

Newsletter • September 2016

From the chair

Autumn, a new academic year and the Society Newsletter are again here. In July, about 165 people interested in statistical modelling met at our International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Rennes, the capital of the French region of Brittany. I believe that all participants enjoyed both the scientific and social aspects of the workshop, which gave lots of opportunities to gather new ideas and discuss recent developments in statistical modelling. If you missed this year's workshop then you can find a report on it, on pages 2-4 of this newsletter. On behalf of myself, and all this year's IWSM participants, I wish to thank Jean-François Dupuy and all his colleagues for the great event that they organised for us.

In the coming year, the workshop moves north to Groningen in the Netherlands. IWSM'32 takes place there on July 3-7, 2017. More information can be found on page 5 and also on the webpage <http://iwsm2017.webhosting.rug.nl/>. Do not forget that the deadline for submission of abstracts for IWSM'32, January 30, 2017, is fast approaching! As usual in past years, two student travel grants will be available to participate IWSM'32. Hence do not hesitate to prepare your abstract!

In 2018, we cross the Channel and move to Bristol in England, which will host IWSM'33 on July 16-20, 2018. More information will be announced in due course, but you can diarise the dates now! There are also quite detailed ideas for a host city of IWSM'34 in 2019. At present I can reveal that in 2019, IWSM will almost surely move to the southern peninsula of Europe. The exact location of IWSM'34 will be announced in July 2017 in Groningen.

In this newsletter, on page 7 you will also find some news concerning our journal Statistical Modelling, which is now in its 16th year. With the current impact factor of 0.932, it remains ranked in the upper half of the journals listed in the Statistics and Probability section of the Journal of Citation Reports. The journal brings exceptional opportunity to SMS members (and to all statistical modelers) to publish their quality manuscripts (within the journal's aims and scope found at www.statmod.org/smij). Currently, the typical approximate lag time from submission to print is just 9-12 months (including review). We are also pleased

to report that Online First is running smoothly, making our accepted manuscripts fully accessible in about 4-6 weeks, and allowing colour figures.

Further, even though the majority of the membership of the Society comes from Europe, we are very glad for having members from other parts of the world as well. To help our non-European members to maintain a link with the Society, two colleagues volunteer as the Society liaison-officers in particular parts of the world. Kenan Matawie (K.Matawie@uws.edu.au) acts as a local representative of the Statistical Modelling Society for Australia, New Zealand and East Asia, and Enrico Colosimo (enricoc@est.ufmg.br) takes care of South America. If you come from either region, do not hesitate to contact the respective person concerning the Society's activities.

Finally, I want to thank to all contributors to this newsletter and in particular to Gillian Heller who compiled all individual contributions into this single and nice looking file. I wish you a successful time until July 2017, full of statistical modelling, and hope to see many of you in Groningen!

Arnošt Komárek



IWSM 2016 – Rennes, France

The 31st International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM2016) took place at the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (INSA) of Rennes, on July 4-8, 2016. The Workshop was preceded by a one-day course on graphical models and Bayesian networks with R, given by Søren Højsgaard (Department of Mathematical Sciences, Aalborg University, Denmark).

165 participants from 26 countries on 5 continents were present at the Workshop. Among them, 71 participants were PhD students. The scientific program comprised 53 talks (of which 24 were given by PhD students), 40 posters (22 by PhD students) and five invited keynote talks:

- *Francesca Chiaromonte* (Pennsylvania State University, USA): Functional Data Analysis at the boundary of "Omics"
- *Stefan Lang* (University of Innsbruck, Austria): Bayesian distributional structured additive regression
- *Jean-Michel Marin* (Montpellier University, France): Approximate Bayesian Computation using Random Forests
- *Adrian Raftery* (University of Washington, Seattle, USA): Bayesian Population Projections with Migration Uncertainty
- *Sujit Sahu* (University of Southampton, UK): Efficient parameterisations of Gaussian process based models for Bayesian computation using MCMC

Participants enjoyed various social events, including a walking excursion in the Rennes historical centre and an excursion to Saint-Malo. The conference dinner, held at restaurant “L’Amiral”, provided the opportunity to announce winners of the student awards: Wilfried Bonou (Université de Liège) won the best paper award, Rafael Moral (NUI Galway) won the best presentation award and Reto Stauffer (University of Innsbruck) won the best poster award. As for past Workshops, the student awards were generously sponsored by Toyota Motor Corporation

N Stern School of Business (New York University). Book prizes were given by Springer.

