Newsletter December 2021

From the chair

Dear colleague, dear SMS member,

Here the annual appointment with the SMS Newsletter. Unfortunately, this year ends with very sad and tragic news: as most of you probably know our friend and colleague, Brian Marx passed away on Thursday November 25, 2021.

Probably there are not enough words to describe Brian. He was a great statistician producing several influential papers and a tireless teacher with a sweet personality and an extremely radiant vitality. As Paul Eilers, one of his oldest and closest friends and collaborators writes: ***He was a magnet for nice company.***

I think every member of SMS remembers Brian. Brian gave an important and vital contribution to our Society, to our Journal ("Statistical Modelling") during the first hard times, and to the workshop: after the first edition in 1986, Brian did not miss a single edition since 1989. He was one of the most convinced and ardent supporters of all our activities, especially in promoting the society, workshop, and journal among young people. Most of us, including myself in 1999 in Graz, remember his warm welcome for PhD students and new attendants the workshop. I believe this helped a lot to create the friendly atmosphere that distinguishes our annual meeting.

I would like to dedicate the Brian memory by reporting some of the messages I received when I sent out to the SMS members the email informing of Brian's passing at the end of November. I don't report the senders, as I did ask them to popularize the message.

This is truly awful news - so sad! I hadn't heard. I have many fond memories of working with Brian (and meeting his wife) on SMS activities

That is indeed sad news and a great loss to our community

This is devastating news. Brian was a great statistician, a great friend, and most importantly a great man. The world is very much a lesser place without him.

Terribile notizia, era proprio un grande e una bella persona

This is absolutely terrible news. I knew he was ill, but this is still a shock....

Che tristezza, era così giovane!! Mi dispiace un sacco

IWSM is a beautiful and pleasant event, because of the competent statisticians and the really nice people. Brian was one of the best on both

I am shocked with this news. Brian was a very good friend. It will be missed.

Yes, that is very bad, very sad news. It is hard to imagine the society and a workshop without Brian. He was such a great and nice person.

I am so sad and shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Brian ! I remember his kindness, caring and encouragement when we met at IWSM. I can hardly believe it. Really sad...

We have a word "SAUDADE" that has no translation but it "translates" the feeling about what we will feel about Brian Marx: "vamos todos sentir saudade do Brian".

I am so sad to hear this. Brian was the most wonderful, supportive colleague and friend

Indeed, Brian will be missed a lot. It is a big lost, and still difficult to believe

An obituary will appear in the next issue of Statistical Modelling. A website where you can contribute memories of Brian can be reached here: https://pp.events/aaz3YB09

The rest of Newsletter is as usual. In the next pages we will find reports on our journal, on the online meeting in July 2021 and useful information on the next IWSM in July 2022.
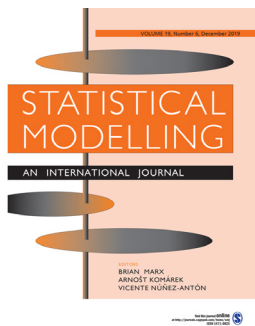I am grateful to Sabine Schnabel (Secretary) and Marco Grzegorczyk (Treasurer) for their effort in supporting the Society. In addition, I would like to thank Gillian Heller who assembled the Newsletter and all contributors: Vicente Núñez-Antón, the current coordinating editor of Statis-tical Modelling, Dae-Jin Lee and Maria Xose Rodriguez-Alvarez, the organizers of the online IWSM, and finally the organizers of the next IWSM in Trieste Nicola Torelli and Ruggero Bellio: I really hope we can meet again there!

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Vito Muggeo
Chair, Statistical Modelling Society

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News from the Journal

First off, the editors hope that this reaches everyone sage and well during this unusual Covid-19 year. As many of you know from years past, the registration at the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling included both the annual subscription to our journal, Statistical Modelling, as well as your Statistical Modelling Society membership. Unfortunately due to the global pandemic, the Bilbao workshop has terminated registration- and thus this has indirectly affected your renewals. We need our members' support, as a relatively small society. With this, the editors invite you to act individually, under these extraordinary circumstances, to renew your membership for the current year, which will also provide you with the journal. You can subscribe at the society's website: http://www.statmod.org/join.htm, where you can also find a variety of modelling information. We want to ensure uninterrupted delivery of our journal to your home!

