Volume 54 • Issue 5

The members' magazine of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

IMS Bulletin

August 2025

CONTENTS

Read it online: imstat.org/news

2025 IMS election results

New IMS President-elect: Richard Samworth

The 2025 IMS Council votes are counted and the results are in! We are pleased to announce that the incoming IMS President-elect is **Richard Samworth**. The new Executive Committee, for August 2025 to August 2026, will be comprised of: Kavita Ramanan (President); Tony Cai (Past President); Richard Samworth (President-elect); Annie Qu (Program Secretary); Jiashun Jin (Treasurer); and Peter Hoff (Executive Secretary). Leaving the Executive this year is former President Michael Kosorok.

Elected to the IMS Council are the following members: **Alexandre Belloni**, **Tianxi Cai**, **Po-Ling Loh**, **Victor M. Panaretos**, and **Veronika Ročková**. They will join Council members Philip A. Ernst, Martin Hairer, Igor Prünster, Jane-Ling Wang, and Ji Zhu (who have two more years to serve), and Sourav Chatterjee, Gábor Lugosi, Caroline Uhler, Huixia Judy Wang, and Linda Zhao (who will serve one more year). Rotating off the Council in August after their three-year terms are Siva Athreya, Rina Foygel Barber, Judith Rousseau, and Ryan Tibshirani.

The editors of the core IMS journals also serve as Council members. Currently, these are: Jian Ding & Claudio Landim (*Annals of Applied Probability*); Paul Bourgade & Julien Dubedat (*Annals of Probability*); Lexin Li (*Annals of Applied Statistics*); Hans-Georg Müller & Harrison Zhou (*Annals of Statistics*); and Moulinath Banerjee (*Statistical Science*).

All those elected this year will formally take up their new roles at the annual IMS business meeting, which will take place at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Nashville, in the Tuesday lunchtime slot (in the Omni Hotel, immediately following the Council meeting). Any IMS member is welcome to attend the business meeting.

Many thanks to all those who have served the Institute, those who are about to, those who stood for election, and every member who voted this year!

Thank you

Alexandre Belloni

Tianxi Cai

Po-Ling Loh

Victor M. Panaretos

Veronika Ročková

IMS Bulletin

Volume 54 • Issue 5
August 2025
ISSN 1544-1881

Contact information

IMS Bulletin Editor: Tati Howell
bulletin@imstat.org

Managing Editor: Dan Nordman

Contributing Editors: Radu Craiu, Anirban DasGupta, Ruobin Gong, Clara Grazian, David Hand, Takis Konstantopoulos, Xiao-Li Meng, Layla Parast, Daniela Witten

Find us online:

w **https://imstat.org/news**
https://www.**facebook**.com/IMSTATI
https://**X**.com/InstMathStat

IMS Dues and Subscriptions Office

Contact the IMS regarding your dues, membership, subscriptions, orders or change of address:

t 877-557-4674 [*toll-free in USA*]
t +1 216 295 2340 [*international*]
f +1 216 295 5661
e dues.subs@imstat.org

IMS Business Office
Executive Director, Elyse Gustafson

Contact the IMS regarding any other matter, including advertising, copyright permission, offprint orders, copyright transfer, societal matters, meetings, fellows nominations and content of publications:

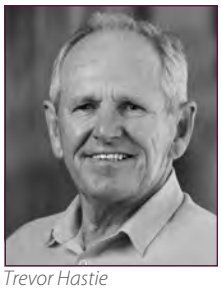
t 877-557-4674 [*toll-free in USA*]
t +1 216 295 2340 [*international*]
f +1 216 295 5661
e erg@imstat.org

Executive Committee

IMS Members' News

Trevor Hastie and Hui Zou win 2025 ISI Founders of Statistics Prize

The International Statistical Institute is pleased to announce that Trevor Hastie and Hui Zou have been awarded the 2025 Founders of Statistics Prize for Contemporary Research Contributions. This prestigious award recognizes their influential paper, "Regularization and Variable Selection via the Elastic Net" (Zou & Hastie, 2005), published in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B*.


Trevor Hastie

Trevor Hastie, the John A. Overdeck Professor of Statistics and Biomedical Data Science at Stanford University, is a leading figure in statistics and a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. His work on the elastic net has revolutionized fields such as statistics, biostatistics, data science, and applied mathematics.


