransk** is currently a Professor in the Department of Statistics, Case Western Reserve University. He has also held faculty positions at the State University of New York at Albany, University of Iowa, and the State University of New York at Buffalo, University of Wisconsin and Iowa State University. He was Department Chair at Case Western Reserve University and the University of Iowa. He has had appointments at the Federal Reserve Board, U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics and the Energy Information Administration (current). He has also served on the advisory panels of several federal agencies including the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee, U.S. Census Bureau, Energy Information Administration, Environmental Protection Agency and the Social Security Administration. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute. He served as Coordinating and Applications Editor of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* and on the editorial boards of several journals including *Survey Methodology*.

**Lecture Abstract**

Bayesian methodology is well developed and there are successful applications in many areas of substantive research. However, the use of such methodology in making inferences about finite population quantities has been limited.

This lecture deals with several types of applications where greater use of Bayesian methods is likely to be profitable and some where they are not. The former include inference for establishment surveys where extensive prior information is available and models are transparent, inference for small subpopulations (i.e., “small area” inference), pooling data from disparate sources such as a set of sample surveys and/or administrative data, and general survey design. A further application is developing public “report cards” for providers of medical care, a situation where Bayesian methods are helpful but the choice of model is critical. The lecture will include descriptions of research whose successful completion should lead to improved analysis.

**Program**

Jefferson Auditorium  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
South Building

Tuesday, October 30, 2007  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

**Opening Remarks**

Carol House  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Trena Ezzati-Rice

Chair, 2007 Morris Hansen Lecture Committee

**Chair**

Donald J. Malec

U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Keynote Speaker**

Joe Sedransk

Case Western Reserve University

**Discussants**

Nathaniel Schenker, National Center for Health Statistics

David Binder, Statistics Canada (Retired)

**Program Committee**

Trena Ezzati-Rice (Chair)

Norman Bradburn

Carol House

Daniel Kasprzyk

Keith Rust

Tommy Wright

**Reception**

Patio  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Jamie L. Whitten Building  
(Across Independence Avenue)

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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