

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

### *From the chair*

Dear member of the statistical modelling society,

in this newsletter you will find information on recent developments in the Statistical Modelling Society (SMS) and its main activities, the journal Statistical Modelling (SMij) and the yearly International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM).

This year, the SMij had its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was celebrated at the 39<sup>th</sup> IWSM in Limerick. The editors of the SMij, *Vicente Núñez-Antón, Andreas Mayr and Francesco Bartolucci*, give a report on this celebration, the development of the journal and new associate editors. Many thanks to them!

As already mentioned the 39<sup>th</sup> IWSM took place in Limerick. Nearly 200 participants attended the scientific program with very interesting talks and poster presentations and enjoyed the social events. On behalf of the EC and all participants I would like to thank *Kevin Burke, Shirin Moghaddam* and all members of the local organizing committee for the organization of this really great workshop.

As usual, at the conference dinner we had an award ceremony: The title of Statistical Modelling Honorary Member was awarded to *Robert (Bob) Rigby* and *Gilbert MacKenzie* for their significant contribution to the development and dissemination of statistical modelling ideas. Many congratulations!

Thanks to generous sponsors also this year, student prizes for the best paper, the best talk and the best poster could be given, and additionally, a new prize, the best Early-Career Talk Award, was awarded on the last day of the workshop. Further details and many nice pictures from the IWSM can be found in the report by the organisers later in this Newsletter.

The next workshop, the 40<sup>th</sup> IWSM 2026 will be held in Oslo (NOR) and hosted by *Riccardo de Bin*. Riccardo and the organisation team give information on the venue, invited speakers and deadlines in this Newsletter. Do not miss the deadline for submission of your contribution to the workshop!

The new EC began its work in January. Following the workshop, the tasks of the secretary were smoothly handed over from *Elisabeth Bergherr* to *Massimo Ventrucci*, who will serve in this role for the next four years. Many thanks to Elisabeth for all her work and to Massimo for taking over!

I would also like to thank the members of the executive committee and the working groups for their time and commitment, and for the vivid discussions in the EC meetings. Special thanks go to the treasurer of the society, *Marco Grzegorczyk*, to *Jochen Einbeck*, who takes care of the Society's webpage, and to *Hannah Klinkhammer* and *Darshana Jayakumari* who manage the posts on linkedin (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/statistical-modelling-society/>) and Bluesky (<https://bsky.app/profile/statmodsociety.bsky.social>) .

Finally, I wish you a merry Christmas and all the best for 2026.

I am looking forward to see you in Oslo!



*Helga Wagner*

## *News from the Journal*

Let us start by hoping that this reaches everyone well and safe. We had a great time at our workshop in Limerick, Ireland this year (July 13-18), and it was a joy to see each other again and revive the spirit of the workshop. We have been informed that we had around 200 people attending the meeting, which, in our view, represents a fantastic turnout and a clear sign that Statistical Modelling is alive and thriving. In Limerick, we celebrated the 25th birthday of our journal also with a special presentation by our former Editors John Hinde, Jeffrey Simonoff and Emmanuel Lesaffre about its history and first steps. We extend our thanks as well to the invited speaker Cynthia Rudin for the memorable birthday song. In addition, our Associate Editors Vito Muggeo and Paul Eilers prepared a special paper reviewing the works published in the journal over the past 25 years. If you have not yet had the chance to read it, the article is available here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1471082X251317581>.

In Limerick, we also continued the tradition of our journal lunch with 18 current and former Editors as well as Associate Editors coming together to discuss the current state of the journal. Thanks to those attending the meeting and the organizers for making this happen again and, hopefully, we can see each other again next year (Oslo, Norway, June 28 – July 3, 2026) when the workshop is once more organized by one of our Associate Editors, Riccardo de Bin. We would like to remind you that from the past years, the registration at the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling includes both the annual subscription to our journal, Statistical Modelling, as well as your Statistical Modelling Society membership. For those unable to attend the workshop, we kindly encourage you to renew your membership and subscription for the current year individually at: <https://www.statmod.org/cgi-bin/join.pl>. This ensures uninterrupted delivery of the journal to your home. The editors hope that the close connection between the society and our journal is fruitful for at least another 25 years!

