

Newsletter • October 2017

From the chair

The annual appointment with our SMS Newsletter has arrived, and it is a pleasure for me to inform you about the main activities of the Statistical Modelling Society (SMS) and related International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM).

With the Elections at the end of last year, SMS now has a new Executive Committee (EC) and myself taking over as the Chairman. I hope to do well, as the past chairs, Arnošt Komárek and Jutta Gampe to cite just the last two, did.

In July, about 160 people interested in statistical modelling met at our International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Groningen, the main city of North of Netherlands. I am sure 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. People who missed the IWSM 2017, will be particularly interested in the summary article in this newsletter. On behalf of myself, the Executive Committee and all this year's IWSM participants, I wish to thank the organizers Marco Grzegorzczuk, Ernst Wit and all their colleagues. It was a great workshop! Congratulations to the entire `Groningen group'!

As many of you know, and as is now reported at the SMS homepage (www.statmod.org), the next two Workshops are in line: Bristol/Bath (UK) in 2018, and Guimarães (Portugal) in 2019 hosted by the University of Minho. Important information regarding details and deadlines for the IWSM 2018 follows in this newsletter.

We will continue our tradition of an exciting student competition at IWSM'33. As in recent workshops, two student travel grants from SMS will be available and for the 6th year the best student paper/poster/oral presentation will be awarded. These prizes are sponsored by the Toyota Motor Corporation and Leonard N. Stern School of Business, New York University. I would like to thank Jeff Simonoff for this opportunity. Thus, students should be strongly motivated to submit their abstract! Please encourage students to attend the meeting and participate in this competition.

As an additional prize, the editors of our journal *Statistical Modelling* will invite the winners to submit their work for a fast-tracked review process and (possible) publication in *Statistical Modelling*. A summary article about our journal is reported at the end of this newsletter, and I am happy to emphasize that the impact factor has raised to 1.074! While appropriateness of this index is certainly questionable, it is undeniable that it is often used to “quantify” research productivity and in related activities, like research evaluation and funding allocation.

Of course, there is much to do for the EC and I am sure the incoming members will work effectively to expand the societies activities, improve our publicity and marketing, and increase the membership. I really wish to thank Ardo van den Hout and Sabine Schnabel for their willingness to serve as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

If you have any suggestions or wish to get involved, then I am sure that they would be delighted to hear from you – just send an email to secretary@statmod.org or chair@statmod.org. The success of the Society depends upon the interest and support of its members.

Last but not least, I want to thank all contributors to this newsletter and in particular Gillian Heller who compiled all individual contributions into this single and nice looking file. I wish you a successful time until the next workshop in July 2018, when I really hope to see you in Bristol!

Vito Muggeo



IWSM 2017 – Groningen, Netherlands

The 32nd International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM2017) was organized by the Johann Bernoulli Institute (JBI) for Mathematics and Informatics of Groningen University. The workshop took place from July 3 to July 7, 2017. The workshop was preceded by a one-day short course on *Statistical Models for Social Network Dynamics*, given by Tom A.B. Snijders (Groningen University, NL and Oxford University, UK).

160 participants attended the workshop, and among them, 52 participants were PhD students. The scientific program comprised 57 talks (of which 22 were given by PhD students), 51 posters (28 by PhD students) and five invited keynote talks:

- Roland Langrock (Bielefeld University, Germany)
Nonparametric Inference in Hidden Markov and Related Models
- Harald Baayen (Tübingen University, Germany)
Modeling lexical learning in baboons, pigeons, and homo sapiens with wide two-layer networks
- Laura Sangalli (Politecnico di Milano, Italy)
Functional Data Analysis, Spatial Data Analysis and Partial Differential Equations: A fruitful union
- Emmanuel Lesaffre (Leuven University, Belgium)
Why bothering about Interval Censoring?

- Jelle Goeman (University Medical Center Leiden, Netherlands)
Minimal Adequate Models: Assessing Uncertainty in Variable Selection

Participants enjoyed various social events, including a guided walking tour through the city of Groningen, a boat tour on the canal surround Groningen city centre and an excursion to Bourtange.