Hui Zou

Hui Zou, a full professor at the University of Minnesota, earned his PhD in Statistics at Stanford University. His research focuses on statistical learning, flexible modeling, and statistical computing. A recipient of the NSF CAREER Award and the IMS Tweedie Award, Hui is an ISI Highly Cited Researcher and ranks among the top 2% of global scientists according to Stanford University. He is a Fellow of the ASA, IMS, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The elastic net method has addressed key challenges in high-dimensional regression, improving prediction accuracy and stabilizing variable selection. Its impact spans various fields, particularly in biological and medical research, with notable applications in studies such as COVID-19's impact on cancer patients (*The Lancet*, 2020) and biological age prediction using DNA methylation (*Nature Reviews Genetics*, 2018).

The Founders of Statistics Prize, sponsored by Elsevier, is awarded biennially at the ISI World Statistics Congress to honor research with a lasting impact on statistical theory, methodology, and applications. The prize includes a €5,000 cash award and travel support for the recipient to deliver the Founders of Statistics Lecture.

Trevor Hastie and Hui Zou were also honored—along with Martin Wainwright—at the Rao Prize Conference in May at Penn State. Hastie was the **2025 C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize recipient** and Hui Zou was the **2025 C. G. Khatri Lecturer**. [*See the report on page 4.*]

CWS Societal Impact Award winners Shili Lin and Sarah Lotspeich

The Caucus for Women in Statistics and Data Science (CWS) celebrated the achievements of its two 2025 Societal Impact Award winners: **Shili Lin** and **Sarah Lotspeich**. Dr. Lin is a professor of statistics at the Ohio State University and is recognized for outstanding mentoring of students and junior researchers, especially women; championing promotion of women in statistics; and instilling an appreciation for statistics and data science in the next generation of middle and high school students. Dr. Lotspeich is an assistant professor at Wake Forest University and is recognized for her exceptional enthusiasm in engaging women in the statistical profession; unwavering commitment to training the next generation; and groundbreaking research to promote accurate, impactful analyses for public health research domestically & internationally. They will receive their award plaques during the CWS Business Session & Reception at JSM. https://cwstat.org/societal-impact-award/

More IMS Members' News

2025 Rollo Davidson Prize

The Rollo Davidson Trustees announce the award of the 2025 Rollo Davidson Prize to Mark Sellke and Hao Shen, who are IMS members, together with Eliran Subag. Their citations follow:

Hao Shen (University of Wisconsin) for his deep contributions to the theory of stochastic partial differential equations and the furthering of our understanding of the stochastic Yang-Mills dynamics; and

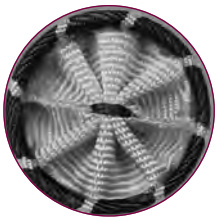
Eliran Subag (Weizmann Institute) for his deep and influential results on the geometry of spin glasses; and

Mark Sellke (Harvard University) for his wide-ranging contributions to applications of probability, especially in the development and understanding of algorithms for high-dimensional optimization.

Rollo Davidson

The Rollo Davidson Prize commemorates Rollo Davidson (1944–1970), an accomplished mathematician of remarkable potential, and Fellow-elect of Churchill College, Cambridge, who died on the Piz Bernina in 1970. Since 1976, the prize has been awarded annually to young probabilists. The prize is awarded on the basis of nominations generated by the Rollo Davidson Trustees. The Trustees welcome letters recommending potential nominees. These should be addressed to the Chair of Trustees and be received by March 1 of the year for which they are intended.

American Association for the Advancement of Science welcomes new Fellows



The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has welcomed the 471 scientists and engineers elected in 2024 as Honorary Fellows. Election as an AAAS Fellow honors members whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications in service to society have distinguished them among their peers and colleagues.

Among those elected were seven IMS members and/or Fellows. In the AAAS Section on Statistics were: **Alexander Aue**, University of California, Davis; **Scott H. Holan**, University of Missouri; **Lexin Li**, University of California, Berkeley; **Xihong Lin**, Harvard University; **Daniel S. Nettleton**, Iowa State University; and **Cynthia Rudin**, Duke University. Among those in the AAAS Section on Mathematics was **Jonathan C. Mattingly**, Duke University.