The editors would like to share some recent news related to Statistical Modelling. We have two new Associate Editors starting in the spring of 2025, Vanda Inacio (University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom) and Javier Hualde (Public University of Navarra, Spain) so, a warm welcome to both of them. We hope to have them with us for a long time! In addition, we are glad to mention

that we have already started to store the supplementary material at the SAGE journal's website. Once again, we would like to thank Jochen Einbeck for all the help he has personally provided during all these years to make sure that this material is appropriately saved at the SMS's website.

Additionally, the editors would like to share some recent news related to Statistical Modelling. We are now in the middle of the journal's third decade in print and approaching its 26th volume! This year our metrics have decreased a little bit from the previous year and the Impact Factor is 1.0 for 2024, which places us in the third quartile (98th of 167) among Statistics and Probability journals. Recall that the impact factor for 2022 was 1.0, and that of 2023 was 1.2, which means that we are slowly returning to our previous and hope to keep this trend in the upcoming years. In addition, if we look at the Journal Citation Indicator (JCI), for the year 2024, we are in the third quartile (89/167) in Statistics and Probability. In a field like statistics, with relatively long publication lags, five-year impact factor is probably a more meaningful measure; SMJ's value for 2024 is 1.10 (slightly down from 1.6 in 2023), and it was 1.70 in 2022, 1.692 for 2021 and 2.322 for 2020. The SJR (Scimago Journal Rank) for 2024 for our journal is 0.513, which puts us in their second quartile (135 out of 290) for Statistics and Probability.

Online First is running smoothly and generally brings accepted papers online within 6-8 weeks after acceptance (while allowing color figures). Like past years, our goal and mantra is to make Statistical Modelling the primary research resource, as well as an attractive outlet for statistical modelers to submit their own quality manuscripts (within the journal's aims and scope found at <https://journals.sagepub.com/overview-metric/SMJ>). In return, the editors ensure to do their best toward a timely and professional review for authors. We also want to highlight again, that the Editors are particularly encouraging Ph.D. students to submit their original work. Recognizing the importance of timely publication for articles that form part of cumulative Ph.D. theses, we invite corresponding authors to indicate when the first author is a student. In the spirit of the Society and the workshop, we are especially committed to supporting students and will make every effort to ensure a swift review process.

In the spirit of years past, we have a special issue to report on, that was published at the end of 2025, having Fulvia Pennoni as our guest editor and focusing on "Statistical Modelling with Latent Variables." As always, Statistical Modelling is 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.

Keep in mind that this is your journal, so along with reading it, the editors encourage you to promote its world-wide image and visibility. Further, we value any of your constructive input. As an additional service to authors, note that SAGE also offers an open access option (for a fee) through its *Sage Choice* program. See [www.statmod.org](http://www.statmod.org) for online data, code, and e-appendices associated with most of our published articles (with a newly completed search functionality), as well as a variety of general information regarding the Statistical Modelling Society. A genuine thank you goes out again to Jochen Einbeck for his outstanding volunteer effort with the web, as well as Sangeeta Gupta who is managing most of the production at SAGE.

Finally, the editors would like to thank all Associate Editors, reviewers and authors for their ongoing support and commitment to the journal during this year.

We look forward to yet another great year of modelling.

*Vicente Núñez-Antón*

*Andreas Mayr*

*Francesco Bartolucci*



*Vicente  
Núñez-Antón*



*Andreas  
Mayr*



*Francesco  
Bartolucci*

IWSM 2025

*The 39th International Workshop  
on Statistical Modelling  
Limerick (IRELAND)  
July 13-18, 2025*



The 39th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM39) was held at the Strand Hotel, Limerick, Ireland, from 13th to 18th July 2025. This was only the second time the workshop had been hosted in Ireland, having previously been in Galway in 2006 (19 years ago!). We were very pleased to bring IWSM back to Ireland in 2025, and it was a highly successful event with approximately 200 delegates attending from 20 different countries.



Attendees may or may not have heard the word “Limerick” prior to our conference from the traditional Limerick poems (the origins of which, while debated, can be linked to a song referencing Limerick City). These are five-line poems with an AABBA rhyming scheme, for example:

***There once was a workshop in Limerick,  
On models enshrined in statistics.  
Groups came from far and wide,  
With mixed effects and splines,  
To discuss all the best new stats tricks!***

