

# Newsletter • October 2014

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## 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, about 150 people interested in statistical modelling met at our International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in the traditional university city of Göttingen. 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 2 of this newsletter. On behalf of myself, and all this year's IWSM participants, I wish to thank Thomas Kneib and all his colleagues for the great and unforgettable event that they organised for us.

In the coming year, the workshop is staying in a German speaking country while moving to Linz in Austria. The IWSM'30 takes place there on July 6-10, 2015. More information can be found on page 5 and also on the webpage <http://ifas.jku.at/iwsm2015/>. At this moment, do not forget that the deadline for submission of abstracts for IWSM'30, January 31, 2015, is fast approaching!

In 2016, we move west from Linz (with only a negligible change of latitude) to Rennes in France, which will host IWSM'31 on July 4-8, 2016. 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'32 in 2017. At present I can only reveal that in 2017, IWSM will almost surely stay in Europe, and move to another traditional university city with a similar spirit as this year's Göttingen. The exact location of IWSM'32 will be announced in July 2015 Linz.

In this newsletter, on page 6 you also find some news concerning our journal Statistical Modelling, which is now in its 14th year. This year brought an important change to the visibility of the journal. After many years of receiving numerous promises from the journal's official publisher SAGE Publication India, the journal finally has its OnlineFirst page where the accepted manuscripts are available ahead of appearing in a printed issue. The page is being gradually filled by the backlog of accepted papers, and by mid October all should be online. We are hoping that this makes the journal even more attractive for the Society members but also for other researchers to publish their results in Statistical Modelling.

## From the chair contd.

Last but not least, the term of offices for the current Executive Committee (EC) of the Statistical Modelling Society started on January 1, 2013 and will end soon on December 31, 2014. The next bi-annual election for EC members will take place in November (2014). See page 7 for more information concerning the elections. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Claire Miller who served as a Secretary of the Society for two terms covering past four years, and can therefore not be reelected as Secretary. Claire, thank you very much for all your selfless help in favor of the Society.

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 2015, full of statistical modelling, and hope to see many of you in Linz!

Arnošt Komárek



## Statistics is coming home: IWSM 2014 – Göttingen, Germany

"Statistics is coming home" was the motto of the 29th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Göttingen, Germany. This motto refers to Gottfried Achenbach and Carl Friedrich Gauß, who both worked in Göttingen and whose work contributed to shaping modern-day statistics.

The workshop took place at the historical building of the Göttingen State and University Library and was organized by the chair of the Department of Statistics at the Georg-August University Göttingen, Thomas Kneib, and colleagues. 148 scientists from 22 countries and 5 continents participated; 60 oral presentations and 46 posters were presented at the workshop.

23 participants also attended the preceding short course on model-based boosting, organized by Andreas Mayr and Benjamin Hofner (Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany).

Five keynote speakers rounded up the workshop:

- *Antoine de Falguerolles* (Université de Toulouse, France) on "La statistique à Goettingue: a tentative tribute by an IWSM participant from Toulouse".
- *Alejandro Jara* (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile) on "Bayesian nonparametric approaches for the analysis of compositional data based on Bernstein polynomials".
- *Sophia Rabe-Hesketh* (University of California, Berkeley, USA) on "Consistent estimation of mixed models by ignoring non-ignorable missingness".
- *Gerhard Tutz* (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany) on "Regularization and Sparsity in Discrete Structures".
- *Simon Wood* (University of Bath, UK) on "General smooth additive modeling"

The welcome reception was held in the Historic Gauß Observatory. This was where Carl Friedrich Gauß worked and lived. Participants promenaded the historical rooms and took the opportunity to enjoy the warm weather in the garden with food and drinks and a great place to get to know each other.

One highlight was the guided tour of the historic rotational dome with the telescope Gauß worked with. The social program also included a guided tour of the city, and a visit of the Grenzland museum at the former border between Eastern and Western Germany. A BBQ event at the Plesse Castle with splendid weather finished this social afternoon.

The conference dinner at the "German Theater" again provided an opportunity to meet in a relaxed atmosphere. At this event, the winners of the student awards were announced. Sarah Brockhaus (München, Germany) won the prize for best paper, Daniela Pauger (Linz, Austria) that for the best presentation, and Thomai Tsiftsi (Durham, UK) was awarded for the best poster. The student awards were kindly sponsored by Toyota Motor Corporation and Leonard N Stern School of Business (New York University), and book prizes were given by Springer Science+Business Media.

The travel awards were given to Fernanda de Bastiani (Recife, Brasil) and Louise Marquart (St. Lucia, Australia).



Thomas Kneib



The historic building  
of the Göttingen State  
and University  
Library



Getting  
together  
at the  
welcome  
reception



Discovering the former  
German-German border



At the Gauß grave



Enjoying the good weather at the conference dinner

# IWSM 2015



The 30th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling 2015  
will be hosted by the

Department of Applied Statistics, Johannes Kepler University Linz,  
Austria

6-10 July 2015

The workshop 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.