Read the complete list at https://www.aaas.org/programs/fellows/2024-aaas-fellows.

AAAS first launched this lifetime recognition in 1874, about 25 years after the association was founded. Last year, the AAAS Fellows program celebrated its 150th anniversary at a reception at the National Building Museum in Washington DC. To commemorate the occasion, Fellows from across the span of sciences shared stories of their scientific journeys and what being a Fellow means to them in an anniversary video and special compendium of stories. Find out more at https://www.aaas.org/news/aaas-celebrates-150-years-recognizing-fellows.

2025 Rao Prize Conference

The Penn State Department of Statistics held the 2025 Rao Prize Conference on May 20, 2025, to honor three prize recipients: the **2025 C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize recipient Trevor Hastie**, who is the John A. Overdeck Professor of Statistics and Biomedical Data Science at Stanford University; the **2025 P. R. Krishnaiah Lecturer Martin Wainwright**, who is the Cecil H. Green Professor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and the **2025 C. G. Khatri Lecturer Hui Zou**, who is the Dr. Lynn Y. S. Lin Professor of Statistics at the University of Minnesota. There were about 100 researchers attending this conference.

The conference program consisted of three plenary speakers, four invited speakers, and a poster presentation by postdocs and graduate students. The plenary speakers were Hastie, Wainwright, and Zou. The invited speakers were Associate Professor of Statistics Will Fithian of the University of California, Berkeley, Assistant Professor of Data Sciences and Operations Zijun Gao of the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business, Professor of Statistics and Computer Science Jia Li of Penn State, and Professor of Computer Science Pradeep Ravikumar of Carnegie Mellon University.

One of the highlights of the conference was the awarding of the **2025 Rao Prize to Trevor Hastie**. Hastie is known for his research in the fields of statistical modeling, statistical computing, bioinformatics, and statistical learning. He has published six books and over 200 research articles in these areas. Hastie is an elected Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the American Statistical Association, the Royal Statistical Society, and the South African Statistical Society. In 2018, Hastie was elected a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences. In 2019, he became a foreign member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also a recipient of the ISI Founders of Statistics Prize for Contemporary Research Contributions [*see separate announcement on page 2*], the Leo Breiman Award (Senior), the Wald Memorial Award, and the *Technometrics* Ziegel Award. From 2006–09, he was the chair of the Department of Statistics at Stanford University. He has also made contributions in statistical computing, co-editing (with J. Chambers) a large software library on modeling tools in the S language (*Statistical Models in S*, Wadsworth, 1992), which forms the foundation for much of the statistical modeling in R. He has received honorary doctoral degrees from University of Waterloo, Canada, and Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany.

Penn State Statistics Department Head Nicole Lazar [left] and Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Tracy Langkilde presenting the 2025 C.R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize to Trevor Hastie

This conference also highlighted the 2025 P. R. Krishnaiah Lecturer, Martin Wainwright, and the 2025 C. G. Khatri Lecturer, Hui Zou. Martin Wainwright is the 2014 winner of the COPSS Presidents' Award; he is an elected fellow of the IMS, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, and an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellow; he has won best paper awards from the IEEE Signal Processing Society, the IEEE Communications Society, and the IEEE Information Theory and Communication Societies; he has been an IMS Medallion lecturer and a Blackwell lecturer; and has received an NSF CAREER Award. Hui Zou is a fellow of the IMS, ASA and AAAS, and a recipient of the ISI Founders of Statistics Prize for Contemporary Research Contributions [*see page 2*], an NSF CAREER Award, and the IMS Tweedie Award.

The C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize was established to honor and recognize outstanding and influential innovations in the theory and practice of mathematical statistics, international leadership in directing statistics research, and pioneering contributions by a recognized leader in the field of statistics. The C. G. Khatri Memorial Lectureship and P. R. Krishnaiah Memorial Lectureship honor the memory of C. G. Khatri and P. R. Krishnaiah by inviting outstanding researchers in statistics to deliver lectures at Penn State.

More details about the conference can be found at https://science.psu.edu/stat/2025-rao-prize-conference.