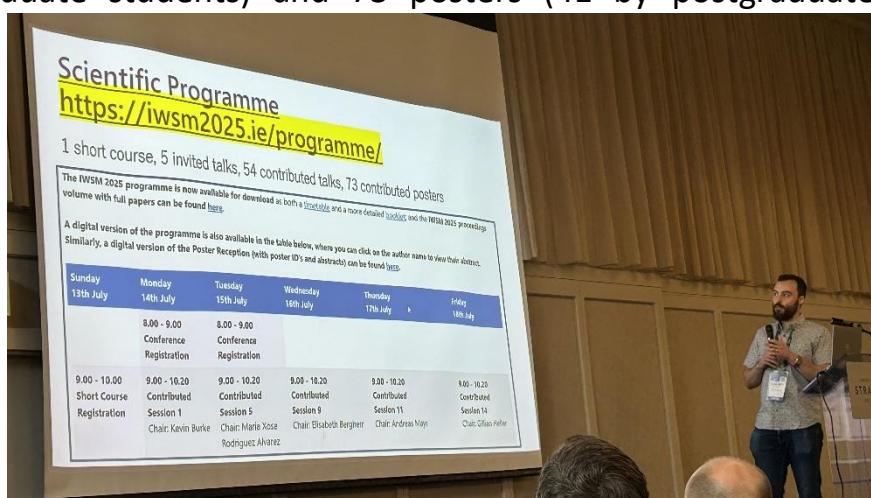


The week started on Sunday July 13th with a short course on “**Physics-informed statistical learning**”, delivered by **Laura Sangalli, Alessandro Palummo, and Michele Cavazzutti (Politecnico di Milano, Italy)**.



Following on from a great day's work, the short course attendees descended on The Copper Room Wine Bar to unwind. There, they linked in with the other delegates who arrived that evening, enjoying food platters and wine

On Monday 14th, the main IWSM conference kicked off with a scientific programme comprising 127 scientific contributions altogether: 54 contributed talks (21 by postgraduate students) and 73 posters (41 by postgraduate students). Delegates were treated to a truly unforgettable Welcome Reception at King John's Castle, which is Limerick's primary historical landmark. The event was hosted by Treaty City Brewery, who



provided artisanal beers, with delicious locally-sourced food by award-winning chef Keith Piggott, and music by Ceolan Irish Folk band. It wouldn't have been a proper Irish welcome without getting a taste of our weather, specifically the rain, and we did get that in buckets! However, this ended up adding significantly to the fun and sense of community at the event as delegates laughed and joked together under the tents. Afterwards, we headed over to Treaty City Brewery's pub for a night cap (or two!).



The scientific programme continued throughout the week, punctuated by a poster session and five excellent invited talks delivered by: **Sonja Greven** (Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany), **Cynthia Rudin** (Duke University, USA), **Brendan Murphy** (University College Dublin, Ireland), **Daniele Durante** (Bocconi University, Italy), and **Ruth King** (University of Edinburgh, UK).



On Wednesday 16th, two excursions took place, namely, the “Cliffs of Moher and Traditional Irish Music Tour” and the “Medieval Walking Tour of Limerick”.

Two busloads of delegates visited the stunning Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland’s most popular tourist destinations, and part of the UNESCO-recognised Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark. After the Cliffs, they visited the Burren Storehouse, where they sampled some delicious locally smoked organic salmon on brown bread accompanied by Irish craft beer and whiskey tasting. Music and storytelling was provided by the Doolin Music House band, where Cynthia Rudin even joined in by singing an Irish folk song!



The Walking Tour excursion brought delegates through Limerick’s Medieval Quarter, providing the history of important landmarks such as Thomond Bridge & Toll House (10th century), The Treaty Stone (17th century), King John’s Castle (12th century), and a visit into St Mary’s Cathedral (11th century), one of the most important medieval buildings to survive intact in Ireland, which is still performing its original function. The tour wound up in JJ Bowles (Limerick’s Oldest Pub), where our own network scientist Dr Pádraig MacCarron delivered a unique talk on “Social Networks of Irish Mythology”.



The conference dinner took place in the luxury House Restaurant located along Limerick's scenic Shannon riverfront. During the dinner, the Statistical Modelling Society was delighted to award **Professor Robert (Bob) Rigby** and **Professor Gilbert MacKenzie** with Honorary Memberships in recognition of their significant contributions to the conference and community over the years. Furthermore, a number of student prizes were awarded as follows: Best Student Paper Award to **Annika Strömer**, University of Marburg and runner-up **Alessandro Palummo**, Politenico di Milano; Best Student Poster Award to **Marta Cipriani**, Sapienza University of Rome, and runner-up **Michele Cavazzutti**, Politenico di Milano; and Best Student Talk Award to **Johannes Brachem**, University of Göttingen, and runner-up **Simon Hirsch**, University of Duisburg-Essen / Statkraft Trading GmbH.





