SMS
Statistical Modelling Society

Newsletter • November 2019

From the chair

Dear colleague, we are faithful to tradition, so the annual appointment is here! I am very glad and honoured to introduce the SMS Newsletter 2019 summarizing the main activities of the Statistical Modelling Society (SMS), the related meeting, the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM), and the Statistical Modelling international journal, (SMij). First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the EC, and in particular the secretary Sabine Schnabel, and the new treasurer Marco Grzegorczyk for their willingness to help to run the society.

Our last meeting, International Workshop on Statistical Modelling 2019, was held in Guimarães, Portugal. It was a great workshop, surely one of the most participated and well organized with a lot of attention to details. As tradition, the workshop was a very fruitful opportunity to gather new ideas and discuss recent developments in statistical modelling. Almost two hundred people attended the workshop and I am pretty sure that all participants enjoyed both the scientific and social aspects of the workshop. On behalf of myself, the Executive Committee and all participants, I wish to thank the organizers for their willingness to host such a successful workshop: the chair Luis Meira-Machado and his colleaugues Arminda Manuela Gonçalves, Raquel Menezes, and Susana Faria. Some details and nice pictures about IWSM 2019 are reported on the next pages of this newsletter.

As many of you know, and as is reported at the SMS homepage (www.statmod.org), the next two workshops are in line: Bilbao in 2020, and Natal (Brazil) in 2021. Important information regarding details and deadlines for the IWSM 2020 follow in this newsletter. We will continue our tradition of an exciting student competition at IWSM'35. As in recent workshops, two student travel grants from SMS will be available and for the 8th 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.
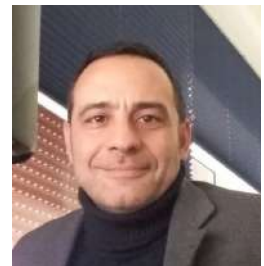
Therefore, students should be strongly motivated to submit their abstract at the next IWSM!

From 2019, the Society has started to grant the title of `Statistical Modelling Honorary Member'. Such title will be conferred yearly to people for their outstanding contribution, development and spread of statistical modelling ideas. The title will be voted unanimously by the EC and will be awarded at the conference dinner of IWSM. I would like to thank Brian Marx and Giancarlo Camarda who helped me in setting this up. Further details will appear on the SMS homepage in due time. Pictures of the first five honorary members are on page 5.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all contributors to this newsletter and in particular Gillian Heller who compiled all the individual contributions into this file.

Please if you have any ideas concerning statistical modelling in wide sense, including organization of future IWSM and founding courses or events, We are delighted to hear from you – just send an email to secretary@statmod.org or any other member of EC. The success of the Society depends upon the interest and support of the membership.

I wish you a successful time until the next workshop in July 2020 in Bilbao. I really hope to see you there!

Vito Muggeo

Vito Muggeo (chair), Sabine Schnabel (secretary), Marco Grzegorczyk (treasurer)

IWSM 2019 – Guimarães, Portugal

The 34th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM2019) was organized by members of the statistics group of the University of Minho and took place from 8-12 July 2019 at the Vila Flor Cultural Centre, in the city centre of Guimarães, Portugal. The workshop was preceded by a one-day short course on "Statistical modelling with missing data: challenges and practical solutions" given by James Carpenter (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine). IWSM2019 was particularly well-attended event, attracting academic, professional statisticians and data analysts from all parts of the world. 191 participants attended the workshop (plus the local organizers), and among them, 66 participants were students. The scientific program comprised 54 talks, 98 posters and five invited keynote talks:

Adrian Bowman (University of Glasgow, UK): "Statistics with a Human Face"

Julio Singer (University of São Paulo, Brazil): "Random change point segmented regression with smooth transition: an example with lateral amyotrophic sclerosis data"

Maria Antónia Turkman (University of Lisbon, Portugal): "Calibration methods for spatial risk analysis"

Peter Diggle (Lancaster University, UK): "Longitudinal modelling of leptospiroses prevalence using serial dilution assay data"

Philippe Lambert (University of Liege, Belgium): "Inference based on Laplace approximations in nonparametric additive location-scale model for right- or interval censored data"

In addition to the contributed papers and posters, the programme also comprised two special sessions. One session was in honour of Professor Murray Aitkin and the other devoted to Statistics Portugal.

Participants enjoyed various social events, including a guided walking tour through the city of Guimarães, and an excursion to the city of Braga. The Welcome Reception took place in the Archaeological Museum of Martins Sarmento Society.

The conference dinner was held in the beautiful century Augustin Convent, the Pousada Mosteiro de Guimaraes that overlooks Guimarães. During the dinner, the following three student prizes were awarded as follows. Best paper: Andrea Sottosanti (University of Padua, Italy); best talk: Sina Mews (Bielefeld University, Germany); best poster: Maria Alonso-Pena (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain). As usual for past IWSM workshops, the student awards were generously sponsored by Toyota Motor Corporation, Stern School of Business (New York University). Two PhD students received travel awards by the Statistical Modelling Society: Mathyas Constans (Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary) and Srimanti Dutta (Visva-Bharati University, India). During the conference dinner, the Chair of the Statistical Modelling Society, Vito Muggeo, announced the following honorary life memberships: Dimitrios Stasinopoulos (London Metropolitan University), Emmanuel Lesaffre (KU Leuven), Iain Currie (Heriot-Watt University), John Hinde (NUI Galway) and Murray Aitkin (University of Melbourne).

