

# Newsletter • October 2013

---

## From the chair

Autumn, and for many of us also a new academic year, is here with all the activities that this entails. In July, more than 180 people interested in statistical modelling met at our traditional International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in sunny Palermo. 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 page 3 of this newsletter. On behalf of myself, and all this year's IWSM participants, I wish to thank Vito Muggeo and all his colleagues for the great and unforgettable event that they organised for us.

For the next two years, we are looking forward to workshops in two German speaking countries. First, Göttingen in Germany, home town of Carl Friedrich Gauss, will host IWSM'29 in July 2014. More information can be found on page 5 and also on the webpage [www.uni-goettingen.de/iwsm2014](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/iwsm2014). In 2015, we move south-east from Göttingen to Linz in Austria, which will host IWSM'30 on July 6-10, 2015. More information will be announced in due course, but you can diarise the date now! There are also quite detailed ideas for a host city of IWSM'31 in 2016. At present I can only reveal that in 2016, IWSM will almost surely stay in Europe, but move to a place with a lower probability of wet weather in July than the 2014 and 2015 workshops. The exact location of IWSM'31 will be announced in Göttingen.

From the point of view of the Statistical Modelling Society, I also want to highlight that our activity which started in 2012 in Prague in providing the two travel grants for students to participate IWSM, will continue in coming years. Similarly, the Toyota Motor Corporation sponsorship of traditional IWSM student awards that started this year in Palermo remains ongoing. So if in your neighborhood you know a student with interest in statistical modelling, do not hesitate to direct his or her attention to the webpage of the coming IWSM. The deadline for submission of abstracts for IWSM'29, January 31, 2014, is fast approaching!

## From the chair contd.

You may or may not know that even though the IWSM is organized on behalf of the Statistical Modelling Society, it is always fully run by the local organizing committee. This is usually led by one or two core-organizers, who in this way pay for all the fun and amusement they have had at past IWSM's. As I mentioned above, the future of IWSM till 2016 is now more or less ensured. But the Executive Committee of the Society always tries to be few steps ahead, so now we are trying to find an enthusiastic core-organizer of IWSM'32 in 2017. Hence if you have attended the workshop several times, you like its atmosphere and would be interested in helping it to continue, just contact any of the EC members to discuss issues related to the workshop organization.

In this newsletter, on page 6 you also find some news concerning our journal Statistical Modelling, which is now in its 13th year. On behalf of the society, I particularly want to thank two people who in the past several years have devoted lots of their time to the success of the journal. In 2001 when Statistical Modelling was launched, it was one of just a few (if not the only) statistical journals that provided the readers with a structured and well maintained webpage with electronic supplements (data and software code in particular) of published papers. All this was possible thanks to Gilg Seeber, who voluntarily and generously created, and then for almost 13 years maintained, the webpage. Gilg, thanks a lot. Secondly, the journal is shortly experiencing rotation in the editorial board. After eight years of doing a tough job very well, Herwig Friedl is stepping down from his position as editor. Herwig, thank you very much for your great contribution to the success of the journal!

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 2014, full of statistical modelling, and hope to see many of you in Göttingen!

Arnošt Komárek



# IWSM 2013 – Palermo, Italy

The 28th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling was held at Palermo, Italy and organized by the Department of Statistical Sciences “Vianelli” of University of Palermo, from 8 to 12 July 2013.

The Workshop was attended by over 180 people from 30 countries on six continents, including South Africa, USA, Chile, Argentina, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia and Colombia. There were 68 oral presentations, and 80 posters presented in two evening sessions on Tuesday and Thursday.

The traditional one-day short course preceding the workshop was delivered by John Fox, McMaster University Hamilton, Canada on “An Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling with the sem Package for R”. Twenty people attended the short course.

