

ISI Newsletter

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ISI Newsletter

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International Statistical Institute
NEWSLETTER

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Representing:
International Statistical Institute
(See page 2)
Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability
(See page 8)
International Association of Survey Statisticians
(See page 11)
International Association of Statistical Computing
(See page 9)
International Association for Official Statistics
(See page 12)

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Contents:
Message from the President
ISI Dublin Session: 16-21 August 2009
Inaugural Paper Session
ISI Dublin Session
News of Members
In Memoriam
ISI Commission Matters
ISI Committee on Risk Analysis
ISI Membership Ethics Committee
Historical Statistics (William Gernsheim Lecture)
Bernoulli Anniversary (William Gernsheim Lecture)
International Association for Official Statistics and Probability
International Committee on Official Statistics
International Association for Regional and Urban Statistics
International Statistical Institute for Statistics Education
International Statistical Legacy Project
International Association of Statistical Computing
Young Fisher Society for Survey Methodology
The International Committee on General Bank Statistics
Members of the ISI's Past
Calendar of Events: <http://www.isi.nl/isi2010.htm>



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Contents:

President's Message	2
Director's Message	3
58 th ISI World Statistics Congress, Dublin, Ireland, 21-26 August 2011	3
News of Members	6
ISI Membership Elections 2009	7
In Memoriam	8
ISI Committee Matters: ISI Astrostatistics Committee and Network	11
Historical Anniversaries: Thomas Simpson	12
Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability	13
International Association for Official Statistics	16
Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics	17
International Association for Statistics Education	18
International Statistical Literacy Project	18
International Association for Statistical Computing	19
International Association of Survey Statisticians	22
International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics	23
The International Environmetrics Society	27
Memories of the ISI's Past	28



Calendar of Events: <http://isi.cbs.nl/calendar.htm>



President's Message



Jef Teugels
ISI President

Dear Members of the ISI and the Associations,

Let me use this opportunity to wish all of you a very successful 2010.

Allow me to add a number of points to the message that has been sent by the Permanent Office. In that e-mail, I asked for your help and suggestions for the first World Statistics Day 20-10-2010, for the 125th anniversary of the ISI and for suggestions for the Short Courses in Dublin next year. (Moreover, the ISI members have been asked to give their agreement on a procedure to gain the immediate support of 2 Member Auditors.)

1. Progress with the next *World Statistics Congress in Dublin*, August 21-26, 2011, is going well. Please consult the website www.isi2011.ie for up-to-date information. We of course expect a very large group of participants, in particular from developing countries. The ISI will do its utmost to reduce as much as possible the financial burden for the developing country participants.

2. The Executive Committee (EC) of the ISI met in The Hague, December 7-8, 2009. The agenda of the meeting was very extensive. I would like to inform you about a number of items that were discussed.

(a) After preparation by the EC, the Council was asked to make a number of decisions in connection with the ISI Committees. As a result, the following has been decided.

(i) Since the *ISI Glossary Committee*, under the chairmanship of René Padieu, has finished its assignment, the Committee has been abolished. The safeguarding of the content and operating facilities of the *Glossary* have been taken up by Council member Jens Ledet Jensen, who has been added as an ex-officio Council representative to the ISI Publications Committee.

(ii) The Council has agreed to the establishment of an *ISI Committee on Astrostatistics*. The Committee aims to foster collaborative research efforts between astrophysicists and statisticians with an interest in the

analysis of astronomical data. The Chair of the Committee is Joseph M. Hilbe who started the initiative. We invite interested members to contact Joe at hilbe@asu.edu. For more information on the Committee, read the Chair's contribution further in the issue of the *ISI Newsletter*.

(iii) In order to help Ali Hadi, the new Editor-in-Chief of the *International Statistical Review*, in his attempts to improve the quality of our flagship journal of our Institute, the Council has agreed to establish an *Advisory Committee for International Statistical Review*. A summary of the tasks for the Committee will be announced soon.

(b) Just before the ISI Session in Durban, the members of the Council had been asked to help the ISI, and in particular the EC, by taking up the responsibility for one *Portfolio*. I am pleased to say that the response was overwhelmingly positive. At its December 2009 meeting, the EC had already received four extensive reports that will be followed up on over the next year. All of these portfolios need thorough discussion before they can be implemented into decisions by the Council. We hope to report on a number of them after the next Council meeting that will be held in Iceland, July 22-23, 2010.

(c) One of the main tasks of the current ISI Governance is to prepare a serious revision of the *ISI Statutes and By-Laws*. I am sure that everybody who has ever dealt with such an exercise knows how difficult this assignment is. Both the EC and the Council are committed to fulfil this task by the end of their term of office, namely the World Statistics Congress in Dublin. It goes without saying that the membership of the ISI and of the Associations will get full insight into the proposed texts well ahead of that date.

3. The Executive Committee envisages to regularly spend part of every meeting discussing important ISI issues in full detail. For example, in its next gathering in Singapore, May 3-5, the EC will brainstorm about the Quality of the *World Statistics Congresses*. Also, the Council is expected to go through similar exercises but for problems with an even wider scope. We invite the membership to offer us their suggestions for such *brainstorming topics*.

I really hope that all of you are convinced of our intentions to greatly intensify the interaction between the EC, the Council and the membership of the ISI and the Associations. We all have a responsibility towards an institute that needs to rejuvenate, even at (or perhaps because of) its age of 125.

Jef Teugels
ISI President

ISI Officers' Elections 2011-2013

Please note that the ISI Officers' Elections for the positions of President-Elect and Vice-Presidents (term of office 2011-2013) is scheduled for August 2010.

Proposed candidates for these positions will be available on the ISI website at the end of April. The final list of the candidates and their mission statements will be available on the ISI website in June 2010.

Only ISI members are eligible to vote. The ISI members who have requested the *ISI Newsletter* in hard copy format will receive the information by post.

Director's Message



Ada van Krimpen
ISI Director

My very best wishes to all members of the ISI and the Sections for a Happy New Year.

The year 2010 will be a special year in many respects. To begin with, it will be marked by the 100th issue of the *ISI Newsletter*. Secondly, the ISI - founded in 1885 - will celebrate its 125th anniversary. And lastly, the ISI will participate in the first World Statistics Day scheduled for 20th October 2010.

The 100th issue of the *ISI Newsletter* was a good reason to explore our archives and to have a closer look at all preceding 99 issues. On the cover of this *Newsletter*, you will see a compilation of the covers of the issues over the years. The *Newsletter* in its present form will cease to exist at some point this year. News items will appear with a more regular interval on our new website, which we hope will go live by the middle of this year. One of the advantages of this is that the ISI members will be informed about the developments occurring within our organisation more frequently. On the other hand, we are also aware of the fact that some of you would like to continue receiving a paper version of the *Newsletter*. Therefore, the Publications Committee wishes to investigate the possibilities for a proper follow-up of the present *Newsletter*.

Looking into the past issues of the *Newsletters* shows that since 1977, when the first issue was published, a lot has changed within our organization. However, many items are still on our agenda. The first *Newsletter* was intended for the members of the ISI, and its three Sections at the time: Bernoulli Society, IASS and the then existing International Association for Regional and Urban Statistics (IARUS, now SCORUS). Among the topics discussed were the 41st ISI Session in Delhi, India, the World Fertility Survey and the 100st Anniversary of the ISI. Over the years, the new Sections were covered and more general topics were discussed. Some of the subjects discussed at that time still concern us today. For

instance, I have learned about the discussions in the nineties to increase the ISI membership, the possibility to have all Sections' members also as associate members of the ISI, and the need for an increase in the ISI's human as well as financial resources. These are still relevant questions today! One of the ambitions of the present Executive Committee is to make progress in all these questions - with the support of our members.

One of the new features is dedicated to the ISI's LinkedIn Group. LinkedIn is a professional networking website that you can register for via <http://www.linkedin.com/>. Through this group, information can be exchanged and discussions can be initiated among our members. I invite all of you who are active on the Internet to join the group and help us explore the ways of using this new method of communication for a more active exchange of ideas. A discussion has started about what ISI's contribution could be to the World Statistics Day on 20th October 2010 among the few members who have already joined the group at the time of writing this message. A delegation representing the Executive Committee of the ISI will participate in the UN Statistical Commission in February where this topic will be discussed and it would be great if the ISI could contribute to this event. ISI President Jef Teugels has already invited you, our members, to present your ideas to us.

The 125th anniversary of the ISI is a remarkable event as well. The ISI is one of the oldest scientific organisations still alive in the world today; undertaking a lot of activities and new initiatives are definitely worth congratulating. During the course of this year, you will be informed about the activities we are planning to organize. Coincidence or not, but the fact that I am invited to give a presentation about the ISI in St. Petersburg this month was a good reason to give the history of our organisation and its predecessors, the 19th century statistical congresses, more attention. There are many lessons to be learned from this rich history and experiences, and I hope that we can find new ways for making them available to you, our members.

In 2010, news ways of communication will be explored and implemented, while keeping the good things from the past and learning lessons from our history.

Ada van Krimpen
ISI Director

58th ISI World Statistics Congress, Dublin, Ireland, 21-26 August 2011

Call for Special Topic Session Proposals

Planning for the Scientific Programme of the ISI World Statistics Congress in Dublin is well underway and the Programme Coordinating Committee (PCC) is currently finalising the organisers for the Invited Sessions (please read article below).

The next stage of planning is to choose topics and organisers for the Special Topic Sessions.

The PCC is now calling for proposals for organising Special Topic Sessions from potential organisers, members of the ISI or of one of the Sections. Proposals should be submitted by 30th April 2010 to a relevant member of the PCC, see <http://www.isi2011.ie/pages/scientific-programme/programme-coordinating-committee.php>, or to the Chair of the Local Organising Committee, John Haslett, John.Haslett@tcd.ie.

An organiser of a Special Topic Session proposes the topic and, if that topic is selected, he or she finds speakers who are interested in providing a comprehensive and coordinated presentation of it. The Session lasts for 135 minutes and there are generally 3 to 5 speakers. More information is available at <http://www.isi2011.ie/pages/scientific-programme.php>.

John Haslett
Local Organising Committee Chair

Programme Coordinating Committee - Progress Report

The PCC has now a set of 78 Invited Sessions that have been

agreed and organisers are confirmed for 56 of them. We anticipate that there may be some minor changes in organisers or in titles of sessions. Some sessions on 'late breaking topics', together with sessions on the Water Theme, are to be added. The provisional list is given below. The next tasks are (a) for organisers to identify speakers and their topics and (b) for the PCC, through Sections and Committees, to develop a similar sized list of Special Topic Sessions as mentioned in the above article.

Murray Cameron &
Silvia Regina Costa Lopes
Programme Coordinating Committee Chairs

Title of Invited Session	Section Organising	Other Cooperating Sections	Organiser
Energy Markets	Bernoulli		Fred Spen Benth (Norway)
Statistical approach to turbulence	Bernoulli	TIES	Ole E. Barndorff-Nielsen (Denmark),
Statistics with high frequency data	Bernoulli		Ait-Sahalia (USA)
Estimation under long-range dependence	Bernoulli	TIES	TBA
Statistics in Neuroscience	Bernoulli	TIES	Pedro Morettin (Brazil)
Inference for Stochastic Processes	Bernoulli		Nakahiro Yoshida (Japan)
Forecasting using massive amount of data	Bernoulli	ISBIS	Graciela González (México)
Panel discussion: New challenges in Mathematical Statistics	Bernoulli		TBA
Models for financial markets with transactions costs	Bernoulli	ISBIS	Walter Schachermayer (Austria) Paolo Guasoni (Dublin)
Stereology, Image analysis	Bernoulli		TBA
Population genetics	Bernoulli		Peter Pfaffelhuber (Germany)
Random Evolution	Bernoulli		TBA
Improving International Comparisons of Prices and Sizes of Economies	GTC		Michel Mouyelo-Katoula
Revision of financial accounts in conformity with the SNA2008.	GTC		Paul Van den Bergh
Implementation of FAO modular approach to Integrated Agricultural Census/Survey Programme: Lessons learned, issues and challenges	GTC		Naman Keita
Risk communication to a lay audience reflecting uncertainty and variability issues	GTC	IASE?	John Bailer Christos Kitsos Helen MacGillivray
Statistical risk assessment in trustworthy computing	GTC	IASC (415)	Mehmet Sahanoglu
Adversarial risk analysis in counterterrorism	GTC	ISBIS	David Banks
Stochastic modelling in systems biology	GTC		Byron J.T.Morgan
Statistics of extremes in today's world	GTC		M. Ivette Gomes Jan Beirlant
Integrating biological knowledge in gene expression data analysis	GTC	IASC (402)	David Causeur S. Lê
Algebraic Statistics	GTC		Lawrence H. Cox
Causal inference from observational studies	GTC		Arvid Sjölander
Women's role in fighting poverty and the informal economy	GTC		TBA
Astrostatistics: Statistical challenges for the new data-intensive astronomy	GTC		Joseph Hilbe

Is there economic order within the natural system, and if yes how can we use it to measure and manage poverty?	GTC		Helmut Maier
Statistical analysis of non-linear water systems	GTC		TBA
Network analysis	IAOS		Anuška Ferligoj
Social problems, official statistics and social science	IAOS		Ineke Stoop
Research on the use of registers in producing statistics	IAOS		Peter-Paul Wolf
Recession and Recovery – measuring the impact and situation in cities, neighbouring areas and regions within countries	IAOS		TBA
Using the Internet as a Data Collection Mode	IAOS		Diane Willimack Kyung Ae Park
Paradata: moving from monitoring to use in adaptive survey designs	IAOS	IASS	Gabriele Durrant Barry Schouten
Legal, ethical and privacy issues arising out of increasing use of linked administrative files	IAOS	IASS	Frank Nolan
Setting priorities for a statistics service across government	IAOS		Stephen Penneck
Autonomous Statistical Agencies: Lessons learnt and new challenges	IAOS		Gerardo Leyva Parra
Fundamental challenges for international official statistics	IAOS		Olav Ljones
Measuring well-being	IAOS		Irena Križman Metka Zaletel
Integrating the environment and the economy + Water	IAOS		Peter Harper
Estimating and visualising high dimensional cluster structure	IASC		TBA
Analysis of Insurance Risk Models with Dependence	IASC	ISBIS	TBA
New generations and algorithms of principal component analysis	IASC		TBA
Statistical Shape and Functional Data Analysis	IASC		TBA
Fast computation for Bayesian inference	IASC		TBA
Detection of Structural Changes of statistical models with applications in hydrology	IASC		TBA
Applying results of statistics education research to teaching statistics.	IASE		Joan Garfield (USA) Hans Van Buuren (The Netherlands)
Teaching Courses in Probability Modelling	IASE		Allan Rossman (USA)
Should one attempt to integrate qualitative research approaches in traditional statistics courses? If yes, how?	IASE		Irena Ograjensek (Slovenia)
Opportunities and pitfalls of e-learning, virtual learning environments and open education resources	IASE		Rolf Biehler (Germany) Abbas Bazargan (Iran)
Enhancing statistics education through international cooperation and the use of international data (joint with IAOS)	IASE	IAOS	Reija Helenius (Finland)
Teaching sampling techniques in agriculture, biology and social sciences	IASE		Carla Rossi (Italy) Flavia Mascioli (Italy)
Using popular books and entertainment in teaching statistics.	IASE		Patrick Murphy (Ireland)