The local organizers (chaired by Luís Meira Machado) would like to thank all the participants for producing such a varied and stimulating Scientific Programme and their enthusiastic participation in the meeting as well as in all social events.

Luís Meira-Machado

The welcome reception

The short course group

Presentations at the dinner

Local Organising Committee

Mikis Stasinopoulos

Murray Aitkin

Vito Muggeo, Brian Marx, Emmanuel Lesaffre

John Hinde

Iain Currie

IWSM 2020

The 35th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling

will be held in Bilbao, Spain 19-24 July, 2020.

The conference will take place at the Bizkaia Aretoa, in the city centre of Bilbao, Spain. Bilbao is a city in northern Spain, the largest city in the province of Biscay and in the Basque Country as a whole. Bilbao is the new modern face of the Basque Country. The city has been able to successfully mix traditional Basque culture with a new vision for the future. It is an absolute must for design and culture lovers. We also love that Bilbao is surrounded by green hills and is within close proximity to the coast.

The local organizing committee is chaired by Dae-Jin Lee and the scientific committe by María Xosé Rodríguez. Confirmed keynote speakers are:

María Durbán (University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain).
Montserrat Fuentes (University of Iowa, USA).
Yudi Pawitan (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden).
Virginie Rondeau (Inserm Bordeaux, France).
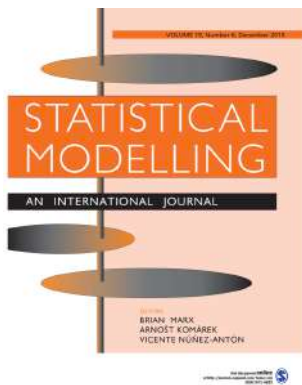Stijn Vansteelandt (Ghent University, Belgium).

The short course will be given by Virgilio Gómez-Rubio (Universidad Castilla la Mancha, Spain) on 19th July.

As always, there will be awards for best student presentation, paper and poster. Registration and abstract submission will be open in December 2020 and the abstract submission deadline is 15th February 2020.

More information is available at http://wp.bcamath.org/iwsm2020/

News from the Journal

The editors are pleased to report some good news regarding Statistical Modelling. To start, the journal is now within reach of its 20th volume—or two decades in the making! With this, our 5-year Impact Factor is at an all-time high of 1.65. Concerning our one-year Impact Factor, the journal now ranks near the median (63rd of 123) among Statistics and Probability journals (and last year we hit our best ranking which was in the top tercile). Downloads for journal articles are up more than 35% from last year, with over 36,000 visits from 169 countries, and these downloads were primarily recent works, giving indication of publication relevance. Online First is running smoothly and brings accepted papers online roughly within 6 weeks after acceptance (while allowing color figures). As always, our goal is to make Statistical Modelling the primary research resource for statistical modelers, as well as an attractive outlet for statistical modelers to submit their own quality manuscripts (within the journal's aims and scope found at www.statmod.org/smij). In return, the editors promise our authors a timely and professional review.

A signature feature of the journal – certainly for the past decade – has been special and discussion issues, and this year brought no exception. Issue 19(1) carried over another special issue on Sports Modelling (continued from 18(5-6)), with guest editors: Andreas Groll, Paolo Zuccolotto, Marica Manisera and Gunther Schauberger. We are also pleased to announce that the special issue on Statistical Modelling in Demography has appeared in 19(3), with guest editors Jutta Gampe and Carlo Giovanni Camarda. Further special issues are in the pipeline, so stay tuned, and 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.

Like nearly every year, this one has also brought a few more changes to our editorial board. First, Peter van der Heijden and Thomas Kneib have stepped down as Associate Editors. A special thanks goes to both: Peter has been with the journal ever since our 2001 launch; and Thomas's diversity and reliability were truly valued. Yet, with these departures comes new AEs, and the editors look forward to working with: Andreas Groll, Maria Kateri, Andreas Mayr, and Elisabeth Waldmann (all four from Germany). We welcome them aboard.

The editors also wish to congratulate Andrea Sottosanti of University of Padova, Italy on his first place student competition award for his paper Continuous time hidden Markov models for astronomical gamma-ray light curves (with co-authors) that was presented at the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling in Guimarães, Portugal during July 2019. Among Andrea's awards, the journal offered a fast-tracked review process, subject to refereeing. Congratulations!

Please remember 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 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 sincere thank you goes out to Jochen Einbeck, Daniel Bonetti, and Thomai Tsiftsi for their enduring and volunteer efforts with the web.

We look forward to yet another great decade of modelling.

Brian Marx   Arnošt Komárek   Vicente Núñez-Antón

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, 2019 and will end on December 31, 2020. The next election for EC members will be in November 2020. 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 2020!

The current Executive Committee (until Dec 31, 2020) 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)
Marco Grzegorczyk (Netherlands)	Treasurer (email: treasurer@statmod.org)
Carlo Giovanni Camarda (France)	Elected member
Elisabeth Waldmann (Germany)	Elected member
Jeff Simonoff (USA)	Elected member
Helga Wagner (Austria)	Elected member
Maria-Xose Rodriguez-Alvarez (Spain)	Elected member
Brian Marx (USA)	Representative WG on the Journal
Luis Meira Machado (Portugal)	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), Vicente Núñez-Antón (Spain)

Workshop: Simon Wood (UK), Luis Meira Machado (Portugal), Maria-Xose Rodriguez-Alvarez (Spain)

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 2020 webpage.