Newsletter • October 2015

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From the chair

Autumn, a new academic year and the Society Newsletter are again here. In July, more than 180 people interested in statistical modelling met at our International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Linz, capital city of Upper Austria. 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 Helga Wagner and all her colleagues in red T-shirts for the great and unforgettable event that they organised for us.

In the coming year, the workshop moves west (with only a negligible change of the latitude) to Rennes in France. The IWSM'31 takes place there on July 4-8, 2016. More information can be found on page 5 and also on the webpage http://www.lebesgue.fr/content/sem2016-iwsm2016. At this moment, do not forget that the deadline for submission of abstracts for IWSM'31, January 31, 2016, is fast approaching! I also want to highlight that more funding opportunities than two traditional student travel grants will be available to participate IWSM'31. Hence do not hesitate to prepare your abstract!

In 2017, we move north-east from Rennes to Groningen in the north of the Netherlands, which will host IWSM'32 on July 3-7, 2017. 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'33 in 2018. At present I can reveal that in 2018, IWSM will almost surely move to a European island. The exact location of IWSM'33 will be announced in July 2016 in Rennes.

In this newsletter, on page 6 you also find some news concerning our journal Statistical Modelling, which is now in its 15th year and with the current impact factor of 0.977 ranks in the upper half of the journals listed in the Statistics and Probability section of the Journal of Citation Reports. Do not hesitate to publish your statistical modelling achievements there.

From the chair contd.

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. Namely, Kenan Matawie (K.Matawie@uws.edu.au) acts as a local representative of the Society for Australia, New Zealand and East Asia, 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 2016, full of statistical modelling, and hope to see many of you in Rennes!

Arnošt Komárek

IWSM 2015 – Linz, Austria

The 30th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling took place at Johannes Kepler University (JKU) from July 6-10, 2015. It was organized by Helga Wagner and colleagues from the Department of Applied Statistics at JKU. Preceding the workshop Alan Agresti (University of Florida) gave a one-day short course on modelling ordinal categorical data which was attended by 44 participants. In the workshop, more than 180 scientists from 23 countries on five continents, including Australia, Thailand, Chile, Brazil and Colombia, participated. The scientific program comprised 129 contributed presentations, 54 talks and 75 posters, and five invited keynote talks given by

- o *Richard Chandler* (University College London) on "Spatiotemporal Modelling for Environmental Applications: Challenges and Opportunities"

- o *Andrew Finley* (Michigan State University) on "Bayesian Functional Data Models for Coupling High-Dimensional LiDAR and Forest Variables over Large Geographic Domains"

- o *Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter* (Vienna University of Business and Economics) on "Sparse Factor Models"

- o *Sonja Greven* (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich) on "A General Framework for Functional Regression"

- o *John Hinde* (National University of Ireland, Galway) on "All Statistical Models are Wrong, Some are Usable"

The high quality of all presentations with applications in diverse areas, e.g. medicine, social and environmental sciences, and a variety of methods, frequentist as well as Bayesian, stimulated lively discussions and exchange. The social program included a welcome reception at the JKU Campus; afternoon excursions to Kremsmünster Abbey, the ARS Electronica Center in Linz or a hike to the top of the Pöstlingberg, and the conference dinner at Arcotel Nike close to the river Danube.

All current and former editors of the journal "Statistical Modelling" were present on Thursday, when the 30th anniversary of IWSM was celebrated.

Winners of the student awards were announced at the conference dinner: Moritz Berger (Munich, Germany) was awarded the prize for the best paper, Lisa Hermans (Hasselt University, Belgium) won the award for the best presentation; and Bruno Santos (Sao Paulo, Brazil) was the winner of the best poster presentation award. 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 and CRC Press. Travel awards provided by the Statistical Modelling Society were given to Lida Fallah (Iran) and Matt Edwards (New Zealand).

Helga Wagner

All current and former editors of "Statistical Modelling"

IWSM 30th birthday cake

L to r: Brian Marx, John Hinde, Emmanuel Lesaffre, Herwig Friedl, Arnošt Komárek, Jeffrey Simonoff

Poster session

Conference dinner at Arcotel Nike

Excursion at Kremsmünster Abbey

IWSM 2016

Rennes, Town Hall

The 31st International Workshop on Statistical Modelling 2016
will be hosted by the

Department of Mathematics of the National Institute of Applied Sciences, Rennes, France

4-8 July 2016

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.

Located in northwestern France, Rennes is the capital of the region of Brittany. As such, it enjoys a rich historical heritage. Being also the eighth-largest student city in France, Rennes is well known for its outstanding quality of life and wide choice of restaurants and fashionable cafés.

