
JOHN H. THOMPSON

BRIEF CAREER HISTORY

Extensive Senior Executive leadership in the non-profit and federal sectors, with experience in social science research and statistics, congressional advocacy, building coalitions, operational management, business development, stakeholder relations, innovation, and strategic vision.

Independent Consultant, August 2018 to present

Consulting service focusing on survey methodology, executive leadership, the Federal Statistical System, and decennial census. Activities have included:

- Expert witness for the plaintiffs in two court cases opposing the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census
 - New York Immigration Coalition, et al v. United States Department of Commerce and Wilbur Ross, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, and
 - Robyn Kravitz et al., v. United States department of Commerce, et al
- Training news media journalists on the 2020 Census with Georgetown University, the Poynter Center, and the Harvard Shorenstein Center.
- Providing consultation services to NORC at the University of Chicago

Executive Director, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics – July 2017 to August 2018

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) was founded in 1981 to coordinate activities of a number of Associations, Organizations, and Businesses that rely on federal statistics to support good governance and economic growth. COPAFS now represents a growing body of stakeholders that support the production and use of high quality statistics. The Executive Director represents these stakeholders in realizing their mission to *Advance Excellence in Federal Statistics*. Activities include:

- Advocated on behalf of federal agencies. For example, COPAFS is a co-chair of the Friends of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Friends of the National Center for Health Statistics;
 - Worked with stakeholder coalitions to support proper funding for the 2020 Census and the American Community Survey;
 - Ensured members of Congress, COPAFS members, and other stakeholders were informed of critical issues facing agencies that produce federal statistics;
 - Alerted members and stakeholders of breaking issues that needed immediate support and attention;
 - Organized and supported ongoing educational efforts for members of Congress and their staff on the value and importance of federal statistics both nationally and in their own states and districts;
 - Created and joined in powerful coalitions of organizations and businesses to advocate on behalf of federal agencies that produce statistics, building broad support across a wide spectrum of data users;
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- Built partnerships with foundations that help fund critical research in the statistical agencies and academia to ensure the on-going modernization of how statistical data are created and made available to the public and researchers, and to fund educational efforts;
- Worked closely with the Chief Statistician of the United States and the statistical agencies to help inform and promote modernization efforts underway and assist agencies in keeping abreast of new stakeholder data needs; and
- Hosted events to demonstrate the importance of federal statistics such as the 2018 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research and Policy Conference.

Director, United States Census Bureau – August 2013 to June 2017

Appointed by the President as Director of the largest federal statistical agency, with a staff of over 5,000 headquarters employees and approximately 10,000 to 15,000 staff spread across the United States in six regional offices and a major production facility in Indiana, with an annual budget exceeding \$1 billion. Key accomplishments include:

- Worked successfully with the executive and legislative branches of the federal government, including the White House, the Office of Management and Budget, Cabinet officials, and members of Congress and congressional staff, to accomplish a major transformation of the Census Bureau into a forward-looking 21st century statistical agency. Testified at 6 congressional hearings on the Census Bureau;
 - Provided a conceptual vision and lead a redesign of the 2020 decennial census that is estimated to save \$5 billion through effective use of operations research-driven reengineering of field operations, innovative use of technology, and partnership with key stakeholders;
 - Lead outreach to key stakeholders including representatives of state local and tribal governments; advocacy organizations; professional associations, business groups, various media; and academic researchers;
 - Put in place a robust research program to support mission critical activities, such as linking administrative records, disclosure avoidance methods, economic studies, statistical research, survey methodology, big data, and data dissemination;
 - Lead efforts to maintain congressional support and funding for the American Community Survey, a critical data asset of the federal government, including mobilizing a diverse group of key stakeholders to effectively advocate in support of the survey, personally visiting almost all of the House of Representatives and Senate members of the Census Bureau appropriations and oversight committees, and establishing a program of research directly related to the concerns that had been raised;
 - Improved economic statistics through research on using alternatives to direct survey data collection to produce statistics that are timelier and have increased granularity, and carrying out three initiatives to advance the release of principal economic indicators on trade, retail sales and services, which allowed the Bureau of Economic Analysis to significantly reduce revisions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates;
 - Recruited outstanding research staff including new senior leadership for Research and Methodology, the Director of a newly established big data center, and seven former Presidential Innovation Fellows; and
 - Improved data dissemination to the public, including development of a platform to deliver data in ways that will meet the rapidly evolving demands of a growing body of users. In addition,
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in order to meet immediate targeted demands two new tools were released: City SDK (Software Development Kit) to allow easy developer access; and Census Business Builder a tool that combines small area demographic and economic data in a way that is easily accessible for entrepreneurs and small business owners.

