NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

From the chair

Dear member of the statistical modelling society,

with this newsletter you get informations on recent developments in the Statistical Modelling Society (SMS) and its main activities, the journal Statistical Modelling (SMij) and the yearly International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM).

We had another great workshop, the 38^h IWSM, in Durham this year. 135 participants followed the scientific program with very interesting talks and poster presentations and enjoyed the social events. On behalf of the EC and all participants I would like to thank Jochen Einbeck, Reza Drikvandi, Dinos Perrakis and all members of the local organizing committee for the organization of this workshop.

As usual awards were given at the conference dinner: The title of Statistical Modelling Honorary Member was awarded to Helmut Küchenhoff and Jeff Simonoff for their contributions, developments and spread of statistical modelling ideas. Many congratulations!

This year was the last year that the Toyota Motor Corporation and Leonard N. Stern School of Business, New York University sponsored the prizes for best student paper, poster and oral presentation. We would like to thank Jeff Simonoff very much for providing this opportunity!

For more information with many nice pictures of this year's IWSM, please see the report by the organisers later in this Newsletter.

The next workshop, the 39th IWSM 2025 will be in Limerick (IRE), hosted by Kevin Burke. Kevin and the team give information on the venue, invited speakers and deadlines in this Newsletter. Do not miss the deadline for submission of your contribution to the workshop!
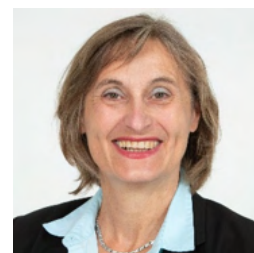
As you most probably know, elections for the renewal of SMS Executive Committee took place just recently. We had quite a long list of candidates who are interested in helping to run the society. I would like to thank them for their willingness to stand for elections and all SMS members who expressed their preferences in the email ballots.

The elected EC members for the period 2025/26 are Kevin Burke (Ireland), Vanda Calhau Fernandes Inacio De Carvalho (Great Britain), Maria Iannario (Italy), Lea Kaufmann (Germany), Arnošt Komárek (Czech Republic), Dae-Jin Lee (Spain) and Massimo Ventrucci (Italy). Congratulations and best wishes for your future work in the Society!

Last but not least, I would like to thank María Xosé Rodríguez Álvarez, whose term in the EC ends with this year, our current secretary Elisabeth Bergherr and all members of the working groups for their commitment and activities for the Statistical Modelling Society.

Finally, I wish you a merry Christmas and all the best for 2025.
I am looking forward to see you in Limerick!

Helga Wagner

News from the Journal

Let us start by hoping that this reaches everyone well and safe. The great news is that we were able to have our workshop this year (Durham, United Kingdom, July 14-19), and we were able to see each other again and recover the spirit of the workshop. We have been informed that we had about 135 people attending the meeting, which is great news and a clear sign that we have returned to normality. In Durham, we also had again the traditional journal lunch with 13 current and former Editors as well as Associate Editors discussing the current state of the journal. Thanks to those attending the meeting and the organizers for making this happen again and, hopefully, we can see each other again in person next year (Limerick, Ireland, July 13-18, 2025). We would like to remind you that 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. If you were unable to attend the workshop, 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!

Exciting news for this new volume include the celebration of our 25th anniversary! This topic came out at our editorial meeting in Durham and there were some interesting suggestions as to how we could celebrate this. Along these lines, our former editors and current members of our Editorial Advisory Board, John Hinde, Emmanuel Lesaffre and Jeffrey Simonoff, agreed to write a short editorial note on the topic of "Twenty-Five Years of Statistics and Statistical Modelling." It is a very appealing short note and our most sincere and heartful thanks go to all of them for agreeing to do it. Finally, it was also suggested that it may be a good idea to have a short article revising our history on modelling along these twenty five years. This very difficult and appealing task was assumed by two of our current associate editors, Paul Eilers and Vito Muggeo, and they have written a very nice paper on "An informal look at 25 years of Statistical Modelling papers" appearing in this first issue of 2025. Again, thanks to Paul and

Vito for agreeing to do this and, in this way, to celebrate with us this very important anniversary for all of us.

The editors would like to share some recent news related to Statistical Modelling. We have two new Associate Editors starting in the fall of 2024, Kevin Burke (University of Limerick, Ireland) and Ardo van den Hout (University College London, United Kingdom) so, a warm welcome to all of them. We hope to have with us for a long time! In addition, we are glad to mention that we have already started to store the supplementary material at the SAGE journal's website. Once again, we would like to thank Jochen Einbeck for all the help he has personally provided during all these years to make sure that this material is appropriately saved at the SMS's website.