Complex analysis for longitudinal data	IASS		Marcel Vieira
Inference for linked data	IASS	IAOS	Ray Chambers
Estimation & inference in complex survey sampling	IASS		TBA
Data mining & machine learning in statistics organisations	IASS	IASC, IAOS	TBA
Best practice methodologies for mixed mode surveys	IASS	IAOS, IASC	Peter Lynn
Record linking and imputation in administrative data	IASS		TBA
Applying and measuring confidentiality methods	IASS		Natalie Shlomo
New approaches for agricultural statistics	IASS		TBA
Small area estimation for complex surveys	IASS		Nikos Tzavidis
Managing the effects of changing measurement technologies on environmental longitudinal surveys.	IASS		TBA
Census strategies	IASS	IAOS	David Dolson
Current Developments in Healthcare Engineering	ISBIS	IASS	Ronald Does
Boundary crossing probabilities and their applications	ISBIS	Bernoulli	Liqun Wang
New Applications of System Signatures in Reliability	ISBIS		Francisco J. Samaniego
Statistical Perspectives to Social Network Analysis	ISBIS	IAOS, IASC	Guiseppe Giordano
Sequential aspects in computer experiments	ISBIS	Bernoulli, TIES	Luc Pronzato
Credit & Credit Scoring	ISBIS		TBA
Understanding water resources and quality through analysis of massive data sets	ISBIS		Karen Kafadar
Space-time modeling	TIES		Alexandra Schmidt
Statistical downscaling	TIES		Peter Guttorp
Sensor networks	TIES	ISBIS	Zhengyuan Zhu (USA)
Multi-sensor data integration	TIES		TBA
Fuzzy data and statistics	TIES		Reinhard Viertl
Environmental epidemiology	TIES		TBA
Environmental sampling	TIES		TBA
Indicators and their role in environmental accounting	TIES		Marian Scott

News of Members



Heli Jeskanen-Sundström

Director General of Statistics Finland receives OECD recognition

“The Secretary General of the OECD has awarded a special diploma to **Heli Jeskanen-Sundström**, Director General of Statistics Finland, in recognition of her contribution to the development and strengthening of co-operation between Finland and the OECD.

“Heli Jeskanen-Sundström has participated widely in OECD’s

statistical co-operation for over two decades, and been Bureau Member of the OECD Committee on Statistics since 2006. To celebrate Finland’s 40 years of membership in the OECD, more than 30 officials of Finland’s state administration were awarded the diploma. The presentation ceremony took place at the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 January 2010.” Mrs. Jeskanen-Sundström is a member of the IAOS.

Source of announcement:

http://www.stat.fi/ajk/poimintoja/2010-01-14_oecd_palkinto_en.html

Photo: Statistics Finland

We regret to announce the deaths of the following members:

	Born	Elected	Deceased
Professor Wilfrid J. Dixon	1915	1975	20 September 2008
Professor Barry H. Margolin	1943	1977	28 January 2009
Professor Dr. Elsa Servy	1928	1985	20 April 2009
Dr. John Clement Koop	1919	1978	9 June 2009
Professor Erich Leo Lehmann*	1917	1954	12 September 2009
Mr. Tom Griffin	1937	1999	31 January 2010
Dr. Hirotugu Akaike	1927	1972	Date unknown
Mr. Peter Reginald Fisk	1929	1971	Date unknown
Dr. Stephen William Lagakos	1946	1980	Date unknown
Professor Dr. Masashi Okamoto	1923	1974	Date unknown

*Correction to the previous ISI Newsletter: The date of death was noted as 13 September 2009.

If you know the date of death of any of the above-mentioned

members whose dates are unknown at the time of publishing this *ISI Newsletter*, we would appreciate your passing the information to Mrs. Margaret de Ruiter-Molloy at m.deruitermolloy@cbs.nl.

ISI Membership Elections 2009

We would like to congratulate the 54 new ISI members, who were elected in the second round of the 2009 ISI membership elections. For those who wish to contact any of these individuals, please note that the ISI website contains a component including the names and addresses of all ISI members (see <http://isi.cbs.nl/isimembers/isimembers.htm>), and these new members will be added to this list in the coming weeks.

Elected Membership

Abucha, Martin G.	Sudan/USA	Liu, Lei	China
Alkafri, Saleh	Palestine	Ma, Yanyuan	China
Al-Nasser, Amjad	Jordan	Machinjili, Charles	Malawi
Amer, Safaa	Egypt	Madaya, Norah T.	Uganda
Banerjee, Moulinath	India	Mbogoni, Margaret	Uganda
Banerjee, Mousumi	USA	Moriarity, Chris	USA
Barroso, Lucia P.	Brazil	Morita, June	USA
Bratanova, Lidia	Bulgaria	Moura, Fernando A. da Silva	Brazil
Castillo, Enrique	Spain	Musana Atai, Imelda M.	Uganda
Chakraborti, Subhabrata	USA	Mwanga, Alifas Y.	Uganda
Chan, Ping Shing Ben	China	Naylor, Jane R.	UK
Chen, Liang	China	Ndawala, Jameson	Malawi
Darnell, Ross	Australia	Owino, Abraham Y.	Uganda
Fassò, Alessandro	Italy	Pronzato, Luc	France
Fernandez, Miguel A.	Spain	Rossmann, Allan	USA
Forzani, Liliana	Argentina	Rueda, Cristina	Spain
Fricker, Ronald D. Jr.	USA	Sampson, Paul D.	USA
Gneyou, Kossi E.	Togo	Sen, Ananda	USA
Jowaheer, Vandna	Mauritius	Shakhshir, Ola	Palestine
Kandala, Ngianga-Bakwin	Congo	Uno, Hajime	Japan
Khawaja, Mustafa Y.M.	Palestine	Wamono, Felix	Uganda
Kontoghiorghes, Erricos J.	Cyprus	Wang, Jing	China
Koyuncugil, Ali S.	Turkey	Wellner, Jon	USA
Kulasekera, Karunarathna B.	USA	Xie, Min	Singapore
Lesser, Virginia	USA	Xu-Doeve, William L.J.	The Netherlands
Li, Bo	China	Zhu, Ji	China
Liu, Anna	China	Zou, Guohua	China

In Memoriam



Hugh Daniel Brunk

Hugh Daniel Brunk*

Aug. 22, 1919-July 19, 2009

Hugh Daniel Brunk, 89, died Sunday, July 19, 2009, at his home in Corvallis.

Born August 22, 1919, in Manteca, California, he was the eldest son of Hugh and Velma Benson Brunk.

Dan received a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a doctorate from the Rice Institute.

In 1942, he married Jean Young. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he began his career as a professor of mathematics and statistics. He taught at Rice; the University of Missouri; the University of California, Riverside; and Oregon State University. He spent sabbaticals as a visiting professor in Denmark, England and Wales.

Professor Brunk was a man of diverse interests and accomplishments. He turned his hand to many things, and excelled in all of them. Dan was the author of numerous mathematical books and papers. He was a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, and was an active elected member since 1973 in the International Statistical Institute, the Mathematical

Association of America and the American Mathematical Society.

He loved music and sang in choirs, choral groups and light opera. He also enjoyed nature and liked to hike.

He married Jean Sherk in 2004 in Corvallis.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Ruth; and his wife, Jean Young Brunk, who died in 1997.

Survivors include his wife, Jean; his daughters, Bridget Glidden and her husband, Derald, of California, Gretchen Armacost and her husband, David, of Massachusetts, and Heidi O'Riley of Colorado; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; his sister, Betty Kempf of Oregon; and his brother, Joe Brunk, of California.

A memorial service took place at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23, at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 N.W. Fifth St.

Memorial donations in his name can be made to one's favorite charity. Online condolences can be made via www.mchenryfuneralhome.com.

**This obituary was originally published in the Corvallis Gazette Times and reprinted with permission.*

Daniel Schwartz (1917-2009)

Daniel Schwartz passed away on 6th September 2009. He was an ISI elected member for 41 years, since 1962, and he resigned for health reasons in 2003. He is legitimately considered as the founder of the French School of Medical Statistics and of the main stream of French epidemiology.

His parents came from Alsace, where they left after its annexation by Germany following the 1870 war. His father was a well-known hospital surgeon. He, as well as his two brothers, did not follow their father's footsteps in the medical field since the three of them were trained in high-level mathematics: the eldest, Laurent, became a universally known mathematician (rewarded with the Fields Medal), Daniel and Bertrand, the youngest, entered Ecole Polytechnique, one of the best higher education establishments in France. Mobilized when the Second World War began, Daniel, after the armistice was signed in 1940 between the Nazi regime and the French Vichy Government, had to take refuge in the south-west of France where he entered the French Resistance during a very difficult period for his family and an awful one for the family of his wife Yvonne.

After the end of the War, Daniel Schwartz started his professional career in Bergerac, a research centre belonging to the French monopoly in charge of tobacco and matches (SEITA) where he had been nominated as an engineer. Encouraged by Professor Georges Darmais (a former ISI President and the first French mathematician who understood in those days that statistics was not only one of the branches of "pure" mathematics), Daniel Schwartz and another young SEITA engineer, André Vessereau (one of the first French members of the ISI), developed statistically-based researches

on the illnesses of the tobacco plants, in particular those induced by specific viruses. Some people think they dreamt to transform the Bergerac centre into a little French "Rothamsted", the famous British experimental station where Sir Ronald Fisher played such an important role.

However, what should happen happened. The memory of his father's profession, the influence of his uncle, Robert Debré (a famous paediatrician who, later, created the French integrated hospital-university system), and his personal taste for the medical field pushed him towards a new and major orientation: Using his statistical knowledge to study the diseases that might be related to smoking. He always underlined that he had no strict opposition from the Director-General of SEITA to enter this field and to publish the results. Schwartz launched the first large-scale French survey on aero-digestive, lung and bladder cancers, taking into account detailed smoking habits, including inhalation of cigarette smoke. He could demonstrate that inhalation played a major additive role, but only on "deep" cancers' incidence and not on mouth cancers'one – which indeed was a major contribution to the results obtained in the UK, mainly by Sir Richard Doll, and the US in favour of a causal relationship between smoking and cancer.

At the end of the fifties, Daniel Schwartz met Professor Pierre Denoix, the Director of the main French anti-cancer institute (Institut Gustave-Roussy), and Louis Bugnard, the Director of the National Institute of Hygiene (which became, a few years later, the National Institute of Health and Medical Research - INSERM). Denoix, Bugnard and Schwartz decided to create a research laboratory in medical statistics (called *unité de recherches statistiques*), located in the Gustave-Roussy

Institute. This creation was the starting point of a genuine explosion of epidemiological researches in a great variety of fields: Cancers, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, perinatology, genetics, environmental exposures, human reproduction, sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, infectious diseases, mathematical models, etc. In the following years, at least ten research units started from this training and research centre, which contributed to the worldwide reputation of French epidemiological research.

One main original feature of the French approach of these issues must be underlined. In the UK and US, "statisticians" usually have a basic training in mathematics while "epidemiologists" have a medical one. The French situation is quite different, and this is mainly due to the personal vision of Daniel Schwartz. Notwithstanding, his personal basic high-level training in mathematics, he thought that mathematicians working with him should focus on using a statistical language sufficiently simple to be understood by medical doctors, and, vice-versa, that his medically trained colleagues should be able to understand the rationale of statistical methodology, which clearly meant that the boundaries between medical doctors and mathematicians could progressively be softened with the help of a specific teaching.

This is a way in which to recall the exceptional teaching influence of Daniel Schwartz and his team. Schwartz started his teaching very early (in the early fifties), in a building that was paradoxically "the temple of pure mathematics" in Paris, the Institut Henri Poincaré. He created in the sixties the world-famous CESAM¹, which still exists more than forty years later and has trained tens of thousands of medical students or doctors, obviously in Paris but also in the rest of France by correspondence, and frequently in Europe and elsewhere in the world. Two main basic principles structured the highly diversified set of CESAM trainings: To help students understand how it is possible to establish the significance of an observed relationship and how to progress towards its (causal) interpretation - all this with the minimum of mathematical formalism. These guidelines were perfectly compatible with the strong support Schwartz gave to those of his colleagues working in theoretical statistics and its applications to various fields of medical and health research.

Schwartz also dealt with the methodology of therapeutic trials. In the fifties, nobody in France dared to "decide at random"

what treatment should be given to a patient if two possible options existed. Here also, the British researchers were one step further than the French and it is from their experience (B. Hill and P. Armitage) that Daniel Schwartz introduced the first randomized trial into our country - allowing, precisely, to interpret an observed difference in causal terms. Many years later, this way of comparing the efficiency of various treatments was finally recognized as the only one to be ethically acceptable through a statement of the French *Comité consultatif national d'éthique pour les sciences de la vie et de la santé*² (1984) It was finally codified by law in 1988.