President and Executive Vice President, NORC at the University of Chicago – July 2002 to August 2013

NORC is a national non-profit organization that conducts high quality social science research in the public interest. As President, I had responsibility for all NORC corporate activities and for the quality of all NORC research efforts. I provided vision for NORC to establish the organization as a leader in the social science research industry. My accomplishments included:

- Strengthened the organization's high-quality, diverse staff;
- Broadened the scope of the collaborations between NORC and the University of Chicago;
- Realized nearly 50 percent growth in revenue and greatly expanding NORC's portfolio of business and research programs; and
- Provided leadership in the social science research community - selected to be a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), elected to serve a term as Chair of the Social Statistics Section of the ASA, and chaired the 2009 ASA Committee on Fellows. Also elected as a member of the Committee on National Statistics, serving on two National Academy of Sciences panels addressing 2010 and 2020 Census concerns.

As Executive Vice President of Survey Operations (2002 – 2008), I provided oversight and direction to the Economics, Labor Force, and Demography Research Department, the Statistics and Methodology Department, and Survey Operations for field and telephone data collection. My major accomplishments included:

- Provided leadership and guidance for a major corporate initiative, the National Immunization Survey, which is conducted on behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and is the largest telephone survey in the United States conducted via random digit dialing for scientific purposes.
 - Significantly increased the productivity and cost effectiveness of NORC's overall data collection activities;
 - Successfully utilized skills in directing large project start-ups, and in managing large complex operations, directing the project through the completion of the first contract phase, which included the first year of data collection and the delivery of the first data set; and
 - All survey operations were completed on schedule, and within budget including the delivery of an extremely complex data set, and a public use file.
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Principal Associate Director and Associate Director for Decennial Census Programs, United States Census Bureau – 1997 to July 2002

Served as the senior career executive responsible for all aspects of the 2000 Decennial Census. This was the largest peacetime mobilization undertaken by the U.S. government, with a budget of \$6.5 billion, establishment of over 500 field offices, a temporary workforce that peaked at over 500,000, and establishment of telephone capacity to receive over 5 million calls over a period of one month. I was also chairman and director of the Executive Steering Committee for Accuracy & Coverage Evaluation Policy for the 2000 Census. This Committee was charged with making a recommendation as to whether or not to adjust the 2000 Census redistricting data for coverage errors, an issue fraught with political disagreement and controversy. This work was widely recognized as superb – with the Committee’s recommendation supported by numerous reviews, including the National Academy of Sciences Panel on evaluating Census 2000.

EDUCATION

- M.S. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1975 Mathematics
Graduate course work in statistics - George Washington University 1977-1981
- B.S. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1973 Mathematics

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ASSOCIATIONS

American Statistical Association, 1975 to Present

Chair, Social Statistics Section – 2011

Chair, ASA Committee on Fellows - 2009

National Academy of Sciences,

Member of the Committee on National Statistics – 2011 - 2013

Member of the Panel on the Design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments

Member of the Panel to Review the 2010 Census

HONORS AND AWARDS

Virginia Tech College of Science Hall of Distinction inaugural class, 2013

Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, 2001

Department of Commerce, Gold Medal, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

Elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association, 2000

Department of Commerce, Silver Medal, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998

Department of Commerce, Bronze Medal, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1988

PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 Thompson, John H and Yablon, Robert. Issue Brief: "Preparing for the 2020 Census Considerations for State Attorneys General". American Constitution Society., October 10, 2018
- 2012 Thompson, John H. (Panel Member). "Panel Discussion: Considering Changing Sectors in the Research Industry?: Advice From Those Who Have Done It!" AAPOR 67th Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida, May 19, 2012
- 2012 Thompson, John H. (Discussant). "Future is Now: Realignment of Current Survey Management and Operations at the Census Bureau". Population Association of America 2012 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, May 4, 2012.
- 2012 Thompson, John H. (Discussant). "Use of Administrative Records in the 2020 Census." Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, Washington, DC., January 10, 2012
- 2011 Weinberg, Daniel H. and Thompson, John H., "Organization and Administration of the 2010 U.S. Census." In Margo J. Anderson, Constance F. Citro, and Joseph J. Salvo (eds.) *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census*, Second Edition, CQ Press., July 2011
- 2010 Thompson, John H., "Challenges, Innovation and Quality for the 21st Century" Keynote Speech at the 2010 FCSM Statistical Policy Seminar, Washington, DC, December 14, 2010.
- 2010 Thompson, John H., "The Future of Survey Research: Opportunities and Challenges" Paper presented at the Applied Demography Conference, San Antonio, Texas., January 11, 2010 and at the Population Association of America 2010 Annual meeting, Dallas, Texas, April 15, 2010.
- 2008 Thompson, John H. (Panel Member). "Panel Discussion: The American Community Survey: Promise, Products and Perspectives." Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 17, 2008.
- 2006 Thompson, John H. (Discussant). "Census 2010: A New Census for the 21st Century." Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California, March 30, 2006.
- 2004 Thompson, John H., "Interviewer Falsification of Survey Data." Paper presented at the Joint Meetings of the American Statistical Association, Toronto, Canada, August 11, 2004.
- 2003 Thompson, John H., "Is Interviewer Falsification Scientific Misconduct?" Roundtable paper presented at the American Association for Public Opinion Research 58th Annual Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, May 16, 2003.
- 2002 Thompson, John H. (Discussant). "Eliminating the 2010 Census Long Form? – Current Status of the American Community Survey." Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, May 9, 2002.
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- 2001 Thompson, John H., "Decision on Release of Statistically Corrected Redistricting Data." Invited paper presented at the Joint Meetings of the American Statistical Association, Atlanta Georgia, August 6, 2001.
- 1999 Thompson, John H., "Census 2000 – Innovations and New Technology." Paper presented at the Economic Commission for Europe's Conference of European Statisticians Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, February 15-17, 1999.
- 1998 Thompson, John H. and Robert E. Fay, "Census 2000: The Statistical Issues." Paper presented at the Joint Meetings of the American Statistical Association, Dallas, Texas, August 9-13, 1998.
- 1996 Thompson, John H. and Karen Mills, "Census 2000 Content: Tradeoffs on Cost, Quality, and Quantity." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, Louisiana, May 9-11, 1996.
- 1995 Thompson, John H., Mary H. Mulry, Susan M. Miskura, "Census 2000: Statistical Issues in Reengineering the Decennial Census." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association, Orlando, Florida, August 13-17, 1995.
- 1992 Fay, Robert E. and John H. Thompson, "The 1990 Post-Enumeration Survey: Statistical Lessons in, Hindsight." Paper presented at the Annual Research Conference, March 22-25, 1992, Arlington, Virginia.
- 1989 Edson, Robert G. and John H. Thompson, "1990 Decennial Census Coverage Improvement Program." Paper presented at the Annual Winter Meetings of the American Statistical Association, San Diego, California, January, 1989.
- 1988 Navarro, Alfredo, John H. Thompson, and Linda Flores-Baez, "Results of Data Switching Simulation." Paper presented to the Census Advisory Committees at the Joint Advisory Committee Meetings, Oxon Hill, Maryland, April, 1988.
- 1987 Griffin, Richard A. and John H. Thompson, "Confidentiality Techniques for the 1990 Census." Paper presented to the Census Advisory Committees at the Joint Advisory Committee Meetings, Oxon Hill, Maryland, October, 1987.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Programs to Improve Coverage in the 1980 Census," by John H. Thompson. Evaluation and Research Reports, PHC80-E3.
- 1986 Thompson, John H. and David Franklin, "Test Census Results and Applications for the 1990 Planning." Paper presented at the Census Bureau Second Annual Research Conference, Reston, Virginia, March, 1986.
- 1984 Miskura, Susan M., John H. Thompson, Henry F. Woltman, "Uses of Sampling for the Census Count." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August, 1984.
- Fan, Milton C., Martha L. Sutt, and John H. Thompson, "Evaluation of the 1980 Census Precanvass Coverage Improvement Program." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August, 1984.
- Keeley, Catherine and John H. Thompson, "The 1980 Census Nonhousehold Sources Program." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August, 1984.
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- 1983 Miskura, Susan M. and John H. Thompson, "1980 Census Findings and Their Implications for 1990 Census Planning." Presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings, Toronto, Canada, August, 1983.
- Tauber, Cynthia and John H. Thompson, "1980 Census Data: The Quality of the Data and Some Anomalies." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, April, 1983.
- 1982 Fan, Milton C., John H. Thompson, Jay Kim, and Henry F. Woltman, "Sample Design, Estimation and Presentation of Sampling Errors for the 1980 Census Early Publications National Sample." Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Statistical Association, Chicago, Illinois, August, 1982.
- 1981 Woltman, Henry F., Susan M. Miskura, John H. Thompson, and Peter A. Bounpane, "1980 Census Weighting and Variance Estimation Studies, Design and Methodology." Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Statistical Association, Detroit, Michigan, August, 1981.
- Kim, Jay, John H. Thompson, Henry F. Woltman, and Stephen M. Vajs, "Empirical Results from the 1980 Census Sample Estimation Study." Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Statistical Association, Detroit, Michigan, August, 1981.
- Fan, Milton, C., John H. Thompson, and Susan M. Miskura, "1980 Census Variance Estimation Procedure." Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Statistical Association, Detroit, Michigan, August, 1981.
- Thompson, John H., "Convergence Properties of the Iterative 1980 Census Estimator." Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Statistical Association, Detroit, Michigan, August, 1981.
- 1978 Thompson, John H., "The Nonhousehold Sources Program." Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Statistical Association, San Diego, California, August, 1978.
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