Martin Wainwright, the 2025 Krishnaiah lecturer, in contemplation at the poster session

ASA awards for IMS members

The American Statistical Association's annual awards for 2025 are announced, with the following IMS members and/or Fellows among the recipients.

ASA Founders Award

The ASA Founders Award honors five individuals for demonstrating exceptional dedication to advancing the mission of the association. They include **Kate Calder**, Professor and Chair of Statistics and Data Sciences at UT-Austin, and **Robert Gould**, UCLA.

ASA Fellowship

Among the 46 new ASA Fellows, who have been selected for their professional contributions, leadership, and commitment to the field of statistical science, are: **Le Bao, Jacob Bien, Jing Cao, Stefano Castruccio, Xi Chen, David B. Dahl, , Malka Gorfine, Ben Hansen, Thomas Brendan Murphy, Ying Sun, Donatello Telesca, Brian Phillip Weaver, Lan Xue, Jiajia Zhang, Jingfei (Emma) Zhang**, and **Kai Zhang**.

The ASA celebrates the individuals in academia, industry, and government who have been recognized for their work and dedication to the statistics discipline. These awards, which will be conferred at the ASA's awards ceremony, August 5, at JSM Nashville, include:

- The **Edward C. Bryant Scholarship** for an Outstanding Graduate Student in Survey Statistics: **Aditi Sen**
- The **David R. Cox Foundations of Statistics Award**: **Philip Dawid**
- **Monroe G. Sirken Award** in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research: **Kirk Wolter**
- **Gottfried E. Noether Distinguished Scholar Award**: **Xuming He**
- **Gottfried E. Noether Early-Career Scholar Award**: **Song Mei** and **Yuting Wei**
- **Waller Distinguished Teaching Career Award**: **Nicholas J. Horton**
- **Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Award**: **James J. Cochran**

Read the complete list at https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2025/06/02/awardees/

Nominate an IMS Lecturer

There are several **IMS Named and Medallion Lectures.** The lectures that are currently available for nomination are: the 2027 & 2028 **Wald** Memorial Awards & Lectures; the 2027 IMS Grace **Wahba** Award & Lecture; the 2027 **Le Cam** Award and Lecture; and the eight 2028 **Medallion** Awards & Lectures. For the nomination, you will need a nomination letter of half a page, and a list of the nominee's five most relevant publications, with a URL where these publications are accessible. The nomination deadline is **October 1, 2025.**

https://imstat.org/ims-special-lectures/nominations

The Institute of Mathematical Statistics recognizes and celebrates excellence in our members at all stages of their careers. We encourage you to ***consider diversity and breadth*** *when you nominate for these awards.*

JSM NASHVILLE TENNESSEE AUGUST 2–7, 2025

Special IMS Lectures at JSM

The following IMS Named and Medallion Lectures will be given at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Nashville, USA:

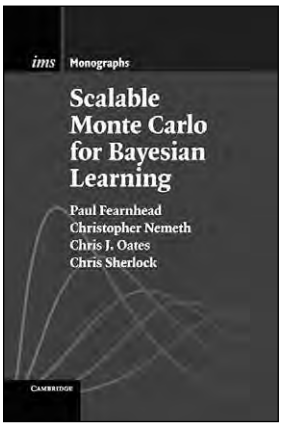
Sun Aug 3	2:00pm	**Ery Arias-Castro**, Medallion lecture
	4:00pm	**Kathryn Roeder**, Rietz lecture
Mon Aug 4	8:30am	**Sandrine Dudoit**, Medallion lecture
	2:00pm	**Regina Liu**, Neyman lecture
	8:00pm	IMS Presidential Address (**Tony Cai**) and Awards session
Tue Aug 5	8:30am	**Florentina Bunea**, Medallion lecture
	10:30am	**Peter Bickel**, Le Cam lecture
	4:00pm	**Jianqing Fan**, Wald I
Wed Aug 6	8:30am	**Victor Panaretos**, Medallion lecture
	10:30am	**Jianqing Fan**, Wald II
	2:00pm	**Richard Samworth**, Wahba lecture
	2:00pm	**Louis Cammarata, Ying Jin, George Stepaniants,** Lawrence D. Brown PhD Student Award session
Thu Aug 7	8:30am	**Boaz Nadler**, Medallion lecture

Join us!