Of course, all good things must come to an end, and, unfortunately, IWSM 2025 had to conclude on Friday July 18th. However, fortunately, this was an opportunity to present the Best Early-Career Talk Award to **Claudia Collarin**, Ca' Foscari, and runner-up **Lucas Kook**, University of Venice. This was a new award for IWSM that was made possible by our generous sponsors. Indeed, we are very grateful to all of our sponsors who helped us in making IWSM 2025 a top-class and memorable conference: [MACSI](#), [the University of Limerick Faculty of Science and Engineering](#), [Fáilte Ireland](#), [Coillte](#), [Eli Lilly](#), [Analog Devices](#), [the Central Bank of Ireland](#), [Instats](#), and [Springer](#).

Thanks to everybody for supporting the event and to the Scientific Committee for their important work in shaping the conference and selecting prize winners.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon in Oslo in 2026!

Best wishes  
IWSM 2025 Organising Committee

*IWSM 2026*

*The 40th International Workshop  
on Statistical Modelling  
Oslo (Norway)*

*28<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2026*



<https://mn.uio.no/iwsm2026>

Be ready to join the northernmost IWSM ever! In 2026 the 40th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM40) will take place in Oslo, Norway. Located between a fjord and a forest, the city offers great connectivity to nature. Oslo has a diverse, vibrant and varied cultural scene. Its historic and cultural offerings can be found in art, design, architecture, Michelin star restaurants, popular music festivals and a lively night life, in addition to famous attractions like the Munch



Museum, the Viking Ship Museum, Holmenkollen Ski Jump, Vigeland Sculpture Park and the national Opera House located on Oslo's waterfront. For more details on Oslo – from how to reach it to what to do -- see <https://www.visitoslo.com/en>.



IWSM40 will be hosted by the University of Oslo, and will take place close to the Blindern Campus, in the Ole-Johan Dahls hus. It is easily reachable by public transportation, for example with a 10-minute metro ride from the city centre.

We have five excellent invited speakers:

- **Nils L. Hjort**, University of Oslo  
<https://www.mn.uio.no/.../nils/>
- **Susanne Ditlevsen**, University of Copenhagen  
<https://web.math.ku.dk/~susanne/>
- **Mats J. Stensrud**, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne  
<https://www.epfl.ch/.../prof-mats-julius-stensrud/>
- **Małgorzata Bogdan**, University of Wrocław  
<http://www.math.uni.wroc.pl/~mbogdan/>
- **Göran Kauermann**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich  
<https://www..../kauermann/index.html>

Note that the final invited speaker will take us on a journey through P-splines, as his talk will be part of a special session celebrating the 30th anniversary of the publication of Eilend and Marx's seminal paper.

In addition, a short course on modern methods for analysing survival and time-to-event data will be given by **Ørnulf Borgan** (University of Oslo, <https://www.mn.uio.no/.../borgan/>), in collaboration with **Clara Bertinelli Salucci** (University of Oslo, <https://www.mn.uio.no/.../clarabe/>).

Excursions will help understanding Norwegian culture:



either a relaxing cruise on the Oslo fjord, with a traditional (all-you-can-eat) shrimp buffet,

or a guided visit to the Holmenkollenbakken, with its winter sport facilities and incredible views over the city.



## **Our call for papers is now open!**

We are seeking novel and original contributions to the wider field of Statistical Modelling. Papers providing advances in the development of statistical models that are well motivated by a contemporary data scenario or application problem are particularly welcome. This includes contributions to estimation, inference, and computation for such modelling problems. Papers focusing on applications with important substantive implications as well as methodological issues are welcome, including new developments in Data Science and Machine Learning. **Submissions by students and young researchers are particularly encouraged.**

Submission portal for 4-page paper:

<https://www.mn.uio.no/math/english/research/groups/statistics-data-science/events/conferences/iwsm2026/call-for-papers/index.html>

**Oral presentation submission deadline:** 15/02/2026.

**Registration** will open in early 2026

We are looking forward to seeing you in Oslo!

Riccardo De Bin,



Aliaksandr Hubin,



Clara Bertinelli Salucci



on behalf of the IWSM 2026 Organising Committee