The editors would like to share some recent news related to Statistical Modelling. One of our founding editors, Brian Marx, has decided to step down from his position as editor, after more than twenty years of service with us. However, he will continue to support the journal as part of our Editorial Advisory Committee. Our most sincere and deepest thanks go to Brian for helping us with the journal over this long period. Andreas Mayr (University of Bonn, Germany) has been selected (among our Associate Editors) to replace Brian, and we wish Andy the best for this new journey we are about to start together. On top of these changes, Arnošt Komárek also decided that it was the right time for him to step down as editor of the journal. Arnošt has been serving as editor since 2014, and he has shown real commitment to the journal in a constructive and cooperative way with the other editors, which has truly led to an improved journal. Arnošt will remain on board as part of our Editorial Advisory Committee. Francesco Bartolucci (University of Perugia, Italy) has been selected (among our Associate Editors) to replace Arnošt. Welcome Francesco; we are confident that both Andy and Francesco will meet the challenges of being our newest editors. Our other current editor, Vicente Núñez-Antón, will now assume the role of coordinating editor. Finally, we would like to inform you that Thomai Tsiftsi replaces Jochen Einbeck as web editor for the journal. Jochen will assume a new role as one of our new Associate Editors. We fully recognize the dedication of both Thomai and Jochen to the journal.

Additionally, the editors would like to share some recent news related to Statistical Modelling. We are now finishing the journal's second decade in print and approaching its 22nd volume! This year our metrics have improved, with our 5-year Impact Factor at 2.322 and our one-year Impact Factor at 2.039, which places us in the top 36% (45th of 125) among Statistics and Probability journals. Our Cite Score is also quite strong at 2.4, showing a clear increase from last year, keeping us stable in the top tercile or at 72/239 (Statistics and Probability). Downloads for journal articles remain high too: up 25% from last year (which were already up 10% from the year prior). 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 www.statmod.org/smij). In return, the editors ensure to do their best towards a timely and professional review for authors.

To catch up with our queue of accepted regular submission, the 2020 year did not feature any special or discussion issues, as we had in recent years. However, in the spirit of this signature feature, we do have two special issues on the horizon: (1) Bayesian Inference for Joint Models in Survival Analysis with guest editors Carmen Armero and Virgilio Gómez-Rubio, and (2) Special issue in Honour of Murray Aitkin's 80th Birthday with guest editors John Hinde and Brian Francis. For now, we have placed these two issues the opening positions for the years 2021 and 2022, respectively 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 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 genuine thank you goes out to Jochen Einbeck and Thomai Tsiftsi for their outstanding volunteer efforts with the web.

Finally, this material was written several weeks ago, in close collaboration with all of the journal editors. Sadly, we were informed that on November 25, one of our editors, Brian Marx, passed away. Some months ago, Brian told us (Arnošt and Vicente) that he wanted to leave as journal editor because he thought that it was the right time to do it. It was sad to see him leave as editor, but it was his decision and we respected that. I believe that all of the help that Brian always provided to both Arnošt and myself is really invaluable and, most importantly, he was always there when a decision needed to be made or anything related to the journal was required. We will miss you, Brian, wherever you are, and thanks for contributing to make Statistical Modelling what it is now. As you always said,

We look forward to yet another great decade of modelling.