NEW BOOK

The Institute of Mathematical Statistics presents

IMS MONOGRAPHS



Scalable Monte Carlo for Bayesian Learning

Paul Fearnhead, Christopher Nemeth, Chris J. Oates, Chris Sherlock

A graduate-level introduction to advanced topics in Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC), as applied broadly in the Bayesian computational context. The topics covered have emerged as recently as the last decade and include stochastic gradient MCMC, non-reversible MCMC, continuous time MCMC, and new techniques for convergence assessment.

A particular focus is on cutting-edge methods that are scalable with respect to either the amount of data, or the data dimension, motivated by the emerging high-priority application areas in machine learning and AI. Examples are woven throughout the text to demonstrate how scalable Bayesian learning methods can be implemented.

This text could form the basis for a course and is sure to be an invaluable resource for researchers in the field.

Paul Fearnhead is Professor of Statistics at Lancaster University, with research interests in Bayesian and Computational Statistics. Christopher Nemeth is Professor of Statistics at Lancaster University, working at the interface of Statistics and Machine Learning, with a focus on probabilistic modelling and the development of new computational tools for statistical inference. Chris. J. Oates leads a team working in the areas of Computational Statistics and Probabilistic Machine Learning at Newcastle University. Chris Sherlock is Professor of Statistics at Lancaster University; he has worked in data assimilation, numerical modelling and software engineering, and now in computationally intensive Bayesian statistics.

Hardback & eBook: $64.99

ISBN: 9781009288446

IMS members receive a 40% discount: email ims@imstat.org to request your code

www.imstat.org/cup

Cambridge University Press, with the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, established the *IMS Monographs* and *IMS Textbooks* series of high-quality books. The series editors are Yingying Fan (Coordinating Editor, 2024–27), Ramon van Handel (Probability), Rahul Mazumder (Algorithms) and Po-Ling Loh (Statistics).

International Conference on Statistics and Data Science 2025

December 15–18, 2025, in Seville, Spain

The 2025 IMS–ICSDS (International Conference on Statistics and Data Science) will be held December 15–18, 2025, in Seville, Spain: see https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/

Its program is shaping up to be rich and exciting, with **four plenary speakers**: **Francis Bach** (Ecole Normale Supérieure, France), **Richard Samworth** (University of Cambridge, UK), **Daniela Witten** (University of Washington, US), and **Bin Yu** (University of California, Berkeley, US). More of the invited program will be uploaded soon. Check the website https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/plenary-speakers

Seville, in the heart of Andalusia in southern Spain, has long been an alluring travel destination, celebrated for its fascinating blend of rich history, multifaceted culture, stunning architecture, delectable cuisines, vibrant atmosphere, and varied geographic charms. Participants at this fourth ICSDS will have the opportunity to appreciate Andalusian cuisine and a flamenco performance at the ICSDS conference banquet, and to explore several spectacular historical landmarks with the conference tours, including the Real Alcázar palace, Seville cathedral with its iconic Giralda bell tower, and the Real Fábrica de Tabacos (Royal Tobacco Factory, which served as the setting of the opera *Carmen*).

The Real Alcázar palace

A winding cobbled street in the old town, Santa Cruz

Plaza de España

Seville panorama

SkareMedia / Wikimedia / CC BY-SA3.0

ICSDS Student Travel Award (20 now available): apply by September 15

ICSDS offers Student Travel Awards to encourage the participation of PhD students. In response to the large number of entries for Student Travel Awards last year, ICSDS is pleased to increase the number of awards this year to 20. All PhD students who give invited or contributed presentations are encouraged to apply. Applicants for the awards must be members of IMS, and joining IMS at the time of application is allowed. (*IMS membership is FREE for all students.*) **Applications are due September 15, 2025.**

ICSDS Junior Researcher Travel Fund: apply by September 15

To ensure inclusivity and accessibility of ICSDS to junior researchers all over the world, IMS is pleased to offer travel support fund for junior faculty and post-docs who do not have other forms of institutional support. **Applications should be submitted via the website by September 15, 2025.**

ICSDS gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Industry Friends of IMS (IFoIMS) for both ICSDS Junior Researcher Travel Fund and Student Travel Award.