Five keynote speakers gave talks on hot topics in statistical modelling:

- *Torsten Hothorn* (University of Zurich, Switzerland) spoke about conditional transformation models in regression analysis;
- *Ciprian Crainiceanu* (Johns Hopkins University, USA) discussed the role of statistical modelling in modern areas of research featured by ultra high dimensional data;
- *Geoff McLachlan* (University of Queensland, Australia) gave an overview of finite mixture of skew distributions;
- *Stefano Iacus* (Università di Milano, Italy) described extensions of matching methods for causal inference; and
- *Hein Putter* (Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands) presented survival regression models for expected length of stay.

The Workshop included a welcome reception at the Steri Complex with greetings from the Chancellor and Mayor of Palermo; an afternoon excursion to the medieval town of Erice with final visit to a wine cellar in Marsala; and the social dinner at the Botanical Garden.

As per tradition the Workshop provided a venue for young researchers to present their work. Jonathan Gellar (Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, USA) won the award for best student paper, Kevin Burke (University of Limerick, Ireland) was winner of the award for best student presentation, and Silvia Rizzi (Max



Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany) was awarded the prize for best student poster. The three awards were kindly supported by Toyota Motor Corporation and Leonard N Stern School of Business, New York University. Toyota will sponsor the three student awards until 2022. The Statistical Modelling Society provided financial support for two students: Madawa Weerasinghe (Australia) and Bruno Santos (Brazil).



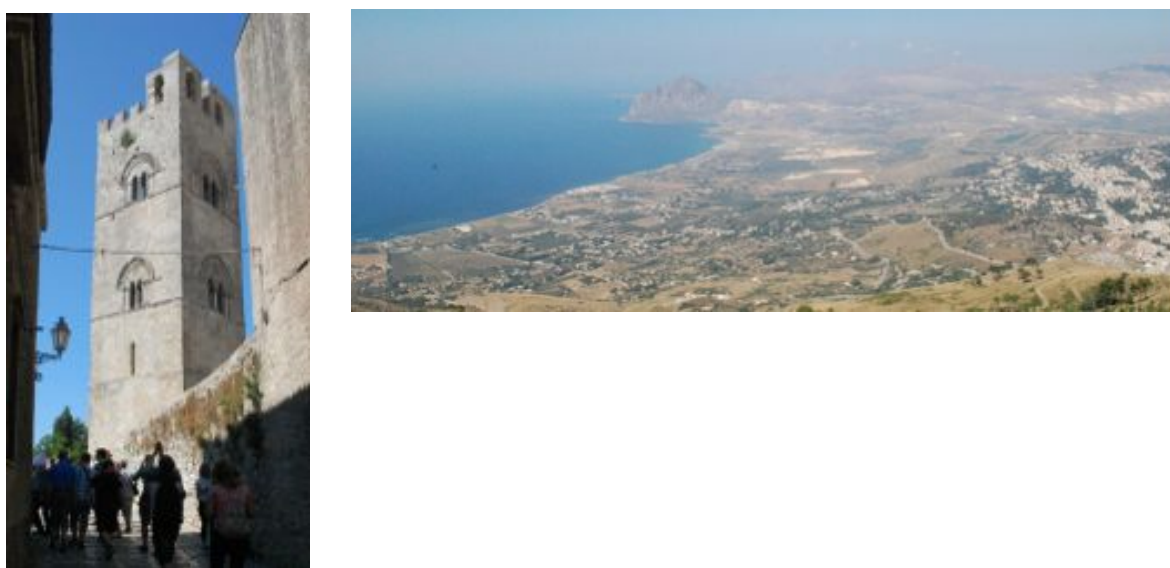
Vito Muggeo



## Welcome reception at Steri Complex



## Excursion to medieval town and wine cellar



## Conference dinner at the Botanical Garden





# IWSM 2014



The 29th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling 2014  
will be hosted by the

Centre for Statistics, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany

14-18 July 2014

As in previous years, the workshop will bring together a wide variety of international researchers, coming from all over the world and featuring different levels of experience, to encourage discussion and interchange between junior and senior scientists.