Two PhD students received travel awards by the Statistical Modelling Society, and the Centre Henri Lebesgue for Mathematics (Rennes) provided grants to seven other PhD students.

The friendly and supportive atmosphere of the Workshop allowed stimulating exchanges of ideas and discussions. The Organizing Committee, headed by Jean-François Dupuy, expresses its thanks to all participants for attending the Workshop, under (somewhat unusual) warm Brittany weather!

Jean-François Dupuy



Excursion to Saint-Malo



The short course



The welcome reception



Conference dinner at l'Amiral

IWSM 2017



The 32nd International Workshop on Statistical Modelling 2017
will be hosted by the

Johann Bernoulli Institute (JBI), Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands

3-7 July 2017

The 32nd International Workshop on Statistical Modelling will bring together a wide variety of international researchers, coming from all over the world with various levels of experience, to encourage discussion and interchange between junior and senior scientists.

With a population of about 200,000, Groningen is the largest town in the north of the Netherlands. With about 53,000 students Groningen is one of the youngest cities in Europe. Due to institutions such as the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG), the Hanzehogeschool for Applied Sciences and the University Medical Centre Groningen (UMCG), Groningen is called the 'City of Talent'. The IWSM in 2017 will be organised by a local organising committee chaired by Marco Grzegorczyk, and hosted in the 'Academy Building' of Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (see photo below).

Confirmed invited speakers of IWSM 2017 are:

- o Laura M. Sangalli (Politecnico di Milano, Italy)
- o Jelle J. Goeman (University Medical Center Leiden, Netherlands)
- o Roland Langrock (Bielefeld University, Germany)
- o Emmanuel Lesaffre (Leuven University, Belgium)
- o Harald Baayen (Tuebingen University, Germany)

There will be a short course on 'Social Networks' presented by Tom A.B. Snijders (Groningen University and Oxford University), on 2 July 2017.

As in previous workshops, awards will be presented for best Student paper, best presentation and best poster. The deadline for abstract submission is January 30, 2017.

Registration will be open at the beginning of December 2016. More information is available from the IWSM 2017 webpage:

<http://iwsm2017.webhosting.rug.nl/>

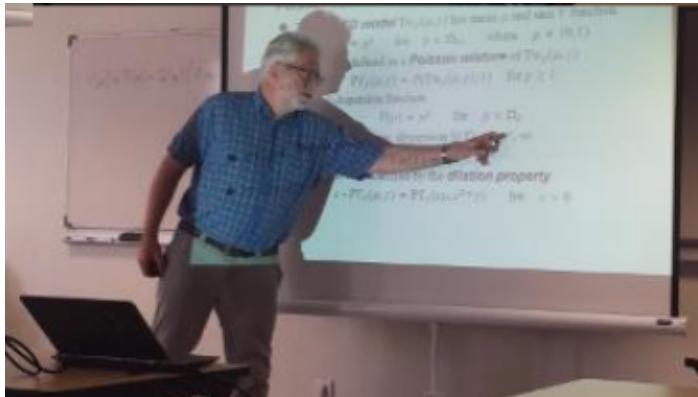


Marco Grzegorczyk

In Memoriam

Recently the statistical modelling community has lost two colleagues who were well known to many who attended the Workshops. They will be missed.

Bent Jørgensen passed away in November 2015. He made major contributions to the theory of exponential dispersion modelling. Since 1997 Bent worked at the University of Odense (later renamed the University of Southern Denmark), and he organized IWSM 2001 in Odense. An obituary appears at http://www.sdu.dk/en/om_sdu/fakulteterne/naturvidenskab/aktuelt/nyheder_2015/2015_11_26_bent



Joanne Tyler passed away in August 2016. Joanne was from the University of Fort Hare in South Africa.

