

## Preface

This issue is the hundredth in 30 years of publishing *Statistics in Transition*. The first issue appeared in July 1993, and for the next fifteen years it was a semi-annual publication. In 2007 the title of the journal was slightly changed to *Statistics in Transition new series* and it became a quarterly publication. To celebrate the historical significance of these milestones, we dedicate the first part of this issue to them, opening it with a specially prepared Invitation Paper, along with four discussion pieces of the issues raised in that paper.

With a sense of deep gratitude and the highest appreciation we would like to thank, both personally and on behalf of all the editorial bodies, Professor Graham Kalton for preparing his Invited Paper entitled ***Probability vs. Nonprobability Sampling: From the Birth of Survey Sampling to the Present Day***. Dr. Kalton is a long-time friend of our journal, and he serves as a member of our Editorial Board. The issues discussed in Dr. Kalton's paper are particularly appropriate at this time as major changes are taking place in survey research methods and in sources of official statistics. The paper and the discussion pieces should therefore be of interest to members of the international statistician community and to members of national statistical offices.

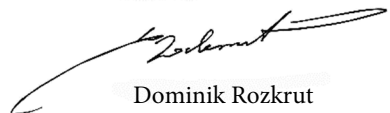
Despite the relatively short time for reactions, we are grateful to five eminent experts, four of whom are associated with *SiTns*, for preparing four discussion pieces related to the paper. The authors of the four discussions are Professor Danny Pfeffermann, Dr. Julie Gershunskaya and Professor Partha Lahiri, Professor Risto Lehtonen, and Professor Ralf Münnich. Each of the discussions provides insightful observations supplementing some of the issues picked out from those discussed by Graham Kalton. They share concerns about the current challenges to probability sampling and design-based inference primarily caused by the serious declines in response rates, especially in high-income countries. They point to the possibilities of using alternative modalities (administrative data, big data, internet data, scientific data, etc.) for data collection that can supplement or replace probability samples. They describe the considerable body of research that is in progress to enable these alternative data sources to produce valid population estimates from the nonprobability samples associated with the modalities, and to the data integration methods that are being developed to combine the data obtained from different sources.

An *addendum* to this section contains a paper by Professor Jacek Wesolowski entitled *Rotation schemes and Chebyshev polynomials*, as being inspired in a way by the Invited Paper, and as an indication of other types of effects that it may have as well.

It is noteworthy that as our journal celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the journal's name *Statistics in Transition* well reflects the radical changes in the methodology of survey statistics and official statistics that are currently underway, as indicated in the Invited Paper and the discussions in this section.



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