However, Schwartz went much further in a very original way. He invented the dual concept of trials based either on an *explanatory* attitude or on a *pragmatic* one. The classical statistical analysis of a trial was considered as an application of an ordinary significance test. The chosen threshold 5% is usually "small" in order to prevent an incorrect conclusion that the null hypothesis should be rejected. For instance, it is a procedure well adapted to the comparison of a new molecule to a placebo. However, said Schwartz, it is possible to adopt quite a different attitude if the goal is different; for instance, if one wishes to compare two complex therapeutical strategies for which it is quite unlikely that the null hypothesis is true! Then the goal is to make the best decision and to minimize the risk in order to choose the best treatment. The differences between both types of trials are important. Some previous statisticians already tried to define clinical trials as a decision-making problem. However, Schwartz showed that the difference was not only in the number of subjects to be included and the rules of conclusion of the trial, but in all the aspects of the protocol, the precise definition of the disease, the nature of the patients to be included, the treatments to compare, the way to deal with the patients "lost" during their follow-up, etc. This was described in a seminal paper³ and then extended in a book⁴.

What strategy should be adopted in a specific situation? The choice is not necessarily obvious: Most of the trials wish both, to answer an explanatory need and to help make correct decisions... Schwartz's conceptual progress was nevertheless a major step forward since it helped ask the right questions.

Philippe Lazar

Former Director-General of INSERM⁵ (1982-1996)

¹ CESAM: Centre d'enseignement de la statistique appliquée à la médecine et à la biologie médicale - Teaching Centre for Statistics Applied to Medicine and Medical Biology.

² National Advisory Commission for Ethics in Life and Health Sciences.

³ *Explanatory and Pragmatic Attitudes in Therapeutical Trials*, Daniel Schwartz and Joseph Lellouch, *Journal of Chronic Diseases* 1967; 20; 637-648.

⁴ *L'essai thérapeutique chez l'Homme*, Daniel Schwartz, Robert Flamant and Joseph Lellouch, Flammarion Médecine-Sciences, 1970; English translation: *Clinical Trials*, Academic-Press, Michael Healy, 1980.

⁵ INSERM: Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale – National Institute for Health and Medical Research.

John Hajnal (1924-2008)



John Hajnal

Professor John Hajnal was an economic historian, a demographer, and a mathematical statistician; a deep and original thinker with an interest in social and educational issues, and religion. His publications were numerically few, but had profound influence. In demography, the Hajnal line is named after him. This is an imaginary geographical boundary

connecting St. Petersburg, Russia, and Trieste, Italy, distinguishing the historic marriage patterns of Eastern and Western Europe. In the (demography-related) mathematical theory of products of non-negative matrices, two papers, published in 1958 and 1976, were fundamental for the revival of the theory of inhomogeneous Markov chains; and for the use of coefficients of ergodicity as a tool for addressing the convergence of non-negative matrix products. My work on this theory, from its early stages in the early 1970's, was greatly influenced by his, and we soon established written contact and later became friends. Another who became a friend and whom he influenced in both demography and matrix theory was Joel E. Cohen of Rockefeller University, New York.

John Hajnal was born in Darmstadt, Germany, on 26th November 1924 to Kálmán and Eva Hajnal-Kónyi. His Jewish family had a strong Hungarian identity, and a passion for German high culture. John was intellectually gifted and a linguist. With the onset of the Nazi regime, Jewish children were discriminated against in school, and in 1936, while his parents prepared to leave Germany for England, John was sent to a Quaker school in The Netherlands. He described his time there as one of the happiest of his life. After a year, he was reunited with his parents in London, before The Netherlands was overrun by the Nazis. He remained a fluent Dutch speaker and enthusiastically attended reunions of the school in the later years of his life.

His secondary school education was at University College School in London. He went to Balliol College, Oxford, at age 16. John's school had steered this brilliant young man towards classics, although his interests were more in science and mathematics. He switched to politics, philosophy and economics in his second year and gained a First Class Honours degree in 1943. However, he regretted missing out on early formal mathematical education for the rest of his life, believing that mathematics was his true vocation, and that mathematicians did their best work early in their lives. As a mathematician, John was largely self-taught, but had some contact with the probabilists William Feller (during John's period at Princeton), as well as Maurice Bartlett and Walter Ledermann during his time at Manchester. Later, one of John's Ph.D. students, Bill Hamilton, became eminent through applying mathematics towards the understanding of altruism in theoretical biology.

John was at the Royal Commission on Population, 1944-1948, and developed what became a lifelong friendship with his boss, Bryan Hopkin. Based on the strength of his work, he was recruited by Frank Notestein to work on demography at the UN in New York; he stayed there from 1948-1951. In New York, he met Nina Lande of Jewish stock and they married soon after. Her father, Lev Lande, a prominent Menshevik politician, left Moscow in 1917 and Nina was born in Berlin.

John gave up his well-paid and secure job at the UN and moved to Princeton. Here at the Office of Population Research at Princeton University, 1951-1953, he continued occasional work for Frank Notestein while taking courses in mathematics. The family then returned to England, where, during 1953-1957, John was at Manchester University at the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

For family reasons, the Hajnals moved to London in 1957, when John secured a lectureship at the London School of Economics (LSE). John started at LSE as a demographer, gradually making a transition to theoretical statistics, then a promotion to Reader in 1966 and to Professor of Statistics in 1975. He became an elected member of the ISI in 1961 and a Fellow of the British Academy in 1966. By 1964, he was sufficiently recognized to be asked to join the galaxy of stars who constituted the Editorial Board at the founding of Joe Gani's *Journal of Applied Probability*. He retired from LSE in 1986.

His periods of study leave included Visiting Fellow Commoner, Trinity College, Cambridge, 1974-1975 (during this time he wrote the 1976 paper); Visiting Professor, Rockefeller University, 1981; and one or two brief visits to the Demography Department, Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), Australian National University (ANU - one such occasion was in 1988).

P.A.P. (Pat) Moran (1917-1988) was Professor and Head of the Department of Statistics at the IAS, ANU. In 1988, a group of visiting statisticians including John and me (there was a conference in Canberra, timed for the national bicentenary) visited him at his home. He was already wheelchair-bound and in fragile condition, having suffered a stroke (he died later that year). John was very moved by the gift of a small book on statistical genetics (an interest they shared) that Pat gave him at the time. When it was time for us to go home, we all packed into the car, which someone had rented, outside Pat's home. The car's battery was dead. Pat's home was on a slightly sloping road, however, and when I offered to try a rolling start, the engine fired, which was met by a gratifyingly loud "Bravo!" from the back seat, unmistakably in John's precisely-dictioned voice. Later, when John stayed at our home in Sydney for a few days, we had many walks and discussions motivated by our similar European origins on social and religious issues, especially, on the need (or not) to belong to some tribal group.

In 1991, there was a conference (titled *Doebelin and Modern Probability*) to honour the memory of the brilliant young Jewish mathematician, Wolfgang (Vincent) Doebelin, who was killed while in the French army in World War II, and who played an instrumental role in the development of Markov chains, amongst other probabilistic areas. The conference was held in Blaubeuren, Germany, with the participation of esteemed colleagues (such as J.L. Doob, K.L. Chung, M. Iosifescu, J. Hajnal, and J.F.C. Kingman) and other well-established colleagues, including many from Communist bloc countries. It was thematically inclined towards inhomogeneous Markov chains. John Hajnal's presentation, "Shuffling with Two Matrices", was published in the conference proceedings in 1993 in the series *Contemporary Mathematics* (149). The paper was inspired by an example in a paper of Pat Moran in *Sankhya, Ser. A.* in 1962 on a similar topic, both in lucidity and content, is a worthy successor to his two seminal papers, also as a tribute to Doebelin.

I first visited John and Nina's home in Golders Green in London in 1985. I spent an afternoon on Hampstead Heath with John, who remembered at each of our subsequent meetings my admiration for the lovely avenue of lime trees. During one visit, John was happily preparing for his role as guest of honour and lecturer at a historical demography symposium in Iceland, which took place in 2003. The last time I stayed with the Hajnals was in 2007. Nina drove us to Highgate Cemetery, by then John was using a walking stick, though we walked back to their home. During each of our visits to Highgate Cemetery, and this one was no different, John liked to point out to me the memorials to Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud, and the alcove with a chair and Bible, where John used to sit and read.

Both John and Nina were diagnosed with cancer later in that year. Nina, who had been my contact through e-mail, died unexpectedly on 25th April 2008. John kept reasonably well for several months, but eventually his condition deteriorated and he died on 30th November 2008.

A commemorative article entitled "John Hajnal on the Prospect for Population Forecasts" leads off on pages 189-192 with a brief biographical sketch of John's life and outstanding contributions to demography. The rest is a reprinting of his landmark paper "The Prospect for Population Forecasts" in full from Volume III of the Proceedings of the 1954 World Population Conference held in Rome. The paper, in its longer version, appeared in the June 1955 issue of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. The most influential paper (on the Hajnal line, still said to be a stimulus of research and

debate) was entitled "European Marriage Patterns in Perspective", published in the 1965 volume of *Population in History*, edited by D.V. Glass and D.E.C. Eversley. A sequel to this article was published in *Population and Development Review* in the September 1982 issue.

To this list, to expand on John's creativity and movements, should be added the paper "Concepts of Random Mating and the Frequency of Consanguineous Marriages", *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, **B159** (1963), 125-174. This was a discussion meeting and a great honour. The paper is reproduced (without the discussion) in *Demographic Genetics* (1975) edited by Kenneth M. Weiss and Paul A. Ballonoff, in the series *Benchmark Papers in Genetics*. In this, John is in the company of the esteemed of statistical demography and genetics, including J. Graunt, A.J. Lotka, V. Volterra, E.G. Lewis, C. Darwin, R.A. Fisher, J.B.S. Haldane, H.T.J. Norton, S. Wright, A.J. Bateman, and L.L. Cavalli-Sforza. In this paper, he cites three of his own early papers from 1950, 1953 and 1960. A footnote states that part of the work was done at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, USA, supported by an NSF grant to the Dartmouth Mathematics Project, as well as by the Population Investigative Committee, London.

John and Nina, who are survived by four children, are buried together in Golders Green Cemetery. The headstone says of John: *Demographer and Statistician. Lover of knowledge who followed his own path.*

Eugene Seneta

ISI Committee Matters: ISI Astrostatistics Committee and Network

An ISI Astrostatistics Interest Group was founded in 2008 with the purpose of exploring the feasibility of creating a standing astrostatistics committee under the auspices of the ISI. There had never been such a committee formed under a statistical nor an astronomical organization. Some thirty statisticians and astronomers having an interest in astrostatistics met at the ISI Session in Durban, in August 2009, to discuss the possibility of such a committee, and voted unanimously to propose this committee to the ISI Executive Committee and Council. I drew up the proposal that was presented to the ISI EC and Council by President Jef Teugels in December 2009. I learned of the approval from President Teugels on December 24th.

Astrostatistics is perhaps the oldest of the applied statistical disciplines. Although we know little of the details, it appears that elementary descriptive statistics were being applied by Babylonia astronomers to planetary events as long ago as the second millennium BCE. The *Venus Tablet of Ammisaduqa*, for example, records the heliacal risings and settings of Venus for a 21-year period from 1646 to 1625 BCE. We know that the mean was used by later Chaldean astronomers, in the 7th and 9th centuries, who claimed to obtain their knowledge from these earlier periods. Hipparchus, in the 2nd century BCE, appears to have employed the median, and used the mean and a primitive form of confidence interval to describe various surprisingly accurate measurements relating the positions of the Sun, Moon, and Earth.

Inferential statistics was also heavily influenced by astronomy in its early implementations. Gauss engaged the first serious application of least squares regression for calculating the likely

orbit of the asteroid Ceres behind the sun in 1801. Legendre then applied least squares to cometary orbits (1805). After this auspicious beginning, however, advancements to statistical methodology tended to come from applications to agriculture and gambling. Advances in mathematical astronomy did not come from statistics as much as from differential equations.

In recent years, astrophysicists have come to realize that the new statistical methodologies that have been developed as a consequence of powerful computers can be applied to understanding astronomical data. It was not until the 1990's that a true renaissance of astrostatistics began, with the emergence of various centers and associations devoted to the application of statistics to astronomical data. To be sure, there were some astrophysicists who employed statistical techniques to their data before this, but there were no consistent efforts to conjoin statistics and astronomy.

The most influential astrostatistical affiliations today are perhaps the California-Harvard Astrostatistics Collaboration (CHASM), founded in 1997, the Pennsylvania State University Center for Astrostatistics (PSCOA), founded in 2003, the International Computational Astrostatistics Group (InCA), and the CosmoStat conferences that have been held the past several years in Europe. A number of short-term educational programs in astrostatistics have appeared throughout the U.S. and Europe, as well as in coordination with PSCOA in India. However, until now, there has been no global association of astrostatisticians, nor a central committee or group that can represent the discipline. The ISI Astrostatistics Committee and Network aims to serve that purpose.

A driving force behind the renewed interest in astrostatistics is the type of data being gathered by both land- and space-based instruments. Astronomers began to realize that the basic statistical tools they used in their research would not be sufficient for the analysis of the mass of data generated from the new surveys, e.g. the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, which mapped some 930,000 galaxies and 120,000 quasars in the first eight years of its existence. Forthcoming surveys will be creating a terabyte or more of information per night, requiring sophisticated statistical methods that are outside the purview of most astronomers. In order to satisfy the need for collaboration between the statistical and astronomical communities, the ISI Astrostatistics Committee will coordinate with the International Astronomical Union, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, European Space Agency and other astronomical organizations in the fostering of collaborative efforts.

Members of the ISI Astrostatistics Committee represent some of the leading figures in the discipline. The Committee will serve as the executive committee of the Network and will serve to support existing astrostatistical organizations and groups, as well as sponsor colloquia and papers' sessions, prepare astrostatistical educational tools, and sponsor a proposed *Journal of Astrostatistics*. I believe that the creation of the ISI

Astrostatistics Committee and Network of astrostatisticians will help to advance the discipline, and contribute to both the fields of statistics and astronomy.

I encourage anyone with an interest in the application of statistics to astronomical data to join the ISI Astrostatistics Committee and Network and to contact me at hilbe@asu.edu or j.m.hilbe@gmail.com. Please list your name, e-mail address, website if applicable, and your major statistical or astronomical area of expertise.