She was a former president of the South African Statistical Association and attended the IWSM for many years.

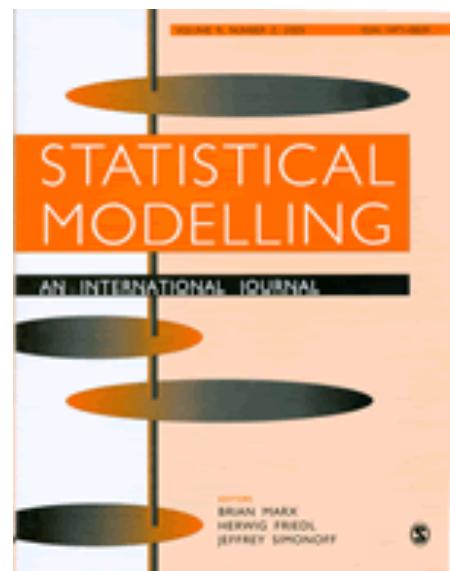


John Hinde, Emmanuel Lesaffre and Joanne Tyler at the Sydney IWSM, 2005

News from the Journal

With our 17th volume just around the corner, *Statistical Modelling* brings exceptional opportunity to SMS members (and to all statistical modelers) to publish their quality manuscripts (within the journal's aims and scope found at www.statmod.org/smij). Currently, the typical approximate time to print stands at a very attractive 9-12 months (including review). We are also pleased to report that Online First is running smoothly, making our accepted manuscripts fully accessible even earlier, perhaps in just about 4-6 weeks (while allowing color figures).

Like years past, you may have found that the journal has recently offered an interesting blend of contemporary special/discussion issues, along with our regular contributed issues. For example, the discussion issue Discrete variable selection using the LASSO, by Gerhard Tutz and Jan Gertheiss, appeared last year. A rich and thought-provoking exchange and rejoinder was ensured by the discussants, including: Professors Alan Agresti, Peter Buehlmann/Ruben Dezaure, Julien Chiquet et al., Cheryl Flynn et al., Chenlei Leng, Bryan Shepherd/ Qi Liu, and Helga Wagner/Daniela Pauger. We currently have two more special discussion issues on the near horizon: (i) Statistical modelling for bioinformatics data by Jeffrey Morris and Veera Baladandayuthapani, and (ii) Functional regression modelling by Sonja Greven and Fabian Scheipl. The editors are always open to new ideas for future special issues related to discussions, workshops, or tutorials; so please let us know if you have any ideas for us.



This year also brought a few changes to our board: we have gained Vito Muggeo (during late 2015) from University of Palermo and, more recently, Matthew Reimherr from Pennsylvania State University and Kenan Matawie from Western Sydney University, who have joined as associate editors. The editors look forward to the opportunity to work with Vito, Matthew and Kenan. One of our associate editors has stepped down this year, Piotr Kokoszka. We thank Piotr for his many dedicated years of truly quality work.

The editors also wish to congratulate Wilfried Bonou from University of Liege, Belgium on his first place student competition award for his paper Inference in a Stochastic SIR Epidemic Model using Bayesian Filtering (with co-author/advisor Philippe Lambert). The work was recently presented at the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Rennes during July 2016. Among Wilfried's awards, the journal offered him a fast-tracked review process, subject to refereeing.

Please don't forget that this is your journal, so along with reading it, the editors encourage you to help with its visibility across the globe. Further, we always seek your constructive input. See www.statmod.org for online data, code, and e-appendices associated with most of our published articles, as well as a variety of other general information regarding your membership and the Statistical Modelling Society.

Thank you for your support, and we wish you a productive year.