Please alert your PhD students and junior researchers to these funding opportunities and encourage them to apply.

Registration and abstract submission

The websites for registration and abstract submissions (for all invited, contributed talks and posters) will be open shortly. Please register soon to take advantage of early registration discounted rates. To be listed on the conference program, **abstracts must be submitted by October 31.**

We look forward to seeing you at the ICSDS this December!

IMS 2025 ICSDS Organizing Team: Regina Liu and Annie Qu (Program Co-Chairs), Min Xu (Program Coordinator), and Arlene Gray (Administrator)

Written by Witten:
To Err, and to Edit-Err, is Human (part 1 of 2)

Our contributing editor **Daniela Witten** shares her thoughts on the editorial process, and some advice for associate editors and reviewers, written from the perspective of an editor and a human:

I submitted my first paper to *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B* (*JRSSB*) as a grad student. When it was accepted for publication, I called my mother—who is not a statistician and had never heard of the journal—and breathlessly told her, without a hint of irony, that *whatever happens in my life, I always will have published in JRSSB*.

A few years later, as junior faculty, a paper that I submitted to *JRSSB* was invited for revision. I immediately reached out to my co-author… only to discover that they had just had a baby and were not available to help (or rather, not available *right that minute*). I remember thinking to myself—again, no irony—that *lots of people can have babies, but very few can publish in JRSSB*. (Over time, I have developed a more nuanced understanding of this very important topic, which I discuss in a previous column: https://imstat.org/2023/03/31/written-by-witten-tenure-is-not-the-hardest-thing/)

Time passed, and I chilled out (I think? a little bit? maybe? [*TO DO: fact-check with my grad students*]). Okay fine, maybe I didn't chill out. As I was saying, time passed, and in early 2022 I got an email from Steffen Lauritzen, who was near completion of his three-year term as Joint Editor of *JRSSB*, inviting me to serve as the next Joint Editor for the journal. I had all of the feelings at once, from an initial moment of "I wonder if he sent this to the wrong person?!" to the realization "Wow, I am *old!*"

As the end of my three-year term approaches, I am devoting two *Written by Witten* columns to my experience. This first one focuses on what I've learned as an editor, and provides advice to those upon whose efforts I relied: namely, the associate editors (AEs) and reviewers. The second one, which will appear in the next issue of the *IMS Bulletin*, is geared towards authors.

Figure 1, below, and its caption summarize the publication process in statistics.

Humans are flawed

When I was a new assistant professor, my then-colleague Peter Hoff told me that as a graduating PhD student he thought he knew 80% of what's important in the field of statistics; as an associate professor he thought he knew 10%; and as a full professor he realized he knew no more than 5%. I will add to this anecdote that, based on my personal experience, journal editors know far less than 5% of the field, and the amount that they know seems to decrease daily.

Furthermore, at *JRSSB*, submissions are randomly assigned to one of three Joint Editors. So, even in the unlikely event that one of the three Joint Editors does happen to be an expert in the area of your paper, there's only a ⅓ chance that they will handle your submission.