Members of the inaugural ISI Astrostatistics Committee are: G. Jogesh Babu (US), Bruce Bassett (South Africa), Kirk Borne (US), David van Dyk (US), Eric Feigelson (US), David Hand (UK), Joseph Hilbe (US), Steffen Lauritzen (UK), Gary Miner (US), Nazeen Mustapha (South Africa), Victor Panaretos (Switzerland), Christian Röver (Germany), Anand Sookun (Mauritius), Simon Vaughan (UK) and Evdokia Xekalaki (Greece).

Joseph M. Hilbe
Chair
ISI Astrostatistics Committee

Historical Anniversaries: Thomas Simpson



Thomas Simpson

Thomas Simpson was born in Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, England, on 20th of August 1710. His father, who was a weaver, wanted Thomas to take-up his profession. This is why Thomas received little formal education and taught himself mathematics.

To avoid family conflicts, he left home at age 14 and went to a neighbouring village to the lodging

house of Mrs. Swinfield, the widow of a tailor, and his senior by about 30 years with two children more or less of Thomas' age. He continued to work as a weaver and to educate himself. A fortune teller who was lodging in the same house lent him a book on arithmetic and another on astrology leading him to become a fortune teller himself. A short time after this, he married Mrs. Swinfield. Due to an unfortunate instance of fortune telling, Thomas and his family moved to Derby where, besides his work as a weaver, he became an instructor at an evening school. At the age of 25 he moved to London still working as a weaver and teaching mathematics.

From the time he came to London, he contributed (using a variety of pseudonyms) many mathematical problems to the *Ladies' Diary*, answering problems raised in this popular annual publication. He even became Editor of the magazine in 1754 for a period of six years. He also contributed to other periodicals like *Gentleman's Magazine*, *Miscellanea Curiosa Mathematica* and *Gentleman's Diary*. His mathematical skills were demonstrated in these publications and allowed him to become known by other mathematicians.

In 1743, he left London to become a teacher of Mathematics at the Royal Military Academy of Woolwich. Two years after his appointment, Simpson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

He became a successful writer and published 11 books between 1737 and 1757: On the theory of fluxions (1737), on the laws of chance (1740), speculative and mixed mathematics

(1740), annuities and reversion (1742), on a variety of physical and analytical subjects (1743), algebra (1745), geometry (1747), trigonometry (1748), on fluxions (1750), select exercises in mathematics (1752) and miscellaneous tracts on mechanics, physical astronomy, and speculative mathematics (1757). These publications were successful in England – with numerous editions – but also in America, France and Germany; they also raised controversy and accusations of plagiarism. In 1758, Simpson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science.

Simpson used the numerical method known today as *Simpson's rule* in his work on interpolation and numerical methods of integration, but he learned this method from Newton as he himself acknowledged. Two main contributions are due to Thomas Simpson. The first one, in the field of actuarial science, concerns the calculation of joint-life annuities based on the earlier works of De Moivre. The second one is a contribution to statistical error theory.

In 1755, Simpson published *A Letter to the Right Honourable George Earl of Macclesfield, President of the Royal Society, on the Advantage of Taking the Mean of a Number of Observations, in Practical Astronomy* in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society of London. Simpson's study was limited but enterprising. The development was limited, because he showed only that a mean is better than a single observation when the mean is calculated from six measurements and when one takes into account a limited hypothesis about the probabilistic features of the observations. However, it was also enterprising because Simpson chose to focus not on the observations themselves, but on the errors made on the observations. Specifically, he assumed that each of the independent observations was prone to errors having a known symmetric distribution. His calculation was made for the case where this distribution was triangular. Inspired by De Moivre's earlier study of the distribution of the sum of the points on the sides of several dice, Simpson used the generating function that later became an essential tool for Lagrange and Laplace.

Thomas Simpson remained active until the end of his life. For example, it is interesting to note that he and Roger Joseph Boscovich met in 1760 and that the latter discussed a problem with him in least deviations regression; Simpson proposed an analytical solution to this problem.

He died on 14th of May 1761 in Market Bosworth, the village of his birth

Jean-Jacques Droesbeke

Chair

Christiaan Huygens Committee on the History of Statistics

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Message from the President

First, I would like to congratulate the Editors of the *ISI Newsletter* for the 100th issue. For many years, it has been a publication that provides interesting information about ISI activities and news from the ISI Sections. It is an important way to learn about the Institute as a whole family. I wish them to continue with the success of the changes they have been doing recently.

As you can see from the report below, prepared by Nakahiro Yoshida, Scientific Secretary of the Bernoulli Society, during the last four months, the Society has continued with several of its traditional activities. I would like to add a few comments on these activities and report on other additional issues. In the next *ISI Newsletter*, I will report on some of the new initiatives that are currently under discussion in the Executive Committee, the Council and some standing and ad-hoc committees, as a response to suggestions collected from the membership during the diagnosis process of the last months.

It is worthwhile to spread the word regarding the following decisions taken by the Council: For the year 2010, the membership's fees and subscription prices for the *Bernoulli* journal remain the same as in 2009. Likewise, free membership offerings to Ph.D. students and 50% reduction fees to new members in 2010, postdocs and permanent residents of some developing countries also continue. The Executive Committee is now discussing an initiative to be effective from 2011 on, in the direction of enlarging the list of countries with reduced fees, in order to match those of competing societies. This is an asymmetry that has been pointed out by several members.

The Committee for Conferences on Stochastic Processes (CCSP) was recently refreshed due to the end of the Committee members' terms. James Norris replaces Marta Sanz-Solé as the Chair. I would like to welcome James and all the new members of the CCSP and thank Martha for her leading work, which included, among other important aspects, a revision of the guidelines for the organization of Conferences on Stochastic Processes and their Applications (SPA). Thanks also to the members leaving this standing Committee for the service they have provided to the Society.

The Publications Committee continued being active in its responsibility for the publications and some related strategic questions of the Bernoulli Society. Upon the recommendation of this Committee, the Council approved the appointment of Richard Davis as Editor-in-Chief of the *Bernoulli* journal, replacing Holger Rootzén, who ended his three-year term. I take this opportunity to warmly thank Holger for the important editorial service he has done for one of the official journals of the Society. Also approved is the appointment of David Ruppert as Editor-in-Chief of the *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, a publication co-sponsored with the IMS since 2006 and which has become well known and accepted quite quickly. I welcome Richard and David and wish them success in their leading these editorial works.

The XI Latin American Congress in Probability and Mathematical Statistics (CLAPEM) took place last November in Venezuela, with the traditional program and good results of past meetings. It celebrated thirty years of activities from the first CLAPEM in 1980, which was also held in Venezuela. The Congress had the support of several organizations and societies and it was fortunate that the ISI Permanent Office supported the logistics of electronic registration for this CLAPEM, showcasing the importance of collaboration and support from our umbrella organization. It is very important to remark that participants in this meeting witnessed the efforts and work done - far beyond the call of duties - by the local organizers who were led by Stella Brassesco, Carenne Ludeña and José R. León.

Two more traditional meetings with a proud tradition are going to be held in the year 2010: The 28th European Meeting of Statisticians in Piraeus, Greece (August 17-22), and the 34th SPA Conference in Osaka, Japan (September 6-10). Due to negotiations with the ISI, there are some World Bank funds available to support the participation in these meetings of colleagues who reside in some developing countries.

The organization of the 8th World Congress of the Bernoulli Society in Istanbul, Turkey (July 9-14, 2012), has already started. As it has been done five times in the past, this Congress will be held jointly with the 2012 Annual Meeting of the IMS. Our young colleagues Elvan Ceyhan and Mine Çağlar have taken the challenge of acting as Co-Chairs of the Local

Organizing Committee and have been working on that for the last four months. On another note, the Bernoulli Society and the IMS have agreed to appoint Arnoldo Frigessi as the Chair of the Program Committee of this joint meeting.

Finally, I invite members of the ISI and other ISI Sections to visit the recently updated Bernoulli Society web page and to also take a look at the redesigned *Bernoulli News* to find out more about detailed reports on other meetings organized or sponsored by the Bernoulli Society as well as about our publications, history, membership benefits, forthcoming meetings, recent initiatives and the work of the administrative, subject and standing committees.

Victor Pérez-Abreu

News from the Bernoulli Society

Julia Brettschneider, Warwick University, has been chosen as a new Council Member for 2009-2013 by the Executive Committee, in accordance with Article 8.6 of the Statutes.

The Council Members 2009-2013 are now:

Paolo Baldi (Rome, Italy)
Julia Brettschneider (Warwick, UK)
Probal Chaudhuri (Calcutta, India)
Ricardo Fraiman (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Zenghu Li (Beijing, China)
Nancy Reid (Toronto, Canada)

They form the Council together with ex-officio members and the Council Members 2007-2011.

David Ruppert, Cornell University, is the new Editor of the *Electronic Journal of Statistics* (EJS) for the term January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2012. EJS is an open access publication sponsored by the Bernoulli Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

James Norris, Statistics Laboratory of the Centre for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge, was elected to be the new Chair of the Committee of Conferences on Stochastic Processes (CCSP) from January 2010 for two years. Committee Members are: James Norris (UK) (2010-2011, Chair)

Marta Sanz-Solé (Spain) (2010-2011, Past Chair)
Jean Bertoin (France) (2010-2013)
Mu-Fa Chen (China) (2008-2011)
Ana Bela Cruzeiro (Portugal) (2010-2013)
Pablo Ferrari (Argentina) (2008-2011)
Raya Feldman (USA) (2010-2013)
Hans Föllmer (Germany) (2008-2011)
Antonio Galves (Brazil) (2010-2013)
Dmitry Ioffe (Israel) (2010-2013)
Ed Perkins (Canada) (2008-2011)
Kavita Ramanan (USA) (2010-2013)
Alain Sznitman (Switzerland) (2008-2011)
Balint Toth (Hungary) (2010-2013)
Vladimir Vatutin (Russia) (2008-2011)
Jochen Blath - SPA 09 Organiser (Germany) (2010-2011)
Victor Pérez-Abreu - Ex-officio as Bernoulli Society President (Mexico)

The Bernoulli Society is happy to announce that due to negotiations of the ISI Executive Committee, there is the possibility of World Bank funding for permanent residents in some developing countries to participate in the following events of the year 2010: The 28th European Meeting of Statisticians in Piraeus, Greece (August 17-22), and the 34th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications in Osaka, Japan (September 6-10). Participants interesting in

applying for these funds should look for further information on the websites of the Bernoulli Society and these meetings.

Sad news for our community: Erich L. Lehmann died on September 12th, 2009. He was Professor Emeritus of the University of California at Berkeley and made fundamental contributions to the theory of statistics. He was known to be a great mentor to young researchers in statistics. Erich L. Lehmann leaves a legacy of outstanding contributions to research, teaching and professional service recognized the world over. The obituary for Erich Lehmann by his family and Peter Bickel can be found on: <http://isi.cbs.nl/BS/obituary-erich-lehmann.htm>.

XI CLAPEM

The Latin American Congress of Probability and Mathematical Statistics (CLAPEM) took place again in Venezuela, from November 1st-6th, 2009. The place was the Club Puerto Azul, a location on the beach of the central coast, not far from Caracas. There were 169 registered participants, mostly from Latin American countries and also from other continents.

The scientific program included eight invited plenary lectures by Peter Bickel, Peter Bühlmann, David Donoho, Luis Gorostiza, Peter Hall, Gregory Lawler, Marta Sanz-Solé and Vladas Sidoravicius, and fifteen invited thematic sessions in different research areas of current interest within the disciplines of probability and statistics.

There were also sessions of short talks, a poster session that counted more than fifty participants, and two short courses: Classification and Cluster Analysis for Functional Data by Ricardo Fraiman and Quasi Stationary Distributions by Servet Martínez. Peter Bickel gave a lecture in remembrance of Erich Lehmann.

The closing session on Friday 6th consisted of the presentations and the lectures of the two recent doctors distinguished with the Francisco Aranda Ordaz Award: María da Glória Abage de Lima, from Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (Brazil), and Sebastián Grynberg from Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina).

The event is organized every two years by the SLAPEM (Latin American Society of Probability and Mathematical Statistics), together with the Bernoulli Society. This meeting was co-sponsored by the IMS (Institute of Mathematical Statistics). The Bernoulli Society, the National Institutes of Health and several Venezuelan institutions provided financial support. The ISI supported with the electronic registration and the collection of fees.

The program book, including abstracts of the works presented, is available at <http://cea.ivic.ve/libroclapem.pdf>. The website for the Conference is <http://www.cesma.usb.ve/xiclapem/>.

José León and Stella Brassesco

Recent and forthcoming events organized or sponsored by BS

XI CLAPEM - Latin American Congress in Probability and Mathematical Statistics

November 1-6, 2009, Caracas, Venezuela
<http://www.cesma.usb.ve/xiclapem/en/>

28th European Meeting of Statisticians (EMS)
August 17-22, 2010, Piraeus, Greece
<http://stat.unipi.gr/ems2010>

34th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications (SPA)
September 6-10, 2010, Osaka, Japan

<http://stokhos.shinshu-u.ac.jp/SPA2010/index.html>

58th ISI World Statistics Congress (formerly ISI Session)
August 21-26, 2011, Dublin, Ireland <http://www.isi2011.ie/>

8th World Congress of the Bernoulli Society
(in conjunction with the 2012 IMS Annual Meeting)
July 9-14, 2012, Istanbul, Turkey
<http://home.ku.edu.tr/~worldcong2012>

See <http://isi.cbs.nl/BS/bsmeetings.htm> for more information.

The 28th European Meeting of Statisticians (EMS 2010)

The European Meetings of Statisticians have already been established among the major international meetings covering a broad area of disciplines, such as mathematical statistics, biostatistics, computational statistics, financial statistics, probability and applied probability. The Meetings are held under the auspices of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, the IMS and ISI.

The 28th European Meeting of Statisticians (EMS 2010) will be held from August 17 to August 22, 2010, at the University of Piraeus in Greece.

The purpose of EMS 2010 is to provide a forum where researchers from universities throughout the world, as well as practitioners, can discuss current problems, new approaches and future directions in the field of Probability and Statistics. Young researchers and PhD students are especially invited to contribute papers.

The Scientific Programme Committee consists of Enno Mammen, University of Mannheim, Germany (Chair), Viktor Benes, Gerda Claeskens, Arnoldo Frigessi, Adam Jakubowski, Markos Koutras, Pascal Massart and Andy Wood. The Chair of the Local Organising Committee is Markos Koutras.