Confirmed invited speakers are :
- *Francesca Chiaromonte* (Pennsylvania State University, USA)
- *Stefan Lang* (University of Innsbruck, Austria)
- *Jean-Michel Marin* (Montpellier University, France)
- *Adrian Raftery* (University of Washington, Seattle, USA)

There will be a short course on Sunday 3 July. The speaker and topic will be announced when they have been confirmed.

As in previous editions of the workshop, best Student paper, presentation and poster will be awarded.

The deadline for abstract submission is January 31, 2016.

Registration will be open at the beginning of December 2015. More information is available at:

http://www.lebesgue.fr/content/sem2016-iwsm2016

Rennes

Jean-François Dupuy

News from the Journal

Fast approaching our 16th year, Statistical Modelling brings terrific opportunity to SMS members to publish their quality work that is within the journal's aims and scope (www.statmod.org/smij). In fact, the typical approximate time to print currently stands at roughly one year (including review).In addition, Online First brings online access to accepted manuscripts in about 4-6 weeks, and now also allows color figures.

You may have also noticed that the journal recently has offered an interesting blend of special issues, discussion issues, along with regular contributions, all on contemporary and state-of-the-art modelling. The year 2015 brought Statistical Modelling a special topic issue in the area Compositional Data Analysis, with guest editor Peter Filzmoser, work that was based on presentations at the Fifth International Workshop on Compositional Data Analysis. Looking forward, we have additionally commissioned several exciting Discussion papers, for each of which we will dedicate an entire issue. These include: (i) Statistical modelling for bioinformatics data by Jeffrey Morris and Veera Baladandayuthapani; (ii) Discrete variable selection using the LASSO by Gerhard Tutz and Jan Gertheiss; and (iii) Functional regression by Sonja Greven and Fabian Scheipl. We hope and aim for rich, interesting, and even controversial exchanges of ideas among these authors and their discussants.

This year also brought one change to our board: we have gained Vito Muggeo from University of Palermo, who has agreed to join our team of associate editors. The editors look forward to the opportunity to work with Vito and wish him a warm welcome.

The editors of Statistical Modelling also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Moritz Berger from University of Munich (LMU), Germany on his first place student competition award for his paper (with co-author Gerhard Tutz) "An Extended Adjacent Categories Model Accounting for Response Styles," which was presented at the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Linz during July 2015.

Additionally, the IWSM 30 in Linz brought together a rare alignment of the complete set of all six past and present editors of the journal Statistical Modelling. As the photo on page 4 displays, you will find (from left to right) Brian Marx, John Hinde, Emmanuel Lesaffre, Herwig Friedl, Arnošt Komárek, and Jeffrey Simonoff. Both Emmanuel and John (along with Brian) initiated the journal back in 2000. Indeed this was a special gathering in Linz.

As always, we encourage 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 of the journal.

Brian Marx, Jeffrey Simonoff, and Arnošt Komárek (Editors)
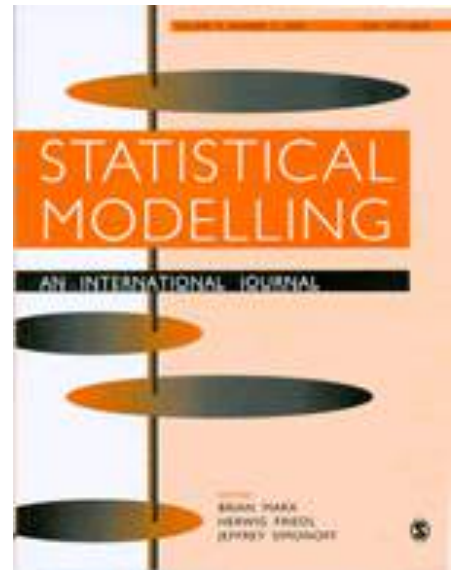*Statistical Modelling*

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 2015. To renew your membership for 2016, you can either:

- fill out the registration form at www.statmod.org from December 2015; or
- register as a participant in the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling 2016.

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 2015 already received all issues of the journal published so far for 2015, 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 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, 2015 and will end on December 31, 2016. The next election for EC members will be in fall 2016.

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
Helga Wagner (Austria)   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: Helga Wagner (Austria), Thomas Kneib (Germany), Jean-François Dupuy (France)

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.

Recently the SMS supported the following event:

6th International Workshop on Compositional Data Analysis
(CoDaWork-2015, 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 2016 webpage.