Göttingen, situated in the centre of Germany, is well known for its university and a rich and stimulating scientific environment in general. It has been home of famous researchers such as Carl Friedrich Gauß and over 40 Nobel prize winners in the past. It still attracts a multifaceted research community nowadays, creating an open-minded atmosphere that makes Göttingen an ideal stage for the 29th IWSM. The conference venues are located in the historic city centre, which is famous for its medieval churches and characteristic half-timbered houses.

Confirmed invited speakers are

- *Antoine de Falguerolles* (Université de Toulouse, France)
- *Alejandro Jara* (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile)
- *Sophia Rabe-Hesketh* (University of California, Berkeley, USA)
- *Gerhard Tutz* (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany)
- *Simon Wood* (University of Bath, UK)

A short course on model-based boosting (including hands-on tutorials for the R add-on package mboost) preceding the workshop will be delivered on July 13, 2014 by Matthias Schmid, Andreas Mayr and Benjamin Hofner (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany).

As in previous years the Best Student Paper, Best Student Presentation and Best Student Poster will be awarded.

Thomas Kneib

**The deadline for submission of abstracts is January 31, 2014.**

Registration will be open at the beginning of December 2013.  
More information will soon be available at

[www.uni-goettingen.de/iwsm2014](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/iwsm2014)



# News from the Journal

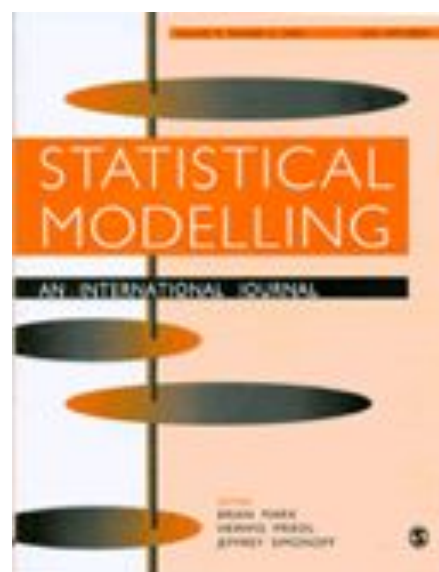
Now entering its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the aims of *Statistical Modelling*'s remain true: to be the main source for important and original articles related to statistical modelling. With six issues per year, our journal is enjoying its ability to quickly get accepted papers into print. Currently quality submissions within our aims and scope are experiencing about a nine month time to print (even including review). We have also reserved some issues to more fully explore niche modeling topics.

Briefly recapping 2013, in addition to our regular contributed issues, we had our very first Discussion/Rejoinder paper on "Beyond Mean Regression," by Thomas Kneib, with thought provoking discussion from Paul Eilers, Peter Green, Andrew Harvey, Roger Koenker, Jochen Einbeck, Håvard Rue, and Mikis Stasinopoulos. We rounded off the year with a special double issue in honor of Erich Lehmann, based on presentations at The Fourth Erich L. Lehmann Symposium, with guest editor Javier Rojo.

We continue to bring our *Statistical Modelling* readers some exciting special topic issues in 2014, with (i) Statistical Models in Oral Health Research, from one of our former editors, Emmanuel Lesaffre, now serving as guest editor, and (ii) Compositional Data Analysis, with guest editor Peter Filzmoser, based on presentations at the Fifth International Workshop on Compositional Data Analysis.

Additionally we have commissioned another discussion paper by Jeffrey Morris and Veera Baladandayuthapani on statistical modelling for genomics data.

As usual, this year brought some changes to our journal. Of particular note, our editor Herwig Friedl will step down after eight years of hard work and dedication to the journal. It should be noted that Herwig has handled the majority of all manuscripts submitted to *Statistical Modelling* during his tenure with us, and has always been a constructive team player and a pleasure to work with. We are happy to announce that he will continue with the journal as part of the advisory panel. Herwig's replacement is Arnošt Komárek from Charles University in Prague. We are delighted that Arnošt has agreed to serve as editor, and really look forward to our working relationship with him.