Additionally, the editors would like to share some recent news related to Statistical Modelling. We are now in the middle of the journal's third decade in print and approaching its 25th volume! This year our metrics have improved and the Impact Factor is 1.2 for 2023, which places us in the second quartile (74th of 168) among Statistics and Probability journals. Recall that the impact factor for 2021 was 0.927, and that of 2022 was 1.0, which means that we are slowly returning to our previous and hope to keep this trend in the upcoming years. In addition, if we look at the Journal Citation Indicator (JCI), for the year 2023, we are in the third quartile (92/168) in Statistics and Probability. In a field like statistics, with relatively long publication lags, five-year impact factor is probably a more meaningful measure; SMIJ's value for 2023 is 1.60 (slightly down from 1.7 in 2022), and it was 1.692 in 2021, 2.322 for 2020 and 1.765 for 2019. The SJR (Scimago Journal Rank) for 2023 for our journal is 0.426, which puts us in their third quartile (155 out of 268) for Statistics and Probability.

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 https://journals.sagepub.com/aims-scope/SMJ). In return, the editors ensure to do their best toward a timely and professional review for authors.

In the spirit of years past, we have a special issue to report on, that will be publish at the end of 2025, having Fulvia Pennoni and Mirko Cesarini as our guest editors and focusing on "Latent variable models and machine learning techniques." Finally, in case you haven't realized, in the last issue of 2024, we had an invited paper focusing on "Simple or complex statistical models: non-traditional

regression models with intuitive interpretations" (Gillian Z. Heller), with discussion from Geert Molenberghs, Jan Beyersmann, Lupe Gómez, Vito Muggeo, Stijn Vansteelandt and Thomas Kneib, which is based on the invited talk Gillian gave at the 37th IWSM in 2023 in Dortmund, Germany. 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 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 genuine thank you goes out again to Jochen Einbeck for his outstanding volunteer effort with the web volunteer effort with the web, as well as Sangeeta Gupta who is managing most of the production at SAGE.

Finally, the editors would like to thank all Associate Editors, reviewers and authors for their ongoing support and commitment to the journal during this year.

We look forward to yet another great year of modelling.

Vicente Núñez-Antón
Andreas Mayr
Francesco Bartolucci

| *Vicente Núñez-Antón* | *Andreas Mayr* | *Francesco Bartolucci* |

The 38th edition of the IWSM led the statistical modelling community into the North of England; more precisely to Durham, which, despite a population of only ca 50000, enjoys the status of a *city,* a fact which is generally credited to the existence of Durham Cathedral. The main structure of the cathedral was built about 1000 years ago. Among many other artifacts it also contains the tomb of the monk *Saint Bede (672-735),* who came as close to being a Statistician as it was possible at those times!

Against this very distant backdrop, the 38th IWSM began on Sunday, July 14, 2024, with the short course, delivered by Professor Emmanuele Giorgi from Lancaster University. The short course gave "an Introduction to spatial analysis of geostatistical data" and was well received by the attendees. On the evening of that day, some delegates came informally together in the Grey College bar to witness Spain's late 2:1 win over England at the EURO2024 finals.

The scientific programme of the conference then started on Monday, July 15. The opening talk by Colin Griesbach put the conference nicely on track, followed by 13 further oral presentations on that day, including the invited talk by Dimitris Rizopoulos. Over the course of the week, we have seen 55 oral contributed presentations (of which a staggering 30 by postgraduate students!), plus four further invited talks by Fiona Steele (Tuesday), Maria Kateri (Wednesday), Robin Henderson (Thursday), and Ernst Wit (Friday). Additionally, 36 papers were presented in the poster session on Tuesday. We would like to thank all delegates again for the high standard of their presentations, and in particular the invited speakers for their brilliant talks. We would also like to thank the Chairs of all sessions

who ensured a smooth running of the programme (in photo: S. Schnabel chairing P. Eilers).

At this occasion we would also like to thank the Scientific Committee which suggested the invited speakers and later had the hard job of selecting the oral presentations among more than 100 submissions.

The conference was attended by 135 delegates from 17 countries (Gini coefficient 0.635), and took place in the Calman Learning Centre at Durham University, which was in close proximity to Grey College where about half of the delegates were accommodated. The Welcome Reception on the Monday evening took place at Hatfield Hall, and the poster session in the penthouse rooms of the Calman Centre.

Two excursions were held, to "the castle" and to "the coast". On the castle excursion, we were initially transported by bus to the remains of Binchester Roman Fort which 2000 years ago guarded the river Wear crossing on the main road connecting York to Hadrian's Wall. From there we walked a gentle route into the back of the Auckland Castle Cardens, taking in the Deer Hourse, before being welcomed with coffee and scones in the Old Library, followed by a guided tour through the Castle. The coastal tour began at the Souter Lighthouse, whose steep staircase had to be climbed. Delegates had then some free time to explore hidden beaches and to stroll along the cliff line to Marsden Grotto, an underground restaurant tucked underneath the cliffs. The weather was fortunately playing its part on that day!

