

2021 Sampling Program Cohort

Maryam Alafaliq feels fortunate to have found her true passion: statistics. Maryam's ultimate goal is to be a professor of statistics at a leading research university. She has considered the generation of new ideas to be the most exciting thing there is! She currently works at Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University as a Lecturer in mathematics and statistics.

Kriscel Berrum studied sampling methods originated in a SAS programming and data management courses. The passion of the professor was contagious and encouraged her to want to learn more about survey sampling and coding. At D3 systems, she has received hands-on experience working with different sampling plans and methodology. This includes sampling that is area-based multistage stratified cluster sampling and dual-frame random digit dialing. She plans to return to school in 2022 to earn her Master of Science in survey methodology.

Lissandra Ellyne (Kish Fellow) is an economist and a survey methodologist, her professional goal is to provide researchers interested in advancing evidence-based policies in Mexico with innovative measurement instruments. Her recent experience at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) in Mexico while working on a sampling design for a community-policing city survey made her realize that her sampling foundations had gaps. Deepening her sampling expertise will be essential to carrying out her responsibilities in her new position as Research Manager for CIDE Professor Hernan Bejarano's Behavioral Economics of Addiction Research Program (BEARP).

Camilo Gutierrez Patino recently graduated from the MA program in Statistics from Columbia University. Previously he worked for the World Justice Project in Washington D.C. helping to administer the General Population Poll (GPP) a survey performed annually in over 50 countries worldwide, with a sample size of ~1000 respondents/ country. This helped ignite his passion for surveys. He is employed as a data analyst at Servinformacion.

Ndapunikwa Hamunyela (Kish Fellow) recently talked with a Sampling Statistician at her workplace, Namibia Statistics Agency and it made her realize the need for this program. Ndapunikwa is expected to do sampling for all the survey/data collection that Namibia Statistics Agency and the whole country Namibia at large. She is employed by the Namibia Statistics Agency as a Sampling Statistician since September 2020.

Chunky Kanchele (Kish Fellow) currently works for the Road Transport and safety Agency, Zambia as Head Planning, Research and Development. Chunky has been with Agency for 7 years now. He joined the Agency in 2014 as Head Statistics and Research, with time additional responsibilities of Risk management, planning and development was given to him, along with developing the Risk Management Policy and Procure Manual for the Agency.

“Attending the 2021 Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians was one of the great achievements in my life. The Sampling Program provided with advanced skills in survey sampling, complex data analysis and interpretation of complex surveys. The program used “STATA and R” soft wares for data analysis, which gave me a great opportunity to perfect my skills in these two soft wares. I gained theoretical knowledge in survey sampling designs from the two courses namely Methods of Survey Sampling” and “Analysis of Complex Sample Survey Data and further, solidified my understanding through a series of workshops which were hands on training with various types of sample designs examples. The workshops were spiced up with guest instructors who were invited during workshop sessions to lecture us and generously shared their real life experience in survey sampling using practical examples from the industry. I am now ready put into practice what I learnt from the sampling Program. Severally and individually, I would like to thank most sincerely, all the instructors who sacrificed their precious time to take us successfully through the survey sampling design course”.

Abdulrazak Karie (Kish Fellow) completed his secondary school in 2009 and subsequently got a scholarship from the government of Sudan. After studying for four (4) years, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Econometrics and Social Statistics from the University of Bakht Alrida, an MSc in Population and Development from the University of Gezira Sudan. When returning to his home country Somalia, he started working with the Somali National Bureau of Statistics as one of the core teams. Sampling is one of the most critical skills for the office in order to generate reliable and accurate data to use for policy formulation and planning as well as an evidence-based decision that lays a strong foundation for development. He is currently employed at the Somali National Bureau of Statistics.

Laene Lustosa (Kish Fellow) has a Bachelor in Statistics and master’s in management and Evaluation of Public Education. Working for Brazilian government since 2010, she has been working at National Institute of Educational Studies and Research since 2014, with a majority focus on the Basic Education Assessment System and its sampling processes.

“The Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians is a great place to learn and to connect with important sampling professionals, and it was a huge honor to be selected to be part of this program. In each lecture, we had the opportunity to learn about sampling theory having always-clear explanations and excellent practical examples. We also had the opportunity to learn how to proceed with correct complex survey data analysis.

During these ten weeks of intense learning, I was able to better understand the sampling processes applied in the Brazilian Basic Education Assessment System and I could improve my professional skills to contribute with a more effective educational assessment. This result only was possible because of the excellent team of professors who were always available to answer

our questions and clarify the misunderstanding. It is also important to comment about how the colleagues' participation made this process even more rich."

Alicia Moncrieffe was interested in learning sampling methods because it would have a huge impact on her role at the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, where she works in the Research, Design and Evaluation Division. This division is responsible for sampling and design, research and methodology, quality and management classification. She has learned about sampling methods through her bachelor's degree study in Applied Statistics at the University of Technology, Jamaica. Alicia works for the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and is part of the Jamaica Statistical Society.

Brenda Nakamba (Kish Fellow) came to know about sampling program for survey Statisticians (SPSS) in the year 2017 through a friend who told her to check out the program; there she developed interest to apply because the program is in line with her job description. Brenda works for Zambia Statistics Agency (Zamstats) formerly called Central Statistics Office (CSO), as a statistician in the Agricultural and Environment statistics branch.

Fadzayi Ndlovu (Kish Fellow) is a statistician who recently joined the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) as Director - Statistical Services, a role in which she mainly oversees the survey field operations of the organization nationwide. Before joining ZIMSTAT she was a Statistics lecturer at the National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe. Her academic qualifications are a B.Sc. Honours degree in Mathematics and a Masters degree in Operations Research.