Website is now open for online registration and submission of contributed articles: <http://stat.unipi.gr/ems2010>

M.V. Koutras

SPA OSAKA 2010



The 34th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications

The 34th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications is organized under the auspices of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability. It will be held in Osaka, Japan, from September 6-10, 2010. The main venue will be the Senri Life Science Center, located in Toyonaka, Osaka Prefecture.

Organizing Committee Chair: Ichiro Shigekawa, Scientific Program Committee Chair: Hirofumi Osada,

Website: <http://stokhos.shinshu-u.ac.jp/SPA2010/>

The Conference is the major annual meeting for researchers working in the field of Stochastic Processes. The Conference covers a wide range of active research areas, in particular, featuring 18 invited plenary lectures presented by the following leading specialists: Terry Lyons, Claudio Landim, Gregory Lawler, Rami Atar, Marek Biskup, Martin Hairer, Masanori Hino, Jean Jacod, Monique Jeanblanc, Davar Khoshnevisan, Takashi Kumagai, Gregory Miermont, L.C.G. Rogers, Timo Seppalainen, Karl-Theodor Sturm, Shanjian Tang, Jonathan Taylor, and David Wilson. In addition, there will be a large variety of special and contributed sessions, consisting of

three/four talks each. We also have special lectures in memory of Kiyosi Ito.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Osaka in 2010!

Ichiro Shigekawa, Kyoto

The 8th World Congress in Probability and Statistics

The eighth World Congress in Probability and Statistics will be organized by Koç University in Istanbul from July 9 to 14, 2012. This event is the 8th World Congress of the Bernoulli Society jointly organized with the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. Scheduled every four years, this meeting is a major worldwide event in mathematical statistics, probability, stochastic processes and their applications. It features the latest scientific developments in these fields. The program will cover a wide range of topics in mathematical statistics and probability, presenting recent developments and the state of the art in a variety of modern research topics and in applications, and featuring several special plenary lectures presented by leading specialists. In addition, there will be invited sessions highlighting topics of current research interests as well as a large number of contributed talks and posters. The venue of the meeting is Koç University located in Istanbul, which is a vibrant, multi-cultural and cosmopolitan city bridging Europe and Asia. Istanbul has a unique cultural conglomeration of east and west, offering many cultural and touristic attractions, such as Hagia Sophia, Sultanahmet, Topkapı Palace and Maiden's Tower. On behalf of the Scientific Program and Local Organizing Committees, we invite you to join us in Istanbul for this exciting scientific event. Your participation will ensure that the 2012 World Congress will be a memorable meeting.

Website: <http://home.ku.edu.tr/~worldcong2012/>

Elvan Ceyhan and Mine Çağlar

Co-Chairs of the Local Organizing Committee

Welcome to the Bernoulli Society

Joining the Bernoulli Society is a way of supporting connections across the worldwide community of statisticians and probabilists. Getting involved in the Bernoulli Society is an excellent way of making scientific friends across the world. This can be done by running conferences; serving on the Society's committees; sharing news and information with other members through the Bernoulli website and/or *Bernoulli News*; attending meetings; presenting initiatives to the Executive Committee. Like all sciences, probability and mathematical statistics are disciplines that know no boundaries. Joining the Bernoulli Society is one way to express this in tangible form - and is an important step towards establishing a broad global network of professional relationships to sustain one's professional career over the long-term.

As an opportunity to become a member, the Bernoulli Society offers:

- 50% fee reduction for the first year of membership of new members
- PhD Students join for free
- 50% fee reduction for the first two years of postdocs.

Retired persons, couples and members from some developing countries continue to receive a 50% fee reduction. All the above members receive the full membership benefits of a regular member.

For details, please see the website

<http://isi.cbs.nl/BS/bshome.htm>

International Association for Official Statistics



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Website <http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos>

IAOS 2010 Conference “Official statistics and the environment: Approaches, issues, challenges and linkages” Santiago, Chile, 20-22 October 2010

At the end of the year, we reached the deadline for the submission of abstracts. Nearly 100 abstracts have been received.

By the end of February 2010, the Programme Committee will select the papers that are appropriate for presentation at the conference and will inform the authors. The deadline for the final version of papers is 30 April 2010.

Further discussion on the Conference programme will take place at the next meeting of the Programme Committee on 22 February 2010 in New York at the occasion of the 41st session of the UN Statistical Commission. The organisation of the Conference will also be discussed at the IAOS Executive Committee meeting on the same day in New York. The IAOS 2010 Conference in Chile will be promoted at the exhibition on Statistical Improvements in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held during the 41st session of the UN Statistical Commission.

The IAOS succeeded, in cooperation with the ISI and EFTA, to allocate a budget that can be used to support participation in the Conference. Certain criteria need to be met to receive funding, such as active participation (presentation of a paper or other active contribution) all with the objective of improving the capacity of statistical officers and academics in developing countries, providing them with basic statistical knowledge to develop statistical systems through participation in international conferences.

Following the decision of the last IAOS Executive Committee meeting, the criteria are under preparation and will be published on the website as soon as possible. Usually, the papers are reviewed by a group of experts.

Promotional material for IAOS 2010 is being produced and sent to international conferences as well as universities and national statistics offices. The website is being upgraded to provide a better service to the community and its users, such as an online payment method, availability of a social programme and tourism information on Chile.

This year Chile is holding its bicentennial celebration and a Commission has been created to promote and sponsor cultural and social activities during 2010. We are proud to announce that the IAOS 2010 Conference has received the Commission's sponsorship and is part of the programmed bicentenary activities.

For more information, please visit the website: www.ine.cl/iaos2010/eng/index.html.

One-day seminar on governance of statistical systems Santiago, Chile, 19 October 2010

A one-day seminar on governance of statistical systems will take place on 19 October 2010 in Santiago, Chile. The main objective is to bring together senior statisticians from Latin American countries, as well as representatives of other stakeholders such as statistical councils, academia and ministries. A number of presentations of good practices from LA countries, as well as from other parts of the world, will stimulate the discussion.

The aim of the seminar is to share good practice and to discuss some challenges in building and sustaining statistical systems. The seminar will be by invitation only. The national statistical offices of LA countries and a limited number of other countries will be asked to propose speakers as well as other participants.

Funding of active participation will be possible within the same rules as for the IAOS 2010 Conference.

The same guidelines for the authors of the papers as for the IAOS 2010 Conference apply.

The final version of the seminar programme will be prepared by the end of February 2010. It is expected the draft of the programme and the list of participants will be discussed at the IAOS Executive Committee meeting in New York.

Final papers and presentations will be requested well in advance in order to allow the participants to prepare themselves for active involvement in the discussion.

European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics, Q2010 Conference, 3-6 May 2010

Statistics Finland and Eurostat invite you to the next Quality Conference, to be held in Helsinki in May. Details are on: <http://q2010.stat.fi/index/>.

As with its predecessors, the Q2010 Conference will offer participants a platform for high-level discussions on various types of quality issues and methodological aspects of statistics production. The Q2010 will, in particular, focus on meeting current and future challenges for reengineering the statistical business processes of the European Statistical System.

Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics



Submitted by Wendy Thomas
www.scorusnet.com

SCORUS: 27th Conference on Regional and Urban Statistics and Research: Creating a knowledge base for successful cities and regions, along the statistical value change

Sponsored by the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia and SCORUS, the Conference will be held in Riga, Latvia, 11-13 August 2010.

Registration will be available online through the Conference web page at: <http://www.csb.gov.lv/scorus>. Registration should be completed by 15 July 2010. For questions regarding registration or the program, please contact by e-mail: scorus@csb.gov.lv.

Riga is served by the Riga International Airport, the main air traffic centre in the Baltic region (<http://www.riga-airport.com>).

Latvia, officially the Republic of Latvia, is a country in the Baltic region of Northern Europe with more than 2.2 million inhabitants. Riga, its capital and largest city, currently has a population of more than 700,000. The Historic Centre of Riga has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the city is particularly notable for its Art Nouveau (Jugendstil) architecture, which UNESCO considers to be unparalleled anywhere else in the world.

The scientific programme covers the following themes within the overall topic "Creating a knowledge base for successful cities and regions, along the statistical value chain":

Statistical design (Huang Langhui, huanglh@stats.gov.cn)

Data collection for creating a knowledge base (Klaus Trutzel, KuM.Trutzel@t-online.de)

Focusing on the creation of a knowledge base for the community, this session relates the tasks of collecting data from a variety of sources and regional references and using it to create a knowledge base to inform research and problem solving.

Compilation, estimation and documentation (Stephen K.C. Leung, skcleung@censtatd.gov.hk)

Addressing the challenges in the compilation, estimation, and documentation of the information required to create and sustain a knowledge base, this session examines the issues surrounding gathering accurate, comparable data.

Analysis and research (Dev Virdee, Dev.Virdee@ons.gov.uk, and Derek Bond, D.Bond@ulster.ac.uk)

Dissemination (Ms. Petra Kuncová, petra.kuncova@czso.cz)

The title of this conference presupposes that users play a major role in the development and use of a knowledge base. Dissemination plays two roles in creation of a knowledge base, as input when collecting requests, questions and demands, and as a tool for providing access to the the knowledge base. This session will explore the role of users in defining both what goes into a knowledge base and how it is accessed and used.

Evaluation (quality and user satisfaction) (Ms. Teodora Brandmüller, Teodora.Brandmueller@ec.europa.eu)

Focusing on the quality of information going into and out of the knowledge base and evaluating its ability to meet user needs.

Submissions are being accepted through 15 May 2010. If you want to present a paper, please submit an abstract not exceeding 300 words to the relevant coordinator or to the Chair of the Programme Committee by e-mail at: petra.kuncova@czso.cz.

Local Organizers

Ms. Jolanta Minkevica, Jolanta.Minkevica@csb.gov.lv,
Head of Statistical Methodology and Organisation Division,
Ms. Arija Nukša, Arija.Nukša@csb.gov.lv

IAOS/SCORUS Conference on official statistics and the environment: Approaches, issues, challenges and linkages (Santiago, Chile, 20-22 October 2010)

The following sessions are organized by SCORUS members:

- Regional Energy Supply and the Environment: The Statistical Challenges (Organizer: Derek Bond)
- Sustainable Economic Development of Cities and Regions (Organizer: Pilar Martín-Guzmán)
- Cities, the Environment and Climate Change (Organizer: Markandey Rai)
- Regional Interaction of Environmental, Social and Economic Statistics (Organizer: Wendy Thomas)
- Assessing the Environmental Quality of Life at the Local Level (Organizer: Klaus Trutzel)

SCORUS sessions have been fortunate to receive contributions from the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINVU) to provide a local perspective in each session.

World Urban Forum will take place on UN Habitat Day, 5 October 2010.

Asian Regional Conferences

Beijing Forum – Sponsored by the Metropolitan Bureau of Statistics

City in China – To be held in Macau, SAR China, or Hong Kong, SAR China

SCORUS – The International Network for regional and urban statistics

For information on joining the SCORUS list server or providing suggestions to the leadership group, please contact SCORUS Secretary Wendy Thomas at wlt@pop.umn.edu

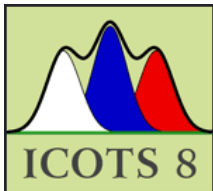
International Association for Statistics Education



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IASE Website <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase>



ICOTS 8 Data and Context in Statistics Education: Towards an Evidence-Based Society

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 11-16 July 2010
Planning for ICOTS 8 to be held in
historic Ljubljana, Slovenia, 11-16

July 2010, is at an advanced stage. The second circular was released in November and can be found on the Conference website, icots8.org. The website contains registration, accommodation and tour details along with a link to the Convention Centre in Ljubljana where registration and accommodation requests are being processed. You are reminded that the cut off date for early bird registration is 31 March 2010.

A full programme of 250 invited papers and 140 contributed papers is developed. The plenary addresses will be presented by Hans Rosling (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden), Gerd Gigerenzer (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin), Cliff Konold (University of Massachusetts), Jessica Utts (University of California) and Anuska Ferligoj (University of Ljubljana). A new feature is a plenary session of debates on

topical and controversial statistical issues organised by Chris Wild with the title "The great debates of ICOTS 8".

Poster presentations can be submitted to the poster coordinators Mojca Bavdaz (mojca.bavdaz@ef.uni-lj.si) and Alesa Lotric Dolinar (alesa.lotric.dolinar@ef.uni-lj.si) up to the date of 15 February 2010. Guidelines for the preparation of posters are on the website.

The referee process is now complete and the Conference Proceedings are being prepared with all papers included. Authors are reminded that they should follow the guidelines for preparation of manuscripts.

A draft timetable will be released during February 2010. At the time of writing this article, it appears there will be seven parallel sessions at the Conference. On the Monday, many sessions timetabled will be in areas of interest to the ISBIS community. Note the special rate for ISBIS delegates to attend on the Sunday afternoon and Monday. Our ISBIS friends are welcome to come to the Conference opening and first day of papers.

Please keep checking the website, icots8.org, over the next few months for Conference announcements.

John Harraway

International Statistical Literacy Project

Let's improve statistical literacy together



Reija Helenius

Dear Members and its Sections,

For the next four years, I am leading the ISLP (International Statistical Literacy Project) together with Dr. Pedro Campos and Dr. Sharleen Forbes. Pedro, Sharleen and I strongly believe in cooperation. We hope that you will also contribute to the ISLP and advance our common goal to improve statistical literacy

worldwide.

At the moment, the International Statistical Literacy Project is seeking country representatives to promote and implement project activities. Please read the announcement included

further in this *ISI Newsletter* and be active! You can also follow our project from our web page:

www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/.

Please feel welcome to cooperate with us!

Best wishes,
Reija Helenius
ISLP Director

New ISLP Team for 2009-2013:

Reija Helenius is the new Director of the ISLP. She comes from Finland, where she works as Head of Development in the Information Services Unit of Statistics Finland. She is an ISI elected member and an IASE member. In her current job, her main task is to develop user-friendly services for users of statistics. Statistical training and national statistical offices' cooperative activities with educational institutions are

especially close to her heart. For the next four years, she will lead the ISLP together with Dr. Pedro Campos and Dr. Sharleen Forbes. An ISLP Advisory Board will assist them with their work. A common aim is to improve statistical literacy worldwide.



