

CNSTAT Public Seminar

The Rise of Non-Survey Administrative Data for Statistics and Evidence-Building

Monday, January 13, 2025

2:00 – 3:30 pm EST

Room 208, Keck Building,

500 5th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. (and virtually)

(light refreshments will be served)

2:00

Welcome

Katharine Abraham, University of Maryland, and Chair, CNSTAT

2:05

Dr. David Gruen, Australian Bureau of Statistics

- ♦ *Alternative (non-standard/non-survey) data for statistical purposes*
- ♦ *Big databases for evidence-building and evidence-based policymaking or decision making*

2:35

Panel Discussion

David Gruen, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Nick Hart, Data Foundation

Kathryn Newcomer, George Washington University

Moderator: Katharine Abraham, University of Maryland, and Chair, CNSTAT

3:00

Q&A

Moderator: Melissa Chiu, Director, CNSTAT

3:30

Adjourn

Abstract

The seminar will outline the progress made by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in using non-survey administrative data for statistical purposes to augment and/or replace survey data. Thus far, areas of focus have been household consumption, the consumer price index, and agricultural statistics. Administrative data have also been used to provide small-area enhancements to labour market data, to increase the efficiency of sampling and to confront national accounts aggregates with alternative sources of statistical information. The seminar will also discuss the development of large integrated data assets that enable analysis and evaluation of a wide range of public policies.

Biosketches of presenters:



David Gruen AO was appointed Australian Statistician on 11 December 2019. David was previously Deputy Secretary, Economic Division and Australia's G20 Sherpa at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Before joining the Department in September 2014, he was Executive Director of the Macroeconomic Group at the Australian Treasury. David joined the Treasury in January 2003, before which he was the Head of the Economic Research Department at the Reserve Bank of Australia. David also worked as a research scientist in the Research School of Physical Sciences at the Australian National University.

David holds Ph.D. degrees in physiology from Cambridge University, England and in economics from the Australian National University. David was appointed as the inaugural Head of the Australian Public Service Data Profession in 2020. David was also appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (General Division) in 2022 for distinguished service to public administration, economic research, business, and education.



Kathryn Newcomer is a professor in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University. She was founding director of the Trachtenberg School in 2003 and served as its director for 14 years. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. She served as president of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) in 2017 and served as president of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) for 2006–2007.

Kathryn is an internationally recognized expert in program evaluation, and has published over ten books, including: *Research Handbook on Program Evaluation* (2024), *Evidence-building and Evaluation in Government* (2022), *Engagement for Equitable Outcomes: A Practitioner's Playbook* (2022), *Federal Inspectors General: Truth Seekers in Turbulent Times* (2020), and *The Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation* (4th edition (2015), and dozens of articles. She earned her B.S. in education and an M.A. in political science from the University of Kansas, and her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Iowa.

Nicholas Hart is president of the Data Foundation, a national non-profit organization that champions the use of open data and evidence-informed public policy to improve society. He is a fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and with the National Academy of Public Administration. Dr. Hart previously served as the Policy and Research Director for the U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking and worked at the White House Office of Management and Budget. He has published two books, *Evidence Works: Cases Where Evidence Meaningfully Informed Policy* and *Evidence-Building and Evaluation in Government*. He has a M.S. in environmental science and Master of public affairs from Indiana University and a Ph.D. in public policy and public administration from George Washington University.