The conference dinner, held at restaurant 't Feithuis, provided the opportunity to announce the winners of the three student awards: Mirko Signorelli (from Leiden University Medical Center) won the best paper award, Christian Thomas Staerk (from RWTH Aachen) won the best presentation award and Shahla Faisal (LMU Munich) won the best poster award. The 2nd and 3rd best student poster award were won by Alexander Bauer (LMU Munich) and Lucia Benetazzo (Padova University).

As for past IWSM workshops, the student awards were generously sponsored by Toyota Motor Corporation N Stern School of Business (New York University). The 2nd and 3rd poster best poster award were sponsored by the local organizing committee of IWSM 2017.

Two PhD students received travel awards by the Statistical Modelling Society, and the C.R. RAO Stichting (Groningen) provided grants for two more PhD students. The friendly and supportive atmosphere of the workshop allowed stimulating exchanges of ideas and discussions.

The Organizing Committee, headed by Marco Grzegorzcyk, would like to thank all participants for attending IWSM 2017.



Marco Grzegorzcyk



IWSM 2017 group photo



The short course



Bourtange visit



Statisticians rock

IWSM 2018



The 33rd International Workshop on Statistical Modelling will be hosted by

The University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

15-20 July 2018

Bristol is the largest city in the South West of Britain, with a population of around 440,000. It has a long history as an important port city, receiving its royal charter in 1155. It grew prosperous from trade with the Americas, including the Atlantic slave trade. In the 19th Century the famous Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel built the revolutionary steamships the SS Great Britain and the SS Great Western in the city as well as the Clifton suspension bridge (above) and the Great western railway linking Bristol to London.

The city now is a mixture of old limestone buildings and leafy greenery, with Luftwaffe precipitated sixties architecture and a thriving street art scene (Banksy is from Bristol). It was European Green Capital in 2015, and voted heavily to remain in the EU.

The workshop will be hosted by the School of Mathematics of the University of Bristol in its new home in the magnificently renovated neo-gothic 'Fry building' in the heart of the university quarter of the city. The local organizing committee is chaired by Simon Wood.

Confirmed keynote speakers are:

- John Aston (Cambridge, UK)
- Iain Currie (Heriot Watt, UK)
- Leo Held (Zurich, Switzerland)
- Catherine Matias (CNRS, France)
- Hein Putter (LUMC, Netherlands)

The short course *Causal Inference* will be given by Vanessa Didelez (Leibniz – BIPS, Germany) on 15 July.

As always, there will be awards for best student presentation, paper and poster. Registration and abstract submission will open in early November and the abstract submission deadline is 16th February 2018. Bristol is a justifiably popular destination, so booking accommodation should not be left too late.

More information is available at <http://www.iwsm2018.org/>

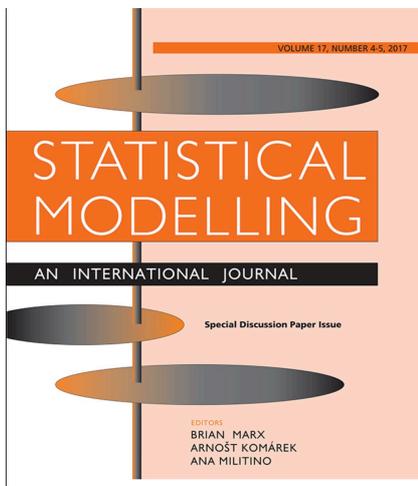


Simon Wood

News from the Journal

The editors are happy to report that Statistical Modelling has had an upswing, now approaching its 18th volume. Both the one-year and five-year impact factors are moving in the right direction, at 1.1 and 1.4, respectively, while our ranking has nudged up into the top 45% among Statistics and Probability journals. Online First is running well, bringing accepted papers online roughly within 6 weeks after acceptance (while allowing color figures). As an additional service to authors, SAGE also now offers an open access option (for a fee) through its Sage Choice program. Yet, perhaps our most significant and forthcoming change is the journal's migration to an online submission and peer review platform (SAGE Track), expected in late 2017. In all, Statistical Modelling continues to bring exceptional opportunity to all statistical modelers as a home for their quality manuscripts (within the journal's aims and scope found at www.statmod.org/smj) and in a timely fashion.