Pedro Campos

Pedro Campos, a Deputy Director of the ISLP, comes from Portugal where he is working as an Assistant Professor at the University of Porto and teaches statistics and information systems. He is also working in the Department of Methodology and Information Systems in Statistics Portugal (INE).

He is an IASE member and a member of the Research Unit LIAAD-INESC (Laboratory of Artificial Intelligence and Decision Support). Pedro was one of the pioneers in organising a pilot ISLP statistical literacy competition for the first time in Portugal in 2007.



Sharleen Forbes

Sharleen Forbes, a Deputy Director of the ISLP, is a New Zealander who has worked at Statistics New Zealand since 1994. Currently, she is a General Manager in the Statistics Education & Research Unit there. She also holds an adjunct professorship in official statistics at the School of Government, Victoria University, Wellington. Sharleen has a long-standing interest in mathematics

education, in the measurement of gender and ethnic differences in mathematics in particular, and in the application of simple techniques to explain longitudinal data. Sharleen is an ISI elected member, IASE and IAOS member. She is

working very actively in different statistical associations and committees.

Call for country representatives

The International Statistical Literacy Project is seeking country representatives to promote and implement project activities. The mission of the ISLP is to support, create and participate in statistical literacy activities and promoting these around the world.

What do we expect from a country representative?

We are seeking a person or team who is willing to help advance statistical literacy in their country or region. An ISLP country representative might be an employee of a statistical office or of an educational institution or might be a member of a society. They may be an ISI and/or Section member, but the membership is not obligatory.

What are the main tasks of a country representative?

Willingness to:

- improve statistical literacy
- give suggestions and ideas of how to develop the ISLP
- advance and implement ISLP plans within own country/region
- provide informational material (e.g. on coming events, country's ISLP activities) to the ISLP team and the *ISLP Newsletter*.

How to apply to become a country representative?

If you are interested in becoming a country representative and working in this international cooperation project, please contact the ISLP Director, Reija Helenius, by e-mail (reija.helenius@stat.fi) by the 15th of February 2010. The ISLP team will handle the informal applications and inform about selections during February 2010.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Reija (reija.helenius@stat.fi).

Reija Helenius, ISLP Director

International Association for Statistical Computing



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Websites IASC website: <http://www.iasc-isi.org>
CSDA SSN website: www.csdassn.org

Report of IASC Activities

Homage to Professor Emeritus Chooichiro Asano

On 6th December 2008 at Yokohama, Japan, the board of directors of the Asian Regional Section of the IASC decided to pay homage to Professor Emeritus Chooichiro Asano for his contributions to promoting computational statistics in Asia and his efforts in developing cooperation among the statisticians in Asia and other parts of the world. This decision was approved by the IASC Council at its meeting held in Durban, South Africa, in August 2009. The homage ceremony was held at the

ARS special session of Japan Federation of Statistical Societies Conference at Doshisha University, Kyotanabe campus, on 8th September 2009.

Professor Asano has been very active in international activities such as Japan-China and Japan-Korea conferences to promote computational statistics in the East Asian region. During 27-28 October 1993, the Asian Conference on Statistical Computing was held in Beijing under the sponsorship of the IASC. At this meeting, the East Asian



Regional Section (EARS) of the IASC was officially established. The Proceedings of this Conference was edited by Professor Asano and was published under the name of the IASC. Professor Asano was elected as the founding EARS Chairperson at this Conference. In 1997, Professor Asano proposed to change the name of EARS to the Asian Regional Section (ARS) at the meeting of the EARS board of directors, and the IASC Council approved the proposal. Professor Asano has served as Chair of the board of directors of the ARS from 1993 to 2002.

To commemorate Professor Chooichro Asano's outstanding contribution to both the ARS and the IASC, and to celebrate his pioneering efforts in tying up the links between the researchers in Asia and other regions of the world, the ARS with the help of the IASC decided to offer him a homage ceremony.

Moon Yul Huh, Chairperson of IASC-ARS
Junji Nakano, Chairperson-Elect of IASC-ARS
Yutaka Tanaka, President of IASC

The 3rd International Conference on Computational and Financial Econometrics (CFE'09) and 2nd International Workshop of the ERCIM Working Group on Computing & Statistics

The 3rd International Conference on Computational and Financial Econometrics (CFE'09) and 2nd International Workshop of the ERCIM Working Group on Computing & Statistics took place the 29-31 October 2009, Grand Resort Hotel, Limassol, Cyprus. The joint meeting was endorsed by International Association for Statistical Computing and supported by the CSDA journal. There were approximately 550 participants and around 460 presentations. The programme and book of abstracts can be found on the web:

<http://www.cfe-csda.org/cfe09/>
 and
<http://www.cfe-csda.org/ercim09/>

The 2010 meetings will take place in London, 10-13 December 2010, and will be hosted and organized by the London School of Economics and Queen Mary, University of London UK. Further details will be made available on the web:

<http://www.cfe-csda.org/cfe10/>
 and
<http://www.cfe-csda.org/ercim10/>

Erricos Kontogiorghes
Chairman of IASC-ERS

Forthcoming Events

2010 Spring Conference of the Korean Statistical Society held jointly with the Asia Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing 21-22 May 2010, Statistical Center, Daejeon, Korea

The Asian Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC-ARS) is organizing several student and regular sessions jointly with the Korean Statistical Society (KSS) in the 2010 Spring Conference of the KSS.

Student sessions are for graduate students studying statistics or related fields in Asian countries. These sessions aim to provide an opportunity for graduate students in this area to introduce their research topics to other students as well as senior researchers, who may provide valuable advice and comments. Also, attendees from various countries can share their unique culture and warm friendship. Students from other regions can participate in the sessions.

Regular sessions are for both junior and senior researchers, and will be organized jointly with KSS. These sessions will provide an excellent forum to share research interests and collaborations among prominent researchers in Asian countries. The KSS and IASC-ARS encourage many researchers to participate in these sessions. Researchers from other regions can also participate in the sessions.

Submission deadlines:

1. The special section for graduate students
 Title submission: 15 February 2010
 Abstract submission: 15 March 2010
2. The special section for researchers
 Title submission: 15 February 2010
 Abstract submission: 15 March 2010

All submissions should be sent to:

Yonghee Lee (The University of Seoul, Korea)
 E-mail: ylee@uos.ac.kr

Some important notices:

1. Each session consists of 4-5 speakers and will be given 90 minutes including discussion. The language for presentation is English.
2. Local expenses for the non-Korean speakers in the IASC-ARS sessions will be supported by KSS and IASC-ARS. Local expenses will cover accommodation and part of daily stipends during the Conference period.
3. The international guest house of Sungkyun Kwan University in Seoul is available for those participants who want to stay in Seoul on 22-23 May. The number of rooms is limited (8 single rooms) and rooms will be provided upon request.
4. Selected papers that are presented at the Conference will be published in a special section of "Communication of the Korean Statistical Society (CKKS)". An editorial board will be elected for this special section, and will be responsible for reviewing submitted articles and publishing selected papers. Submission information will be posted after the Conference.

Local Organizing Committee for the special section:
Byeong U. Park (Chair, Seoul National University, Korea)
Dong W. Kim (Sungkyun Kwan University, Korea)
Heon J. Park (Inha University, Korea)
Yonghee Lee (The University of Seoul, Korea)
All correspondence can be sent to:
Prof. Yonghee Lee, E-mail: ylee@uos.ac.kr

Information about Daejeon, Korea, and the Statistical Center can be found on the official website of Daejeon city: <http://www.daejeon.go.kr/language/english/>.
The Statistical Center of Statistics Korea is a new facility for conferences and education, and it is presently located near the Government Complex in Seo-gu, Daejeon.

Yonghee Lee
Secretary of IASC-ARS

Compstat 2010 22-27 August 2010, Paris



The COMPSTAT 2010 Symposium will take place in Paris, 22-27 August, on the premises of Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM), located in the heart of Paris.

The Conference will be organized by CNAM statisticians with the support of INRIA, the French National Institute in Computer Science and Control (<http://www.inria.fr/index.en.html>).

The Local Organizing Committee is chaired by Gilbert Saporta (CNAM), with Yves Lechevallier from INRIA as Vice-Chair.

Submissions of contributed papers are now closed (more than 200 papers were received). However, it is still possible to submit one page single abstracts until 23 May.

The 3 keynote lectures will be:

- Luc Devroye (McGill University, Montréal): Generating random variables on a computer
- Lutz Edler (German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg): Computational Statistics Solutions for Modern Biomedical Research: A Challenge and Chance for Both
- David Hand (Imperial College, London): The Laws of Coincidence

Three tutorials will be organized:

- Bayesian Computation Method
Organiser: Jean-Michel Marin
(Université Montpellier II, France)
- Machine Learning and Association Rules
Organisers: Petr Berka, Jan Rauch
(University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic)
- Statistical Approaches for Complex Data
Organiser: Lynne Billard
(University of Georgia, United States)

The programme of the 14 invited sessions is now available on the website: <http://www.compstat2010.fr/>.

There will be also a very attractive social programme!

Contact e-mail: info@compstat2010.fr

Gilbert Saporta
Chair of COMPSTAT 2010

The Joint Meeting of 7th Conference of the Asian Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing and 2011 Taipei International Statistical Symposium

The Institute of Statistical Science, Academia Sinica, will host the Joint Meeting of 7th Conference of the Asian Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC) and 2011 Taipei International Statistical Symposium from 16 to 19 December 2011 at Academia Sinica, jointly organized by the Asian Regional Section of the IASC, the Institute of Statistical Science, the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, Executive Yuan, R.O.C., and the Chinese Statistical Association. After the main Conference, a satellite workshop on "Statistical Computing in Quantitative Finance" will be held at the Feng Chia University in Taichung, near attractive sightseeing spots such as Sun Moon Lake, Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village.

For more information on the main Conference, visit <http://Joint2011.stat.sinica.edu.tw/> or contact Yuan-Chin Chang & Chun-houh Chen, Institute of Statistical Science, Academia Sinica, 128 Academia Road, Section 2, Taipei, Taiwan 115; (886) 2-27835611; Joint2011@stat.sinica.edu.tw, and for the satellite workshop, <http://workshop.stat.fcu.edu.tw/>, or contact Dr. Cathy Chen, Department of Statistics, Feng Chia University, 100 Wenhwa Road, Seatwen, Taichung, Taiwan 40724; (886) 4-24517250 ext. 4412; chenws@fcu.edu.tw.

Call for Contributed Papers for Statistics Canada's 2010 International Methodology Symposium

Social Statistics: The Interplay among Censuses, Surveys and Administrative Data
October 26-29, 2010, in Ottawa, Canada

Members of the survey methodology community, such as those from private organizations, governments, or universities, are invited to attend, particularly if they have a special interest in statistical or methodological issues resulting from the use of multiple sources of data (censuses, sample surveys or administrative data). The organizing committee is soliciting papers related to methodological aspects of the field. The closing date is March 31, 2010. For more information, contact symposium2010@statcan.gc.ca or visit the website <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/conferences/symposium2010/index-eng.htm>.

For the entire article on this Symposium, please download the entire announcement in English and French via <http://isi.cbs.nl/nlet/images/N100-AnnStatCan.pdf>.

International Association of Survey Statisticians



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Message from the IASS President

As the New Year sets in, the IASS is active on a number of fronts. Our aim is to foster interest in and development of the theory and practice of statistics related to surveys and censuses. We do this through supporting related meetings and conferences, through IASS sponsored meetings at the biennial ISI World Statistics Congresses (WSC) and through short courses held in conjunction with these Congresses. We also promote networking and sharing of ideas through our newsletter, *The Survey Statistician*, and through the IASS website (<http://isi.cbs.nl/iass/>).

Currently, we are encouraging anyone organising international workshops or conferences on relevant topics, who would like to seek IASS support in 2011, to get in touch with us if possible before 31st March. We are also looking for input in terms of the short courses to be run in Dublin, in conjunction with the 2011 ISI World Statistics Congress, and for input to the program of meetings to be put together for the 2013 ISI World Statistics Congress in Hong Kong, SAR China.

Also, we are keen to encourage people from developing and transitional countries to consider applying for the Cochran-Hansen Prize for 2011, which includes coverage of reasonable expenses to attend the ISI WSC in Dublin. This is a Prize for the best paper on survey research methods from a young statistician in a developing or transitional country. If you, or someone you know, is eligible for the Prize and has an interest in this area, please consider applying for it or encouraging them to. Contacts and more information in each of these areas are given in the Message from the IASS Scientific Secretary below.

An important focus of the IASS Council this year will be to enhance both our website and our newsletter, *The Survey Statistician*, to improve their use in building and sharing knowledge related to survey statistics. We have a new editorial team for our newsletter, Natalie Shlomo (UK) and Frank Yu (Australia), and we are in the process of building a small website team to make progress on ideas for improvements to

the website and its relationship to *The Survey Statistician*, which we are proposing to make electronic. We are always looking for members to become actively involved in the work of the IASS, and if you have an interest in joining those already helping, please get in touch. We also welcome any comments or suggestions you have on IASS activities.

The IASS is always keen to welcome new members as well. The registration form for individual members can be found on our website (<http://isi.cbs.nl/iass/>). For organisations wishing to join, please contact our Executive Director, Catherine Meunier (catherine.meunier@insee.fr).

I wish you all a productive and happy year for 2010.

Susan Linacre
IASS President
susan.linacre@abs.gov.au

Message from the IASS Scientific Secretary

The program of the IASS short courses, which are offered immediately prior to the biennial meetings of the ISI, is the most significant educational activity of the IASS. We start planning for the 2011 ISI WSC, Dublin, by collecting ideas from IASS members for new short courses. These are new courses that are thought to be valuable additions to the pre-conference training program for 2011. If you have a short course topic that you feel would be a valuable addition to the Dublin 2011 program, please submit your proposal for a new short course to Leyla Mohadjer at leylamohadjer@westat.com by 1st April 2010. After that date, the IASS Executive will review the historical offerings and the new proposals, and establish a preliminary program of short courses for Dublin 2011. Please include the following information in your proposal:

- Course title and subject area description;
- Name of text (if applicable), source of other instructional materials;
- Syllabus for a course of approximately two days (12-16 contact hours);

- Target audience for the course, evidence of demand (optional);
- Statement of relevance to the general IASS membership;
- Statement of special relevance to statisticians in developing and transitional countries who are likely to attend the ISI WSC in Dublin.