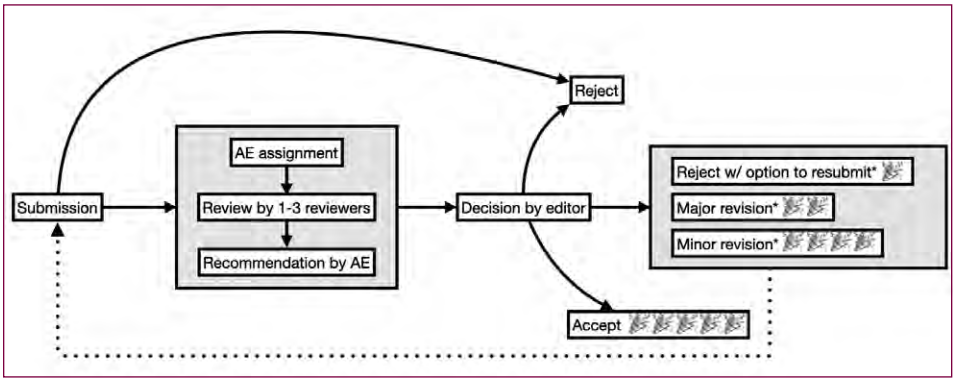


Figure 1. A schematic of a single "round of review" in the field of statistics. An initial submission might be immediately rejected by the editor: this is called a "desk rejection". If not, then it is assigned to an associate editor (AE), whose identity is unknown to the author. The AE sends it to between one and three anonymous reviewers, whose reports form the basis for the AE's recommendation. Then the editor makes a decision. If the paper is accepted then that is the end of the story (but papers are almost never accepted in the "first round"!). And if the paper is rejected, then that is the end of the story at that journal. For all other decisions, the authors have the opportunity to re-submit the paper to the same journal, and the process starts again with another round of review (see dotted line). Unless there is a desk rejection, a round of review typically takes at least three to four months. Confetti poppers (🎉) indicate editorial decisions for which you should throw a party (units of celebration are at your discretion).

The associate editor may know a fair bit about your area, but there are no guarantees. Hopefully the reviewers are experts in the topic of your paper (though there are no promises in love, war, or peer review). And sometimes, even if a reviewer is an expert, their report might make you think that they aren't! I have received scathing emails from authors of rejected papers telling me that clearly the AE or reviewer was *grossly unqualified to assess the paper*… and as often as not, this has happened in cases where the AE or reviewer involved is, in fact, unquestionably a leader in the field. (Also, before sending an angry email, remember that literally everyone involved in the review process is an unpaid volunteer: in general, statistics journals do not financially

Written by Witten: continued from previous page

compensate their editors, AEs, or reviewers. So, be kind!)

As a human and as an editor, I sometimes make mistakes (to edit-err is human!). In fact, (i) two reasonable and well-intentioned people might disagree on the "correct" decision for a paper; and (ii) avoiding all mistakes would require an infinitely-long review process, and nobody wants that! Fortunately, life is long, and no single editorial error defines a career.

Advice to associate editors

Firstly, thank you for all you do: you are incredible.

Before you send a paper out for review, assess whether it is likely to survive the review process. Is it well-written? Interesting? Clearly-motivated? If not, then recommend a desk rejection without review. There's no point in asking reviewers to prepare a report if you already know the outcome, and it's better for an author to find out about a rejection today rather than in six months.

And if you do decide to send the paper out for peer review? Unless you are willing to serve as a reviewer yourself if needed, then I recommend recruiting three reviewers instead of two. This is because reviewers sometimes do not deliver the reports that they have promised, and sometimes deliver reports that are unusable or uninformative. Finding three reviewers now will save you a huge headache later.*

Finally: *not everybody needs to serve as an AE for a journal.* Yes, the role carries prestige, but other activities that carry a comparable amount of prestige may be a better fit for your personality.** As an AE, you will face a perpetual to-do list that requires attention on a weekly or even daily basis. (Imagine a supermarket with a conveyor belt of editorial responsibilities: you are the only person tasked with bagging the groceries, and your shift lasts three years.) If this sounds unappealing, then I don't think the AE role is right for you. Conversely, you may enjoy serving as an AE if you enjoy deeply engaging with the literature outside of your immediate research area, are responsive to email, and tend not to procrastinate.

Advice to reviewers

You are the unsung heroes who do the work that makes the entire system work. Thanks for all you do!

Here's a joke: "How long does it take to review a paper?" The answer is: "Six months, plus an afternoon". At the risk of spoiling the humor by over-explaining: in many cases, it takes only an afternoon to review a paper. While I appreciate the service provided by peer reviewers, I also wonder if we could all make a collective effort to submit our referee reports a little faster… say, in four to six *weeks*, plus an afternoon. Perhaps if you pay it forward by submitting your next review promptly, the universe will reward you by giving you a quick decision on your next paper (though hopefully not too quick: you don't want a desk rejection!). Absent any cosmic reward, you can sleep well knowing that you are an exemplary citizen of the statistical community.

And, a corollary: please do not accept a referee request unless you plan to submit a high-quality report on the timeline specified by the AE. Referee reports that are shoddy or late gum up the system for everyone involved. I will never hear about it if you decline a referee request, but I *will* hear about it if you accept a referee request and then still haven't submitted your report after months of reminders. Please do not cause me a headache.