This year brings even more very notable change. Our web editor Gilg Seeber will step down after 13 years of volunteer service to the journal's web management, work specifically related to data, code, abstracts, and other matters. Many of you will know Gilg as the founder of the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling, along with others, including the late Reinhold Hatzinger. Thankfully, Jochen Einbeck from Durham, UK has graciously agreed to take over from Gilg. Thanks very much to both of you.

Other changes have occurred on our associate editor board. Brent Coull has left our board, and the editors extend their special thanks for his dedication and support of the journal since its launch in 2001. Two more associate editors have joined us: Alejandro Jara from Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and Bernhard Klingenberg from Williams College, USA. Welcome to both of you.

## News from the Journal contd.

The editors of *Statistical Modelling* would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate Jonathan Gellar from Johns Hopkins University, USA on his first place student competition award for his paper Cox Regression Models with Functional Covariates (with co-author C. Crainiceanu), which was presented at the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Palermo during July 2013.

As always, we encourage your constructive input and support. See [www.statmod.org](http://www.statmod.org) for online data, code, and e-appendices associated with most of our published articles, as well as information on how to become a member of the Statistical Modelling Society.

Brian Marx, Jeffrey Simonoff, and Herwig Friedl (Editors)  
*Statistical Modelling*

Jeffrey Simonoff    Brian Marx    Herwig Friedl



# Membership

Membership of the Statistical Modelling Society covers the calendar year and membership for the current year will end on December 31, 2013. To renew your membership for 2014:

- Either you can fill out the registration form at [www.statmod.org](http://www.statmod.org) from December 2013.
- Or you register as a participant in the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling 2014.

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 this volume is also provided. Those who became members through participation in IWSM 2013 have already received all issues of the journal published so far for 2013, and these will be followed by the remaining issues over the next two months.

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

The access to “Members Only” area of [www.statmod.org](http://www.statmod.org) expires on July 31 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, 2013 and will end on December 31, 2014. The next election for EC members will be in November 2014. There will be a call for candidates emailed to all members in September 2014 and from this the list of candidates will be compiled and distributed in October 2014. Each member is allowed to vote for a maximum of four candidates.

The [Executive Committee](#) currently (until Dec 31, 2014) consists of

Arnošt Komárek (Czech Republic)	Chair ( <a href="mailto:chair@statmod.org">chair@statmod.org</a> )
Jutta Gampe (Germany)	Past Chair
Claire Miller (Scotland, UK)	Secretary ( <a href="mailto:secretary@statmod.org">secretary@statmod.org</a> )
Ardo van den Hout (England, UK)	Treasurer ( <a href="mailto:treasurer@statmod.org">treasurer@statmod.org</a> )
Philippe Lambert (Belgium)	Elected member
Thomas Kneib (Germany)	Elected member
Vito Muggeo (Italy)	Elected member
Joe Lang (USA)	Elected member
Brian Marx (USA)	Representative WG on the Journal
Vito Muggeo (Italy)	Representative WG for the Workshop
Jochen Einbeck (England, UK)	Representative WG for Communications

If you wish to contact all EC members please email: [committee@statmod.org](mailto:committee@statmod.org).



Members of the **Working Groups** currently are:

**Journal:** Brian Marx (USA), Jeff Simonoff (USA), Herwig Friedl (Austria), John Hinde (Ireland)

**Workshop:** Vito Muggeo (Italy), Arnošt Komárek (Czech Republic), Thomas Kneib (Germany)

**Communication:** Jochen Einbeck (UK), Gillian Heller (Australia), 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](mailto:secretary@statmod.org). Guidelines for applications are available on the website at [www.statmod.org](http://www.statmod.org).

Recently the SMS supported the following events:

- Course and Open Seminar on Compositional Data Analysis, Girona (July 2013)
- Short course on Analytical Methods for Competing Events, Barcelona (December 2011)

### 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 2014 webpage.