Cochran-Hansen Prize 2011 Competition for Young Survey Statisticians from Developing and Transitional Countries

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the International Association of Survey Statisticians established the Cochran-Hansen Prize to be awarded every two years to the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a developing or transitional country.

Participation in the competition for the Prize is open to nationals of developing or transitional countries who are living in such countries and who were born in 1967 or later.

Papers submitted must be unpublished original works. They may include materials from the participant's university thesis. They should be in either English or French. Papers for consideration should be submitted to the IASS Secretariat at the address below to arrive by December 2010. Each submission should be accompanied by a cover letter that gives the participant's year of birth, nationality, and country of residence. The cover letter must also indicate if the work submitted is the result of a PhD thesis and, in the case of joint papers, the prize candidate must state clearly what his/her contribution to the paper is.

The papers submitted will be examined by the Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee appointed by the IASS. The decision of the Committee is final.

The winner of the Prize will be invited to present his/her paper at the 58th ISI World Statistics Congress to be held in Dublin, Ireland, 21-26 August 2011, and the name of the winner will be announced at the ISI General Assembly in Dublin.

The author of the winning paper will receive the Cochran-Hansen Prize in the form of books and journal subscriptions to the value of about € 500, and will receive reasonable travel and living expenses paid in order to present the paper at the ISI WSC in Dublin.

For further information, please contact:

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Tel: +33 5 5755 5600
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Regards,

Leyla Mohadjer
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International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics



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Websites ISBIS website: www.isbis.org
ISBIS official Journal - *Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry* (ASMBI): www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jhome/66002616

Message from the ISBIS President



Yves-Laurent Grize

It is a pleasure for me to be able to start the New Year by sharing with you two excellent news items for ISBIS!

The first one concerns the creation of a competition, the y-BIS Prize, open to young ISBIS members for the best paper presented at our biennial international symposium:

This prize valued at US\$ 1,000 is sponsored by the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) and the American Statistical Association (ASA). You

will find more details below in this *ISI Newsletter*. Let me thank the NISS and ASA for their generosity as well as our Vice-President of Scientific Program Nick Fisher, who was instrumental in organizing this fantastic reward for talented young statisticians.

The second excellent news item concerns the financial support that the World Bank is granting to the ISBIS to help statisticians from developing countries attend ISBIS-sponsored conferences during this and early next year. This is part of a larger agreement between the ISI and this financial organization. Details concerning the qualification procedure are currently being formulated by the Executive Committee and myself, and will be posted soon on our website

www.isbisb.org. So please look out to be the first ones to take advantage of this generous but limited opportunity. More details appear in a specific section below in this *Newsletter*.

Speaking of conferences let me remind you that the next ISBIS meeting will be ISBIS-2010, our biennial International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics, taking place in the seaside resort of Portoroz (Slovenia) on the Adriatic Sea, from 5-9 July. The Organizers informed me that registration opened mid-January, so remember to register soon to profit from the early bird fees (see also below in this *Newsletter*).

Now talking of fees, let me mention that by joining ISBIS you will save money! Not only are the discounted fees offered to ISBIS members at ISBIS conferences substantially lower than for normal participants (e.g. at ISBIS-2010 the discount is double the full membership fees for developed countries), but as a member you will enjoy further advantages:

- An international journal, *Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry* (ASMBI) (free online access to ISBIS members);
- A regular newsletter (free to ISBIS members);
- 25% discount* on Wiley books for ISBIS members (*some restrictions apply);
- A website - www.isbis.org - that provides a broad range of information and a Members Only area with access to ASMBI and ISBIS sponsored events.

Another reason to join ISBIS includes, of course, the excellent networking opportunities with numerous well-known statisticians from across the world. Especially if you are a young statistician, you may want join our Young Statisticians' group y-BIS, whose aim is to facilitate communications among people starting their careers and provides support in a variety of ways — jobs network, Help Desk and more.

If this is not enough, allow me to add that the ISBIS membership fees for people under 30 years of age is reduced, and if you are also a student, it is ... Can you guess it? Yes, it is free (for the first two years). So, why should you wait? I am looking forward to welcoming you into the ISBIS family soon!

Have a great 2010!

Yves-Laurent Grize

News about ISBIS-2010 Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-9 July 2010



Nicholas Fisher

co-founders of Image Analysis and Mathematical Morphology, Jean Serra. Professor Serra will give the opening plenary address, outlining the development of the subject he initiated with George Matheron in the 1960's. He

Planning for ISBIS-2010 is now well advanced. We have an exciting scientific program in prospect that significantly broadens the scope of previous ISBIS biennial meetings. Highlights include (but are not limited to!):

- The Invited Session stream on Tuesday 6th July devoted to Image Analysis, featuring one of the two

will then present a tutorial introduction to Image Analysis, which will be followed by three Invited Papers by other leading practitioners. There will be a significant emphasis on how this substantial body of methodology has been applied to solve a vast range of problems in optical microscopy, histology, signal compression, multispectral imagery, material sciences and many other industrial settings.

- A final plenary afternoon on the future of statistical computing for large and complex data sets, with the closing plenary address given by Lee Edlefsen, Vice-President of Engineering of REvolution Computing. Dr. Edlefsen has had a long career developing data analysis and visualization software. He played a leading role in designing and developing three award-winning, commercially successful software programs (Gauss, Axum, and S-PLUS for Windows), and was the co-founder and CEO of three successful software companies.
- Significant emphasis on Financial Services, Health Services, and other emerging topics in the service economy, in addition, of course, to more mainstream topics in Business and Industrial Statistics.
- An ASMBI Discussion Paper by Ming Li, Steve Holland and Bill Meeker on a problem in Automatic Crack Detection.
- A number of invited and contributed sessions and activities, including a Development Workshop, specifically targeting Young Statisticians.

For more information, please visit:
www.action-m.com/isbis2010.

Nicholas Fisher

Call for Papers and Registration Biennial International Symposium on Business & Industrial Statistics, 6-9 July 2010, Portoroz, Slovenia www.action-m.com/isbis2010

ISBIS-2010, the biennial international symposium sponsored by the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS), will be held at a delightful resort on the Adriatic coast, the Grand Hotel Bernardin, Adriatic Resort & Convention Center, Portoroz in Slovenia, from 6-9 July 2010.

The scientific program will focus on important statistical issues relating to productivity improvement and decision-making at all levels of business and industry, including financial services and health services.

There will be particular emphasis on industrial applications of Statistical Image Analysis, with an opening plenary address and tutorial introduction to the subject by Professor Jean Serra, co-founder of Image Analysis and Mathematical Morphology in the 1960's; and on future directions for statistical computing for large and complex data sets, concluding with a plenary address by one of the leading figures in the area, Dr. Lee Edlefsen of REvolution Computing. Another interesting feature will be an ASMBI Discussion Paper, by Ming Li, Steve Holland and Bill Meeker, on automatic crack detection in image sequence data.

The Symposium will be preceded, on 5 July 2010, by a half-day Developmental Workshop for young statisticians led by the Executive Director of the American Statistical Association, Dr. Ron Wasserstein, and the current President of the ASA, Dr. Sastry Pantula.

ISBIS-2010 will provide a varied and stimulating scientific program of invited and contributed papers, and excellent opportunities for formal and informal exchanges. Authors will have the opportunity to submit extended versions of their papers for publication in the Society's journal, *Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry*. Also, there will be an enjoyable social program.

Useful web pages:

Registration: <http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/reg.php> and http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/reg_2.php

Call for Papers: <http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/tracks.php>

Abstract Submission Form:
http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/submission_form.php

To submit an Expression of Interest:
http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/prereg_form.php

Accommodation:
<http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/accommodation.php>
for accommodation at the Grand Hotel Bernardin
<http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/otheraccommodation.php>
for accommodation at other hotels in St. Bernardin Resort

For further information, please visit www.action-m.com/isbis2010 or send an e-mail to Milena Zeithamlova at milena@action-m.com.

For information about registration, please visit:
<http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/reg.php> and
http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/reg_2.php

Online registration is available now.

We look forward to seeing you at ISBIS-2010 in Slovenia!
Best regards,

Milena Zeithamlova
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Vrsovicke 68
101 00 Prague 10
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<http://www.action-m.com>

Funding from the World Bank for Participants from Developing Countries International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS-2010) Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-9 July 2010



Yves-Laurent Grize

The World Bank has provided funds through the ISI to provide partial support for a limited number of participants from developing countries (list of 144 countries as defined by the World Bank, <http://web.worldbank.org/>) for ISBIS-2010. The support will cover registration fees. In selected cases, funding will also provide partial support for travel and hotel

expenses. This additional amount will vary depending on the number of applicants and their needs. We plan to support the participation of at least 15 persons with these funds.

Eligibility Criteria:

You will need to comply with the following requirements:

a) You need to be a member of ISBIS; if you are not currently a member, you can join the Society prior to participation in the Conference. See <http://www.isbis.org/membership.html> for information on how to become a member.

b) You must be a citizen and full-time resident of a developing country according to the World Bank list of developing countries (see below).

c) You need to present an invited or contributed paper. If you are not already on the invited program, you can submit a contributed paper through the website at <http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/>.

The deadline for submission is 31 March 2010.

Application Process for Funding:

Please send a copy of your CV, proof of citizenship and residency in a developing country, abstract of your talk (no more than an A4 page, approximately 400-450 words. Please use only plain English text, with no formulas, i.e. no Tex or LaTeX), and a one-page cover letter (that includes rationale for the funding request, the amount of funding requested, and how you will cover the remaining costs to participate in the Conference). The goal of the grant from World Bank is capacity building in developing countries, so your cover letter should indicate clearly how your participation in ISBIS 2010 will contribute to this goal.

The application should be submitted via e-mail to Dr. Yves Grize, President of ISBIS at isbis.wbfund@gmx.net.

The application must be received by 31 March 2010. Successful applicants will be notified by 20 April 2010.

Yves-Laurent Grize

**Report from Past Conference:
6th Meeting of Colombia Venezuela on Statistics
Valencia, Venezuela, 25-29 October 2009**

The theme of the Conference was Industry and Environment and ISBIS was one of the sponsors. Last year, the meeting was at the University of Carabobo in Valencia, Venezuela from 25-29 October 2009. The meeting brought together the communities of both countries to find a better approach that encourages the exchange, strengthening and development in the field of research and application of Statistics. This event has been conducted annually since 2004, exchanging locations between Colombia and Venezuela.

The Chair of the Organizing Committee was Teodoro Garcia from the University of Carabobo. The President of the University gave the inaugural speech and the Vice-President also was in attendance. This was a very significant event for the University.

There were about 130 participants, mainly from Venezuela and Colombia, and a few from the neighboring countries. ISBIS sponsored six main speakers and three workshops. Abdel El-Shaarawi (Canada) and Bovas Abraham (Canada) gave plenary talks. Alberto Ferrer (Spain), Yulia Gel (Canada), Valderio Reisen (Brazil) and Geoff Vining (USA) also gave main talks on behalf of ISBIS. Bovas Abraham and Yulia Gel gave a workshop on Time Series, and Valderio Reisen and

Mercedes Toscano gave a workshop on Long Memory Time Series. There were several sessions on industrial statistics and environmental statistics from speakers from industrial and governmental organizations in Venezuela and Colombia. There was a lot of encouragement and effort to get students to participate in the Conference and a sizable number of students were involved. The talks and workshops were well received and it was a pleasure to exchange ideas with Latin American colleagues.

Bovas Abraham

ISBIS Young Statisticians Group (y-BIS)



Paulo Canas Rodrigues

The recently formed ISBIS Young Statisticians group, y-BIS, will have a number of activities at the next International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics, ISBIS-2010. Namely:

- (i) a half-day developmental workshop specifically focused on the needs of Young Statisticians;
- (ii) a few Invited Paper sessions in

the scientific program organized by y-BIS members;

- (iii) a y-BIS Special Invited Session with the Scientific Journal Editors to clarify those questions no one answered you before;
- (iv) a Best Paper award for papers presented by y-BIS members, sponsored by NISS and the American Statistical Association, valued at US\$ 1000.

More information about how to join y-BIS and this meeting can be found in <http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/>.

Paulo Canas Rodrigues

News from the ASMBI Journal

ASMBI (*Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry*), the official ISBIS journal, is always looking for papers combining innovative methodologies and sound applications in the broad area of business and industrial statistics. It is worth mentioning the most recent and forthcoming ASMBI discussion papers:

- Understanding the Shape of the Mixture Failure Rate (with Engineering and Demographic Applications) by Maxim Finkelstein (presented at the ASMBI session in the ISBIS Conference in Stellenbosch) - Vol. 25, n. 6 (2009)
- Data Analytics and Stochastic Modeling in a Semiconductor Fab by Natarajan, Bagchi, Baseman, Davenport, Slonim and Weiss (IBM USA and Israel) - Vol. 25, n. 1 (2010)
- Risk Modelling with the Mixed Erlang Distribution by Sheldon Lin and Gordon Willmot
- Reliability and non-destructive evaluation by Bill Meeker and co-authors (to be presented at the ASMBI session in the ISBIS 2010 Conference in Slovenia in July 2010).

ASMBI will also publish a special issue with papers from ISBIS 2010, after the published issue on ISBIS 2007 and the forthcoming on ISBIS 2008.

The papers meant for ASMBI should be submitted at: mc.manuscriptcentral.com/asmb following the ASMBI author submission guidelines given on www.interscience.wiley.com/journal/asmbi

The ASMBI Editor-in-Chief is:
 Fabrizio Ruggeri
 CNR IMATI
 Milano (Italy)
www.mi.imati.cnr.it/~fabrizio
 E-mail: fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it

Fabrizio Ruggeri

Honors/Awards for ISBIS Members



Fugee Tsung

Fugee Tsung, Acting Head of Industrial Engineering and Logistics Management at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), has been elected Fellow of the American Society for Quality (ASQ), becoming one of only four ASQ Fellows in the Greater China Region. Fugee Tsung is currently a member of the ISBIS Council.