"Participating in the 2021 Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians equipped me with hands on skills in the selecting of complex samples and analysis of data arising from these samples. The little theoretical knowledge which I had when I joined the sampling program was greatly enriched by the deep knowledge of all the course instructors. Going forward I can now confidently execute my duties in the organization and improve the quality of the surveys that ZIMSTAT carries out."

Woungang Romain (Kish Fellow) is responsible for the sampling design for the NIS surveys such as Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), Malaria indicator survey (MIS), Global Adults Tobacco Survey (GATS), Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), Employment and the Informal Sector Survey, Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (PHIA), Labor market Survey (LMS), Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS), and other national health and economic related surveys. Woungang has been very interested on survey sampling since his scholarship in National High School of Applied Statistics and Economy. He currently works in the Department of demographic and social survey within Cameroon National Institute of Statistics

David Samuels graduated from the University of the West Indies, Mona (UWI Mona) in 2017 majoring in Economics; also completed a few elective courses in statistics, intermediate French and other business-related disciplines. He has worked with surveys (collection, descriptive analyses and reporting) as an intern for four consecutive summers at the Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC) Jamaica, prior to his employment as a statistician at the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN). At STATIN, David primarily works on the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) as one of the main contributors to its analysis and on the Reproductive Health Survey (RHS), the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and the Jamaican Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC) in questionnaire design.

“Completing the sampling course has provided me with an appreciation for sampling methods and the analysis of survey data. It also afforded me opportunities for work in the designing surveys and preparing some features of the complex survey sample design. It has also improved my knowledge in the area of analysis and in working with other analytical software.”

Melike Saraç (Kish Fellow) is a research assistant and PhD candidate at the Department of Social Research Methodology, Institute of Population Studies, Hacettepe University, Turkey. She has been working in the same department for more than seven years. She has worked in certain household surveys; 2014 National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey, various migration researches, and lastly 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey (2018 TDHS). She received her Master’s degrees from both departments of Mathematics and Social Research Methodology. Her research interests include survey methodology, survey quality and total survey error, non-response, interviewer characteristics, interviewer and respondent relations, sampling design, data quality, respondent selection techniques, social desirability bias and mismeasurement of survey responses.

“The Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians in the 74th Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques was a great opportunity to learn various dimensions of sampling under different circumstances. This was an excellent learning opportunity to combine theory and practice through real life experiences.

“Methods of Survey Sampling” that provides new concepts on diverse topics during the sample design as well as adjustments after the data collection. Raphael Nishimura and Sunghee Lee discussed and solved problems to deal with sampling issues. The course “Workshop in Survey Sampling Techniques” provided many actual survey examples based on experiences of instructors around the world. The course also focused on recent hot topics in sampling and surveys such as big data and grid sampling. Third course “Analysis of Complex Sample Survey Data” provided many examples that use complex sample survey data and statistical results affected from complex

sample design. Brady West discussed many problems in detail using different data sets and analysis programs.

I am very glad to be a part of Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians in the 74th Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques. This was the best learning experience in terms of developing my skills on sampling as well as statistical analysis. I would like to thank instructors Raphael Nishimura, Brady West, Jim Lepkowski, Sunghee Lee, and each guest faculty for sharing their experiences in the field.”

Method Tuisenge (Kish Fellow) is a Research Statistician at the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) who has spent more than 5 years extracting insights from data. During his time at NISR, he has administered large-scale national sample surveys from sample design stage, data collection, data processing, data management through analysis and production of final reports. His area of focus includes mainly poverty and labor force-related surveys. Methode holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Statistics (second class upper) from the University of Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda and he graduated from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China with a Master of Public Administration with concentration in Public Policy Analysis.

“The knowledge that I have acquired from the 2021 sampling program was priceless. This program offered me an opportunity to acquire both theoretical and practical knowledge on survey processes especially the practical aspect in the survey design as well as Analysis of complex sample survey data. I believe it will be of great importance to me in my work at NISR as well as for my home country, Rwanda and beyond.”

Perkins Watambwa (Kish Fellow) is a sampling statistician at Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT). He is from Mashonaland East Province and his hometown is Chivhu. First, he earned a degree in Applied Mathematics at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). His main interests lie in Mathematics and its role in addressing real-life challenges, and he is a holder of a BSc Honors Degree in Applied Mathematics and is now finishing up his MSc in Financial Engineering from the National University of Science and Technology. Perkins' aim is to help his community through creating algorithms and models focused on solving complex social issues.

“The sampling program for survey statisticians (SPSS) armed me with necessary and sufficient tools to spearhead my life goals. I aim to make a difference in communities through producing finer estimates about sample designs and population parameters on different variables. Governments, NGOs, SADC, EU and other policy makers sorely rely on these finer estimates for policy implementation hence I am well equipped for this demand. The program presents me with

an opportunity to become an ambassador and bridge the gap in our current national statistics and tertiary education for the benefit of future generations. The program also instills confidence in me, as a sampling statistician you meet up with people from different organizations all asking about how you design your samples and you have to explain sampling matters to them hence my confidence have been boosted and sampling concepts have been cemented in me.”

Duane West is from the island of Jamaica where he works as a statistician at the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN). At STATIN, primarily he is involved in the overall management of routine and ad hoc surveys from the design and sampling phase, training of interviewers and data collection through to data analysis, reporting and data dissemination.

“My participation in the Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians was the blessing I never realized I needed. Throughout the 10 weeks, I gained so much knowledge and was able to expose myself to so many new aspects of survey research, design and analysis that I am happy I grabbed the opportunity to participate in the program when it was offered to me.

Now that I have completed the program, I am in a better place to effectively complete my work tasks in a way that would make instructors proud and also my superiors.”