Linz, situated on the Danube, is one of Austria's economic and industrial centers. With its historic Old Town and modern museums, e.g. the ARS electronica center, it offers a stimulating environment for the 30th IWSM. The conference venues are located on the campus of Johannes Kepler University.

Confirmed invited speakers are

- *Richard Chandler* (University College London)
- *Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter* (Vienna University of Business and Economics)
- *Sonja Greven* (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich)
- *John Hinde* (National University of Ireland, Galway)

A short course on *Modeling Ordinal Categorical Data* preceding the workshop will be given by Alan Agresti (Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Florida) on 5 July.

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

**The deadline for submission of abstracts is January 31, 2015.**

Registration will be open at the beginning of December 2014.

More information is available at

<http://ifas.jku.at/iwsm2015/>

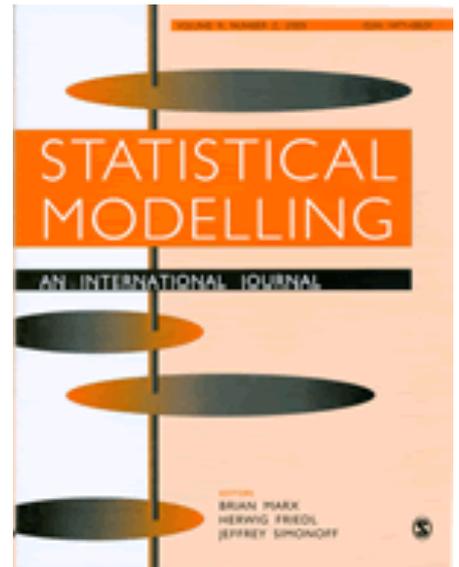
Helga Wagner



# News from the Journal

Now almost in our 15th year, Statistical Modelling continues to bring its audience contemporary, cutting-edge, and original modelling articles, as well as a variety of special issues and discussion papers. 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 less than one year's time to print (even including review). We are continuing to update our "Instructions for Authors," so if you haven't had a look in a while, it is worth exploring [www.statmod.org/smij/](http://www.statmod.org/smij/). We are also pleased to announce that Statistical Modelling now offers Online First, which will ensure that accepted papers are accessible even more quickly than before.

In addition to our regular contributed issues, the year 2014 brought Statistical Modelling a special topic issue in the area of Statistical Models in Oral Health Research, which was compiled by one of our former editors, Emmanuel Lesaffre, now serving as guest editor. On the horizon for 2015, other special issues include: (i) Compositional Data Analysis, with guest editor Peter Filzmoser, based on presentations at the Fifth International Workshop on Compositional Data Analysis, and (ii) a Discussion paper on Statistical Modelling for Bioinformatics Data, which is authored by Jeffrey Morris and Veera Baladandayuthapani. Forthcoming, we have additionally set our sights on some other exciting special issues.



As usual, this year brought some changes to our journal. Jelle Goeman left our associate editor board to pursue other editorial duties. The editors sincerely thank Jelle for his service. In his replacement is Aris Perperoglou from the University of Essex, UK; the editors sincerely welcome Aris to our board.

The editors of Statistical Modelling would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate Sarah Brockhaus from University of Munich (LMU), Germany on her first place student competition award for her paper The Functional Linear Array Model and an Application to Viscosity Curves (with co-authors), which was presented at the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Göttingen during July 2014.

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 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 2014. To renew your membership for 2015, you can either:

- fill out the registration form at [www.statmod.org](http://www.statmod.org) from December 2014; or
- register as a participant in the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling 2015.

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 2014 already received all issues of the journal published so far for 2014, and these will be followed by the remaining issues over the next three 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](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.

If you would like to nominate yourself or a colleague as a candidate for the election, please email [secretary@statmod.org](mailto:secretary@statmod.org) with your nominations by October 22, 2014. If you are nominating a colleague please ask them if they would be happy to be nominated.

Instructions on how to vote will be distributed via e-mail at the end of October, together with the list of candidates. Each member is allowed to vote for a maximum of four candidates.

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

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

Arnošt Komárek (Czech Republic)	Chair (chair@statmod.org)
Jutta Gampe (Germany)	Past Chair
Claire Miller (Scotland, UK)	Secretary (secretary@statmod.org)
Ardo van den Hout (England, UK)	Treasurer (treasurer@statmod.org)
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

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

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

[Workshop](#): Thomas Kneib (Germany), Vito Muggeo (Italy), Jean-François Dupuy (France)

[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 event:

6th International Workshop on Compositional Data Analysis  
(CoDaWork-2015, [www.compositionaldata.com/codawork2015/](http://www.compositionaldata.com/codawork2015/)), Girona (June 2015).

### 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 2015 webpage.