

Miron L. Straf
Biographical Information

(More information is available at www.straf.net)

Recent Positions: Affiliated Faculty, School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech, 2018-present. Visiting Scholar, Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory, Virginia Biocomplexity Institute, Virginia Tech, 2015-2018.

Former Positions: Deputy Director, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Academy of Sciences, 1999-2015. Director 1987-99, Research Director 1978-87, and Research Associate 1974-77, Committee on National Statistics, National Academy of Sciences; Senior Staff Associate for Planning, Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, National Science Foundation, 2000-2001 (on leave from NAS); Visiting Scholar, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation, and Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, 1999 (on leave from NAS); Lecturer in Statistics, The London School of Economics and Political Science, 1977-78; Senior Visiting Research Fellow, United Nations Environment Programme, University of London, 1977; Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, 1969-74.

Degrees: Ph.D., 1969, Statistics, The University of Chicago; M.S., 1965, and B.S., 1964, Mathematics, Carnegie Mellon University.

Fields of Major Research Activity: Statistics, theoretical and applied; the use of statistics and behavioral and social science research in public policy; national statistics and the federal statistical system; national research and innovation systems.

Selected Publications: “Weak convergence of stochastic processes with several parameters,” *Proceedings of the Sixth Berkeley Symposium on Mathematical Statistics and Probability*, 1972; “Ultraviolet radiation as a cause of cancer” (with E. L. Scott), *Origins of Human Cancer*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1977; “Revenue allocation by regression: National Health Service appropriations for teaching hospitals,” *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, 1981; “Lexical storage and retrieval: A developing skill?” (with Jean Aitchison), *Linguistics*, 1981; “Risk assessment in environmental decision making,” *Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Statistics and the Environment, The American Statistician*, 1982; *Cognitive Aspects of Survey Methodology* (with Thomas B. Jabine, Judith Tanur, and Roger Tourangeau, co-eds.), National Academy Press, 1984; *Sharing Research Data* (with Stephen E. Fienberg and Margaret E. Martin, co-eds.), National Academy Press, 1985; *The Future of Meta-Analysis* (with Kenneth W. Wachter, co-ed.), Russell Sage Foundation, 1990; *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency* (with Margaret E. Martin, co-ed.), National Academy Press, 1993. Second edition in 2001, third edition in 2005, fourth edition in 2009 (with Margaret E. Martin and Constance F. Citro, co-eds.), fifth edition in 2013 (with Constance F. Citro, co-ed.); “The Committee on National Statistics: Fostering interactions between statisticians in academia and government” (with Stephen E. Fienberg and Margaret E. Martin),

International Statistical Review, 1995; “Understanding and evaluating statistical evidence in litigation” (with Stephen E. Fienberg and Samuel Krislov), *Jurimetrics*, 1995; “Government statistics,” entry in *The International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, First Edition, Pergamon Press, 2001, Second Edition, Elsevier, 2015; “Policy information,” entry in *The International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Pergamon Press, 2001; “Information and Statistical Data: A Distinction with a Difference” (with Norman M. Bradburn), The Eleventh Morris Hansen Lecture, *Journal of Official Statistics*, 2003; “Fostering trust to motivate responses: It’s not just a matter of confidentiality,” *Chance*, 2004; *Using Science as Evidence in Public Policy* (with Kenneth Prewitt and Thomas A. Schwandt, co-eds.), National Academies Press, 2012; *Furthering America’s Research Enterprise* (with Richard F. Celeste and Ann Griswold, co-eds.), National Academies Press, 2014.

Honors: President of the American Statistical Association, 2002. American Association of Public Opinion Research Innovator’s Award (with Thomas B. Jabine, Judith M. Tanur, and Roger Tourangeau) for developing the field of cognitive aspects of survey methodology, cited for a “catalyzing effect on research on survey measurement,” 2005.

Related Professional Activities: Developed and organized over 50 major studies and over 40 conferences in the application of statistics to public policy that have led to published reports. Member, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation committee to study the epidemiology of mental retardation in Sweden, 1981-82; member, National Academy of Sciences delegation of social scientists to the Soviet Academy of Sciences, 1990; fellow, Royal Statistical Society; member, International Statistical Institute (elected 1985), International Association for Official Statistics, Washington Statistical Society, and Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Author of 38 humorous articles published as a regular column in *Chance* magazine, 1988-98.

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