Similar to recent years, Statistical Modelling has continued to define itself in important and unique ways. Along with our regular contributed issues, 2017 has brought two discussion issues (which are each double issues). The first double issue is A General Framework for Functional Regression Modelling, by Sonja Greven and Fabian Scheipl (with six expanded discussant pieces), while the second double issue is Statistical Contributions to Bioinformatics: Design, Modeling, Structure Learning, and Integration, by Jeffrey S. Morris and Veera Baladandayuthapani (with seven very diverse discussant pieces). We also have a few more special issues in our future pipeline: (i) Demographic Modelling (Guest Editors: Jutta Gampe and Carlo Giovanni Camarda), (ii) Semiparametric Modelling (Guest Editors: Thomas Kneib, Andreas Groll, and Andreas Mayr), and (iii) Sports Modelling (Guest Editors: Andreas Groll et al.). Statistical Modelling is always open to new ideas for future special issues related to discussions, workshops, or tutorials; so do let us know if you have any ideas for us.



This year also brought a few very significant changes to our editorial board. First, after more than 11 years of service, Jeffrey Simonoff has decided to step down as Editor. We would like to take this opportunity to give a heartfelt thanks to Jeff, whose dedication to and vision for the journal has brought many significant improvements during his tenure, and working with Jeff was most enjoyable. We are happy to report that Jeff will now continue with the journal as a member of our Advisory Board. With this change brings in our new editor Ana Militino from Public University of Navarre, Spain. We welcome Ana and look forward to the opportunity to work with her. We have had some additional rotation within the Associate Editor board. Specifically Marc Aerts has stepped down, and Maria Durban has joined in. It should be noted that Marc's service to the journal as associate editor reaches back to the journal's launch in 2001. Undeniably, his service has significantly shaped the journal. Thank you, Marc. We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with Maria in future.

The editors also wish to congratulate Mirko Signorelli from Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands on his first place student competition award for his paper Model-based Clustering for a Populations of Networks (with co-author E. Wit). His work was presented at the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Groningen, Netherlands during July 2017. Among Mirko's awards, the journal offered him a fast-tracked review process, subject to refereeing.

Do keep in mind 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 and outreach to encourage appropriate submissions and special issues. See www.statmod.org for online data, code, and e-appendices associated with most of our published articles (now with a newly completed search functionality), as well as a variety of general information regarding the Statistical Modelling Society.

Thank you for being part of the journal, and we wish you great modelling success.



Brian Marx

Arnošt Komárek

Ana Militino

The Statistical Modelling Society – Committees & Elections

The activities and decisions of the Statistical Modelling Society are coordinated and decisions for the Society are managed by the Executive Committee (EC) which is elected every 2 years. Additionally, the Society has Working Groups (WG) that help with particular activities of the Society. The term of office for the current EC started on January 1, 2017 and will end on December 31, 2018. The next election for EC members will be in November 2018. If you are a (fairly) “regular” member of the Society and you like the IWSM atmosphere, consider proposing yourself as a member for the next elections in 2018!

The [Executive Committee](#) currently (until Dec 31, 2018) consists of

Vito Muggeo (Italy)	Chair (email: chair@statmod.org)
Arnošt Komárek (Czech Republic)	Past Chair
Sabine Schnabel (The Netherlands)	Secretary (email: secretary@statmod.org)
Ardo van den Hout (England, UK)	Treasurer (email: treasurer@statmod.org)
Carlo Giovanni Camarda (France)	Elected member
Jean-Francois Dupuy (France)	Elected member
Jochen Einbeck (England, UK)	Elected member
Gillian Heller (Australia)	Elected member
Helga Wagner (Austria)	Elected member
Brian Marx (USA)	Representative WG on the Journal
Marco Grzegorzcyk (Netherlands)	Representative WG for the Workshop
Jochen Einbeck (UK)	Representative WG for Communication

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

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

[Journal](#): Brian Marx (USA), Arnošt Komárek (Czech Republic), Ana Militino (Spain)

[Workshop](#): Helga Wagner (Austria), Marco Grzegorzczak (Netherlands), Simon Wood (UK)

[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 and the final decision takes also into account the student country of origin. Full details are available on the IWSM 2018 webpage.