



ASA GEORGIA CHAPTER

Winter Lecture Series

4:00 PM, Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Zoom link will be posted on <https://www.amstatgeorgia.org/events>

Dr. Sharon Lohr

Professor Emerita, Arizona State University and Statistical Consultant

Sweatshops, Smallpox, and Statistics: Florence Kelley in 1890s Chicago

We often think of the 1890s as a time when the theories of regression, correlation, and distribution functions were being formalized in England. But in 1890s Chicago, innovations in data collection, synthesis, and display were being led by the women of Hull House. Hull House resident Florence Kelley, who was Factory Inspector for the state of Illinois, led the data collections for investigations into the conditions of workers in the sweating system and other investigations on the spread of smallpox. Hull House Maps and Papers, published in 1895, set a new standard for graphical display of data. In this nontechnical talk, I will discuss Kelley's background and contributions to statistics. Along the way, we'll meet some of the other statisticians in Kelley's orbit---Agnes Sinclair Holbrook, Edith Abbott, and Isabel Eaton---and explore her connection with statistics in Georgia. Finally, I'll discuss how the work of these pioneering female statisticians relates to some of the challenges we face in survey sampling today and how we might benefit from their insights.

About the Speaker

Sharon Lohr has published widely about survey sampling, design of experiments, and statistical methods for education, public policy, law, and crime. She is the author of numerous articles in statistics journals and of the books *Sampling: Design and Analysis* (with new third edition published in November 2021), and *Measuring Crime: Behind the Statistics*. Formerly Dean's Distinguished Professor of Statistics at Arizona State University and a Vice President at Westat, she is now a freelance statistical consultant and writer. Her website is www.sharonlohr.com.



Sharon is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute, and the inaugural recipient of the Gertrude M. Cox award for contributions to statistical practice. Other honors include being selected to give the Morris Hansen Lecture in 2009, the Deming Lecture in 2014, and the Waksberg Lecture in 2021.

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