The conference dinner took place in the Refectory of Ushaw Historic House, a former college for priests. Here the Chair of the Statistical Modelling Society, Helga Wagner, awarded the student prizes, namely: Best student paper to Nikolai Spuck, best student presentation to Rouven Michels and best poster to Sophie Potts. Book prizes were also awarded to the runners-up, which were Lea Orsini, Roman Pfeiler, and Johannes Piller, respectively. Furthermore, Honorary SMS memberships were awarded to Helmut Küchenhoff and Jeff Simonoff. Congratulations!

On Friday, July 19th at 2pm it was time to say goodbye— hope to see you all again in Limerick!
Jochen Einbeck, Reza Drikvandi, and Dinos Perrakis

IWSM 2025
The 39th International Workshop
on Statistical Modelling
Limerick (IRELAND)
July 13-18, 2025

https://iwsm2025.ie/

We are delighted to announce that the 39th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM39) will take place in The Strand Hotel, Limerick, Ireland, from 13th to 18th July 2025.

Limerick City is a Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City brimming with history and stories to tell. It is the third largest city in Ireland (after Dublin and Cork). Discover our rich history and vibrant culture from King John's Castle to St. Mary's Cathedral, one of Limerick's oldest buildings. Take in a tour of the iconic Thomond Park Rugby Stadium; sample local foods and crafts at Limerick's Milk Market, a staple of Limerick-city life since 1852; or visit Adare, Ireland's prettiest village and home to the Ryder Cup in 2027.

Limerick has a fascinating past, stunning countryside and is overflowing with culture. Limerick City and its surrounding areas have a wealth of fantastic accommodation, venues and experiences to offer any delegate. The city also has a very strong sporting tradition. Thomond Park Rugby Stadium is the main home ground for the Munster Rugby team, whose players are also on the Irish international team (one of the world's top-ranked team). Furthermore, the Limerick Hurling team is one of the most successful teams in recent years having reigned as All-Ireland Champions for four years in a row from 2020 to 2023 inclusive. Note that hurling is one of Ireland's national sports and is designated by UNESCO as an element of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

For details on Limerick, see https://www.limerick.ie/discover and https://www.discoverireland.ie/limerick-city. Information on getting to Limerick can be found here: https://iwsm2025.ie/location/getting-here/

Invited speakers / short course
We have an excellent lineup of top-class invited speakers covering a range of diverse topics in statistical modelling. Speakers and *provisional* talk titles provided below.

Brendan Murphy | University College Dublin, **Ireland**
Unsupervised record linkage

Ruth King | University of Edinburgh, UK
Heterogeneous ecological modelling

Sonja Greven | Humboldt University of Berlin, **Germany**
Additive density-on-scalar regression

Daniele Durante | Bocconi University, **Italy**
Bayesian criminal network modelling

Cynthia Rudin | Duke University, **USA**
Simpler machine learning models

Ewout Steyerberg | University Medical Center Utrecht, **Netherlands**
Short Course: Evaluation of prediction models and AI algorithms

More information can be found here: https://iwsm2025.ie/programme/invited-speakers/

Social programme

Our lively and varied social programme is made up of the following events:

• Informal Gathering on Sunday 13th July

• Welcome Reception in **Treaty City Brewery** on Monday 14th July

• Evening Poster Reception in the Strand Hotel (main conference venue) on Tuesday 15th July

• Excursions (bus to the **Cliffs of Moher** and walking tour of **Limerick's Medieval Quarter**) on Wednesday 16th July

• Conference Dinner in **House Restaurant** on Thursday 17th July

• Lunch will be provided each day for all delegates in the Strand Hotel's award-winning **River Restaurant**, providing further networking opportunities

Treaty City Brewery

Cliffs of Moher

King John's Castle, Medieval Quarter

Our call for papers is now open!
We are seeking novel and original contributions to the wider field of Statistical Modelling. Papers providing advances in the development of statistical models that are well motivated by a contemporary data scenario or application problem are particularly welcome. This includes contributions to estimation, inference, and computation for such modelling problems. Papers focusing on applications with important substantive implications as well as methodological issues are welcome, including new developments in Data Science and Machine Learning. **Submissions by students and young researchers are particularly encouraged.**

Submission portal for 4-page paper: https://iwsm2025.ie/call-for-papers/

Oral presentation submission deadline: **Monday 17th February, 2025.**

Poster presentation submission deadline: **Friday 28th March, 2025.**

Registration
Registration will open in early 2025, with more details to follow.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Limerick next summer!

Best wishes
IWSM 2025 Organising Committee