"China now becomes the world factory - with 'Made in China' labeled everywhere. Quality is actually the key to sustain its success. In addition, quality improvement and control has become a core technique in business and service sectors as well. I am delighted to see that the importance of quality (including quality assurance and testing) is gaining increasing recognition and our government has selected testing and certification services as one of the six pillar industries for economic development", said Professor Tsung. A press release is available at:

http://www.ust.hk/eng/news/press_20091204-729.html

ISBIS Website (www.isbis.org)

The address of the official ISBIS website is www.isbis.org. This is the place to look for up-to-date information on the activities of ISBIS including a member-only zone with electronic access to the ASMBI-Journal, list of members, papers from past conferences and much more.

For further information on the website, or suggestions for its content, please contact Yves Grize (ISBIS President) at: yves-laurent.grize@baloise.ch

Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi

ISBIS Membership



Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi

ISBIS membership is open to all individuals and organizations with a professional interest in any aspect of business, financial and industrial statistics. There are individual, institutional, and student memberships. Details and application forms can be obtained from the ISBIS website (www.isbis.org) or contact Yves-Laurent Grize (yves-laurent.grize@baloise.ch) or Yulia R. Gel (ygl@math.uwaterloo.ca).

If you are already a member of the ISI and one of its Sections, you can add ISBIS to your membership for a small fee by sending an e-mail to Margaret de Ruiter-Molloy in the ISI Office (m.deruitermolloy@cbs.nl). You can now renew your ISBIS membership electronically by using the form on: <http://isi.cbs.nl/intro-payment.htm>

Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi



The International Environmetrics Society

President Daniela Cocchi: president@environmetrics.org

Section Editor Michael Dowd: mdowd@mathstat.dal.ca

Website <http://www.environmetrics.org/>

TIES 2010 - The 21st Annual Conference of The International Environmetrics Society Margarita Island, Venezuela, 20-25 June 2010

The next Annual Conference of The International Environmetrics Society will be held in Margarita Island, Venezuela, from the 20th until the 25th of June 2010. The main Conference theme is: *Sustaining our environment under changing conditions: Quantitative methodological challenges.*

The program includes courses, plenary talks, invited sessions, as well as general poster and contributed sessions. Plenary Talks include the President's Invited Lecture that will be given by Professor Bruno Sansó from the University of California in Santa Cruz.

Invited Sessions include topics in:

- Air quality monitoring and assessment
- Indicators of environmental change
- Environmental data quality assessments
- Monitoring and modeling of environmental systems
- Environmental sustainability assessments

- Environmental standards
- Environmental vulnerability and risk assessments
- Space-time modeling of environmental data
- Spatio-Temporal analysis of human health
- Spatio-Temporal modeling of extremes
- Statistics in Paleoclimate
- Outreach in environmental statistics
- Valuation of ecosystem services
- Water quality monitoring and assessment

Important Dates:

5 March 2010: Early registration deadline

19 March 2010: Deadline for submission of abstracts to appear in the Conference Book of Abstracts

For more information on the Conference, check the web page:
<http://ties2010.cesma.usb.ve>.

Michael Dowd

A Successful European Establishment Statistics Workshop

The European Establishment Statistics Workshop (EESW09), gathering practitioners and researchers active in the various areas of the value chain in establishment statistics (i.e. statistics on businesses, organisations or on economy, produced from surveys or from administrative data), was held from 7-9 September 2009 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Drawing on experiences of more than 50 participants from statistical institutes, research centres and universities of 15 European countries and Eurostat, the workshop offered 27 papers. These were presented and discussed in seven paper sessions, their topics covering registers, data integration, data collection, editing, sampling and estimation, as well as emerging issues like estimation in recession. A panel session gave an overview of related establishment statistics initiatives – forums and projects – that are busy working together either on a European or wider international basis. Four small group discussions provided opportunities for those with a particular interest to focus on the topics of administrative data sources, data collection, editing and data validation, and burden reductions.

Participants of EESW09 have recognised the strong and enduring drivers on establishment statistics: Operational efficiency, integrated production systems, business burden reduction and use of administrative data. Reflecting these drivers and the success of the Stockholm workshop, they have expressed support for the work towards (i) Organising a second European establishment statistics workshop in September 2011, EESW11, (ii) Establishing a virtual collaboration platform for exchange in the period up to the workshop.

The workshop in (i) is aimed to last three days (somewhat longer than the 2009 one). Its likely format will be paper sessions, poster sessions and small group discussions. Broadening the scope to somewhat more countries and somewhat more academic participants, balanced by maintaining a workshop format, will be another goal of the second workshop.

The platform in (ii) can provide the exchange of experiences and other forms of virtual collaboration between interested parties engaged in establishment statistics production or research in Europe. Its likely functions are to include: (i) Providing a repository of technical papers, workshop presentations and other material, (ii) Providing pointers to related initiatives within establishment statistics (their URLs, contact persons, repositories if any, etc.), (iii) Enabling creation of virtual groups focused on specific topics within establishment statistics (resembling small group discussions).

Short papers and/or presentations prepared for the workshop are posted on the workshop website, www.eesw09.eu, since November 2009.



*Delegates mixing at the 41st ISI Session in New Delhi, India, in 1977,
with the Honourable Mr. Morarji Desai (centre of the photograph).*

*Did you know the Indian Government issued a special commemorative stamp to celebrate the New Delhi Session?
Should any of you know of its whereabouts, please share it with all of us.*

Call for Papers for a Special Issue of the International Statistical Review on Energy Statistics

The ISI plans to publish a special issue of the *International Statistical Review* (ISR) with the theme of Energy Statistics. I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Carol Joyce Blumberg (U.S. Energy Information Administration, USA) and Dr. Abdel H. El-Shaarawi (National Water Research Institute, Canada) have agreed to be the Guest Editors.

It is hoped that the issue will contain papers covering different aspects of energy statistics. Some of the manuscripts selected for publication may be supplemented by a discussion by appropriate experts and a rejoinder by the author(s).

Some general areas for papers are:

- reviews/surveys of significant developments in theory, methodology, statistical computing and graphics as related to energy statistics
- relationships between energy statistics and statistics education
- expository papers on emerging areas of research or application related to energy statistics
- papers describing new developments and/or challenges in energy statistics
- papers on the history of energy statistics

Some general topics within energy that would be of high interest for papers are:

- measuring the supply and/or consumption of energy
- forecasting future supply and/or consumption (demand) of energy
- forecasting future energy prices
- data quality issues
- issues related to renewable energy sources statistics
- measuring environmental effects of energy use

Papers will be refereed. Do not submit papers that have previously been published or accepted for publication in refereed publications. Submit papers by 9th January 2011 to Liliana Pinkasovych at the ISI Permanent Office (e-mail: l.pinkasovych@cbs.nl) as an attachment with a cover letter. The cover letter should indicate that the manuscript is for the Special Issue of ISR on Energy Statistics. Manuscripts should be submitted as either Word or PDF files. On acceptance of a manuscript, the author will be asked to send an electronic version of the paper, preferably in LaTeX. Further Instructions to Authors are available on the ISR websites at <http://isi.cbs.nl/ISR/isr-authors.htm> and <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/117998483/home>.

*Ali S. Hadi, Editor-in-Chief
International Statistical Review*

ISOSS Conference in Cairo Reinforces Statistics for Development and Good Governance

The 10th Islamic Countries Conference on Statistical Sciences (ICCS-X) was successfully held at the American University in Cairo (AUC), New Cairo, Egypt, with over 300 participants from all over the world. The biennial Conference was jointly organized by the Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences (ISOSS), Egyptian Cabinet Information and Decision Support Centre (IDSC) and AUC. The Conference was financially sponsored by the Islamic Development Bank (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia), the Egyptian Ministries of Tourism and Investments, IDSC and AUC. The Conference was dedicated to the late Professor Mir Maswood Ali, a prominent Statistician of Bangladeshi origin and key founder of the Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences, University of Western Ontario, Canada.



Standing (from left): Kaye Bashford (Australia), Sharif A. Abdelhalim (IDB, Saudi Arabia), Magued Oslam (Chair, LOC, Egypt), Jef Teugels (ISI President, Belgium), Zeinab Amin (Co-Chair, LOC, Egypt), Mohammad Hanif Mian (ISOSS Vice-President, Pakistan), Edward Wegman (USA), Jim Berger (USA).

Sitting (from left): Shahjahan Khan (ISOSS President, Australia), Wafik Younan (Treasurer, LOC, Egypt), Ali S Hadi (ISOSS President-Elect, USA/Egypt).

In the opening session, Dr. Lisa Anderson, Provost of AUC, spoke about the importance and diverse applications of statistics from the ancient need of the states to the modern day public affairs. The ISOSS President, Dr. Shahjahan Khan of the University of Southern Queensland, Australia, emphasized the essence of engagements between the statisticians from the developed countries with those in the developing countries, especially with those of the IOC member states for improving the quality of government statistics and statistical research as well as enhancing its state of the art applications. Dr. Magued Osman, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee and Head of IDSC, spoke about the role of statistics for development and good governance. Dr. Ali S. Hadi, Vice-Provost of AUC, current Chief Editor of *International Statistical Review*, Chair of the Scientific and Program Committee, welcomed the participants while also covering different scientific and cultural activities of the Conference.

The highlights of the Conference included the participation of four keynote speakers. First, Dr. Jef L. Teugels, President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), presented a keynote address on the extreme value distributions with applications. He analyzed data of natural calamities/disasters with extremes coming from the 1970 cyclone in Bangladesh and Hurricane Katrina in southern USA. Dr. Jim Berger covered the Bayesian adjustments of multiplicity in the testing regime of huge number of tests coming from multi-disciplinary scientific studies. Dr. Edward Wegman, who testified in the US Congress twice on the scientific aspects of climate change issues, discussed the rapid changes in the data science, and took the audience to the outer universe of huge datasets and the associated challenges to analyze them for scientific applications. Dr. Kaye Bashford, former President of the Statistical Society of Australia Inc., presented her keynote address on some applications of multivariate data analysis for determining the best quality of wheat production. The data presented in the talk came from an international team of experts working on the project around the world.

The theme of the Conference was *Statistics for Development and Good Governance*. The following series of Panel Discussions related to this theme were presented. Panel I: Public Opinion Polling & Good Governance (Speaker: Magued Osman, Moderator: Dina El Khawaja, and Discussants: Jennifer Bremer and Hafez Al Mirazi), Panel II: Measuring the Unmeasurable (Speaker: Anis Yusoff, Moderator: Mostafa Kamel El Sayed, and Discussants: Nadia Makary, Ghada Moussa and Andrew Stone), and Panel III: Indicators & Politics, The Ibrahim Index for African Governance (Speaker: Ali S. Hadi, Moderator: Lisa Anderson, and Discussants: Lisa Anderson, Stephen Everhart and Nabil Fahmy).

Another salient feature of the Conference was the presentation of invited sessions on topics such as statistics education, demography and aging, small area sampling, medical meta-analysis, statistical inference, astrostatistics, directional data analysis, etc. These sessions attracted leading scholars and researchers of these areas which benefited the participants enormously. Young and new researchers found the sessions stimulating for their future research. More details on the Conference Program and other activities of ISOSS can be found on the website: <http://www.isoss.com.pk/>.



Opening session of ICCS-X (left to right): Jef Teugels (ISI President), Shahjahan Khan (ISOSS President, Australia), Lisa Anderson (Provost of AUC), Maged Osman (Chair, LOC, Egypt), and Ali S. Hadi (ISOSS President-Elect, USA/Egypt).

The Nile Cruise Gala Dinner was held on a luxurious boat and the performance by the young Egyptian men was outstanding. Some participants of the Conference and the accompanying family members also participated in the interesting dance and performances. The trip to the pyramids in Giza was a once in a lifetime experience for many participants.

Relating to the history of the invention of paper from the papyrus and the collection of essence from the lotus were popular items of purchase. Many went to the Egyptian Museum to see the mummies of the Pharaohs, including Ramses II, many consider to be the Pharaoh of Moses. The rich and colorful history of the ancient Egypt includes the first ever census conducted by Moses to count the men of Egypt at the time.



ICCS-X participants in a scientific session

The business session of the Conference was held on the evening of 21 December at the Marry Cross Hall of AUC. The President of ISOSS chaired the session and reported the main activities and achievements of ISOSS during the last two years following the Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in December 2007. The participants noted that in recent years ISOSS has become more visible in the international community of professionals and various statistical bodies along with receiving global recognition. The session re-elected Dr. Shahjahan Khan as President of ISOSS for 2009-2011, and elected Dr. Ali S. Hadi as President-Elect for 2009-2011. The session endorsed the call of Dr. Munir Ahmed, founding President of ISOSS, for donations of funds to the ongoing ISOSS House Construction Project in Lahore, Pakistan. A number of participants committed to contribute US\$1,000 and US\$500 during the session.

*Shahjahan Khan, President of ISOSS
Department of Mathematics & Computing
University of Southern Queensland, Australia*

For a few additional photographs, please see the online issue of the ISI Newsletter at: <http://isi.cbs.nl/Nlet/nlet101.htm>

Now Available Online & CD-ROM: 57th ISI Durban Session Proceedings

We are pleased to announce that the Proceedings of the 57th ISI Durban Session are available online and on CD-ROM.

For free online access, please visit: <http://isi.cbs.nl/iamamember/CD8-Durban2009/index.htm>.

To order the CD-ROM, please visit: <http://isi.cbs.nl/orderform.asp>. To order with our reduced rate, you will need to indicate that you are an ISI or Section member. For non-members, please indicate under "Extra Comments" that you participated in the ISI Durban Session. Please note that we have a limited amount of CD-ROMs available so first come, first served! The price is only €10, including postage and handling.

Unveiling the ISI Nameplate - 8th December 2009



ISI Director Ada van Krimpen and ISI President Jef Teugels pose with Statistics Netherlands' Director-General Gosse van der Veen (centre) after the unveiling of the ISI nameplate.



ISI Executive Committee, from left to right: Vice-President Louis Chen, President Jef Teugels, President-Elect Jae C Lee, Vice-President Hallgrímur Snorrason. Missing-in-Action: Vice-President Vijay Nair.



President Jef Teugels opens the champagne in the ISI hall while Director-General Gosse van der Veen speaks with other Executive Committee members in the background. The social gathering was organised by Statistics Netherlands for the ISI Executive Committee and ISI Permanent Office staff.



ISI Permanent Office staff can barely be seen from behind the new nameplate.