Brian Marx, Jeffrey Simonoff, and Arnošt Komárek (Editors)

Statistical Modelling



Brian Marx



Jeffrey Simonoff



Arnošt Komárek

Membership

Membership of the Statistical Modelling Society covers the calendar year and membership for the current year will end on 31 December 2016. To renew your membership for 2017, you can either:

- fill out the registration form at www.statmod.org from December 2016; or
- register as a participant in the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling 2017.

Regular Members receive one copy of all issues of the volume of Statistical Modelling: An International Journal, which is published during the respective calendar year. Electronic access to the journal is also provided (through <http://smj.sagepub.com/>) till July of the following year. Those who became members through participation in IWSM 2016 already received, or will soon receive, all issues of the journal published so far for 2016, and these will be followed by the remaining issues over the next two months. Should you experience problems in either accessing the electronic content or receiving the printed issues, please contact Saurav Taneja from SAGE Publication India (Saurav.Taneja@sagepub.in) and state that you are a subscriber through your membership of the Statistical Modelling Society.

The Statistical Modelling Society also offers Student Memberships with and without the journal.

The access to “Members Only” area of www.statmod.org expires on October 30 of the year which follows the calendar year of a membership. As login, use your e-mail address given to us either on the registration form or at the IWSM registration. If you are accessing the “Members Only” area for the first time, use the “Forgot your password?” option to get your password.

The Statistical Modelling Society – Committees & Elections

The activities of the Statistical Modelling Society are coordinated and decisions for the Society are made by the Executive Committee (EC). Additionally, the Society has Working Groups (WG) that help with particular activities of the Society.

The term of offices for the current EC started on January 1, 2015 and will end on December 31, 2016. The next election for EC members will be soon in November 2016.

If you are a member of the Society and would like to nominate yourself or a colleague (who must also be a member) as a candidate for the election, please email secretary@statmod.org with your nominations by October 16, 2016. If you are nominating a colleague, please ask them if they would be happy to be nominated and confirm their nomination by email to secretary@statmod.org.

Instructions on how to vote will be distributed via e-mail at the end of October, together with the list of candidates.

The [Executive Committee](#) currently (until Dec 31, 2016) consists of

Arnošt Komárek (Czech Republic)	Chair (chair@statmod.org)
Sabine Schnabel (Netherlands)	Secretary (secretary@statmod.org)
Ardo van den Hout (England, UK)	Treasurer (treasurer@statmod.org)
Carlo Giovanni Camarda (France)	Elected member
Jochen Einbeck (England, UK)	Elected member
Thomas Kneib (Germany)	Elected member
Vito Muggeo (Italy)	Elected member
Helga Wagner (Austria)	Elected member
Brian Marx (USA)	Representative WG on the Journal
Jean-François Dupuy (France)	Representative WG for the Workshop
Jochen Einbeck (England, UK)	Representative WG for Communications

If you want to contact all EC members please email: committee@statmod.org.

Members of the [Working Groups](#) currently are:

[Journal](#): Brian Marx (USA), Jeff Simonoff (USA), Arnošt Komárek (Czech Republic)

[Workshop](#): Jean-François Dupuy (France), Helga Wagner (Austria), Marco Grzegorczyk (Netherlands)

[Communication](#): Jochen Einbeck (UK), Gillian Heller (Australia; newsletter), Kenan Matawie (Australia; representative for Australia/NZ/East Asia), Enrico Colosimo (Brazil; representative for South America)

Funding Opportunities

Short Courses and Workshops

Members of the Statistical Modelling Society who are interested in organising a Focused Workshop or a Short Course and plan to seek support by the Society should send an inquiry to secretary@statmod.org. Guidelines for applications are available on the website at www.statmod.org/society_courses.htm.

Student Travel Grants

The Statistical Modelling Society provides up to two travel grants to support students who have no other means of financial support to attend the IWSM. These travel grants include

- the student registration fee for the IWSM, including a one-year subscription to the journal *Statistical Modelling*,
- participation in the IWSM social events (excursion and conference dinner),
- reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs (based upon presenting receipts) up to 800 €.

Selection is based on a submitted abstract for an oral presentation at the IWSM. Full details are available on the IWSM 2017 webpage.