



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* ST. LOUIS  
CENTRAL TO AMERICA'S ECONOMY\*

# Beyond *the* Numbers

November 17-19, 2021

## November 17 — “Accessing IPUMS Harmonized Population Microdata”

Matt Sobek began working with population microdata in the 1990s and co-authored the first full version of IPUMS with Steven Ruggles in 1997. He will use IPUMS USA as an example to demonstrate the major features of their dissemination system. He will present some background about IPUMS microdata and explain what is meant by harmonization. After demonstrating the USA system, he'll briefly describe the other IPUMS data collections and what makes them unique.

## November 18 — “The Data Detective: Simple Ideas to Make Sense of the Numbers All Around Us”

Tim Harford discusses the way statistics can be used to conceal but also to illuminate the truth and offers hard-won advice about thinking clearly and with curiosity about the numbers we see every day.

Tim Harford is a behavioral economist, BBC radio and TV presenter and award-winning *Financial Times* columnist.

He has written eight books, including *The Undercover Economist*, which has sold nearly 2 million copies in over 30 languages. His BBC Radio 4 series, *More or Less*, offers a genial smackdown of dubious statistics, while his BBC World Service radio series *Fifty Things That Made the Modern Economy* was a critical success and iTunes-topper.

Tim's most recent book is *The Data Detective* (February 2021). In *The Data Detective*, he uses new research in science and psychology to set out 10 strategies for using statistics to erase our biases and replace them with new ideas that use virtues like patience, curiosity, and good sense to better understand ourselves and the world.

## November 18, 2021 — “Data Literacy Credentials and Badges”

The Research Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis is widely known for its flagship data service FRED®, and this session is presented by the division's Research and Information Services team. An integral part of our work of facilitating access to data is building capacity among consumers to use data effectively and accurately. To that end, we regularly facilitate professional development programs and events for educators, journalists, and business professionals. Please join this presentation of our latest initiative to develop data literacy competencies among librarians through an asynchronous online course paired with personalized digital credentials.

## November 19 — Overcoming Challenges to Complete the 2020 Decennial Census

This session is presented by U.S. Census Bureau Office Staff and Dominic Beamer, Chief, Nonresponse Operations Branch, Decennial Census Management Division. The Decennial Census is the largest peacetime mobilization in America and takes nearly a decade to plan. The 2020 Decennial Census faced unprecedented challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff at all levels of the organization contributed to adjustments that led to the successful enumeration of the country. Please join this discussion about the obstacles the Census Bureau faced and the data collection innovations executed to achieve their goal to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