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Brian Marx
Arnošt Komárek
Vicente Núñez–Antón

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IWSM2021
International Workshop on Statistical Modelling
Bilbao, Spain 18-23 July, 2021

Following the cancellation of the IWSM2020, the 2021 IWSM conference was held online hosted by BCAM, the Basque Center for Applied Mathematics and the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) in Bilbao from July 19 to July 23 2021. The list of keynote speakers was:

- Maria Durban (Professor of Statistics. University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain). Title: "A general framework for prediction in generalized additive mixed models".
- Montserrat Fuentes (St. Edward's University, President, USA). Title: "Spatial Statistical Modelling of Neuro-imaging Data".
- Virginie Rondeau (Directeur de Recherche, INSERM Bordeaux, France). Title: "The use of joint modelling to validate surrogate failure-time endpoints".
- Stijn Vansteelandt (Professor of Statistics. Ghent University, Belgium). Title: "Assumption-lean Inference for Generalised Linear Model Parameters"

The scientific short course on "Approximate Bayesian inference for spatio-temporal models" by Virgilio Gómez Rubio (Universidad de Castilla la Mancha, Spain) took place on July 21, 2021.

There were 293 registered participants to the workshop, including 25 participants to the course from all around the world. For this virtual conference, the scientific committee, local organizers and the SMS executive committee agreed on giving the opportunity to present their work to those students whose abstracts were selected for an oral or poster presentation in 2020. There was a total of 22 talks and 11 posters (3 minutes short presentation).

The first and only virtual workshop aimed to bring the essence of the IWSM family to all participants during these difficult times. We wish we were able to bring the spirit, with the hope that the face-to-face IWSM will return soon.
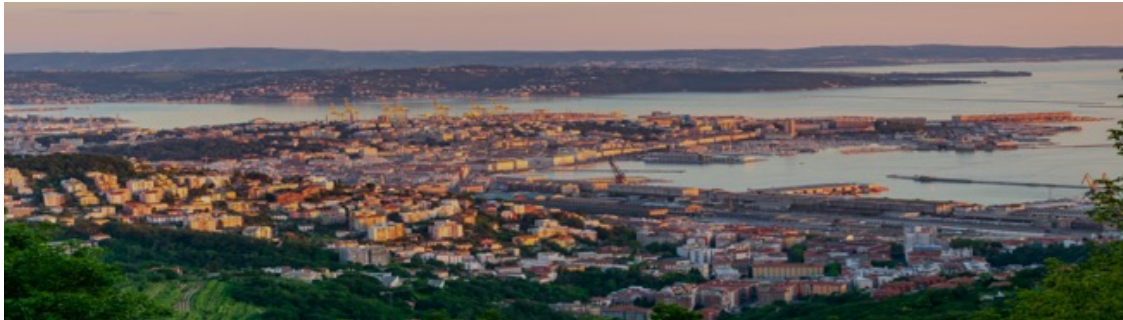
Maria Xose (Coté) Rodriguez–Alvarez

Dae–Jin Lee

Co–chairs IWSM 2021

A screenshot of bye-bye at the online IWSM2021

IWSM2022

The conference will take place at the University of Trieste, Italy. Trieste (Trst in Slovene and Serbo-Croatian) is a city and seaport in northeastern Italy. It is situated towards the end of a narrow strip of Italian territory lying between the Adriatic Sea and Slovenia. Trieste throughout history has been influenced by its location at the crossroads of Latin, Slavic, and Germanic cultures. In the 19th century, Trieste became the most important port and the fourth largest city of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Today, the city is the capital of the autonomous region Friuli-Venezia Giulia, one of the richest regions of Italy, and it is internationally renowned for having one of the largest concentrations of scientific institutions in Italy.

The local organizing committee is co-chaired by Nicola Torelli and Ruggero Bellio and the scientific committee is chaired by Nicola Torelli. Confirmed keynote speakers are:

Antonio Canale - University of Padova
Ioannis Kosmidis - University of Warwick
Claudia Czado - University of Munich
Antony Davison - Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne
Helene Jacqmin-Gadda - Université de Bordeaux

The short course "Statistical modelling of football data" will be given by Ioannis Nzoufras (University of Athens) and Leonardo Egidi (University of Trieste) on 17th July.

As always, there will be awards for best student presentation, paper and poster. Registration and abstract submission will open in December 2021 and the abstract submission deadline is 4th April 2022.
More information is available at https://www.iwsm2022.com/

Nicola Torelli, Ruggero Bellio

Co-chairs IWSM 2022