A tip to save time: if a paper is clearly not suitable for publication, then you do not need to write a five-page review. A concise and timely review that summarizes your key concerns will earn you the everlasting gratitude of the AE. The inverse of this is also true: a very long and detailed (and also timely) review is spectacularly helpful for a paper that may eventually be published in the journal.

Be polite! A review that is rude is not much use to an AE or an editor.

And finally, if you are reviewing for a top journal, then remember that it is not "good enough" for a paper to be correct: it needs to be innovative and interesting! If the paper is not innovative, then you can communicate this via private comments to the AE (which, in most journal submission systems, are an option when submitting your review).

Stay tuned for my next column, which will contain advice for authors!

* A natural objection to this piece of advice is that finding three reviewers for each paper will over-burden the pool of available reviewers. However, I believe that it is better to err on the side of desk-rejecting more papers, and finding three reviewers for the papers that are not desk-rejected, in order to ensure a timely and high-quality review process.

** Examples of alternatives to serving as AE that carry a comparable amount of prestige: serve as program chair for a machine learning conference (these tend to have relatively compact timelines); write a research monograph; get involved in professional society leadership; serve as a local organizer for a conference; take a leadership role in a large multi-institution federal grant application; etc.

Watch and learn: IMS lectures on YouTube

Our collection of IMS lectures on YouTube is growing. You can watch at https://www.youtube.com/@InstMathStat/videos. These ones are uploaded already, with more to be added:

Alicia Carriquiry, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Statistics and Its Application in Forensic Science and the Criminal Justice System"*

Jing Lei, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Winners with Confidence: Discrete Argmin Inference Using Cross-validated Exponential Mechanism"*

Nancy Reid, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Data Integration for Heterogeneous Data"*

Annie Qu, IMS Wahba Lecture: *"Models and Parameters: Inference Under Model Misspecification"*

Sylvia Richardson, ICSDS 2022 Plenary Talk: *"Scaling up Bayesian Modeling and Computation for real-world biomedical and public health applications"*

Susan Murphy, ICSDS 2022 Plenary Talk: *"Inference for Longitudinal Data After Adaptive Sampling"*

Guido Imbens, ICSDS 2022 Plenary Talk: *"Multiple Randomization Designs"*

Emmanuel Candès, ICSDS 2022 Plenary Talk: *"Conformal Prediction in 2022"*

Huixia Judy Wang, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Extreme Conditional Quantiles"*

Dylan Small, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Protocols for Observational Studies: Methods and open problems"*

Alexei Borodin, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Deformed Polynuclear Growth in (1+1) Dimensions"*

Ramon van Handel, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Non-asymptotic Random Matrix Theory"*

Rungang Han, IMS Brown Session: *"Multiway Clustering in Tensor Block Model: Statistical optimality and computational limit"*

Chan Park, IMS Brown Session: *"Assumption-Lean Analysis of Cluster Randomized Trials in Infectious Diseases for Intent-to-Treat Effects and Network Effects"*

Rong Ma, IMS Brown Session: *"Statistical Inference for High-Dimensional Generalized Linear Models with Binary Outcomes"*

Russell Lyons, IMS/BS Schramm Lecture: *"Monotonicity for Continuous-Time Random Walks"*

Michael Jordan, IMS Wahba Lecture: *"On the Blending of Statistical Machine Learning and Microeconomics"*

Hans-Georg Müller, IMS Rietz Lecture: *"Statistical Tools for Random Objects in Metric Spaces"*

Heping Zhang, IMS Neyman Lecture: *"Genes, Brain, and Us"*

Martin Hairer, IMS Wald Lectures: *"Universality and Crossover in 1+1 Dimensions (Part I)"* and *"Universality and Crossover in 1+1 Dimensions (Part II)"*

Roman Vershynin, IMS Medallion Lecture IV: *"Privacy, Probability, and Synthetic Data"*

Vlada Limic, IMS Medallion Lecture III: *"Multiplicative Coalescent Related Processes"*

Rina Foygel Barber, IMS Medallion Lecture II: *"Distribution-free Prediction: Exchangeability and beyond"*

Rodrigo Bañuelos, IMS Medallion Lecture I: *"A Doob h-process and its Applications to Singular Integrals on Z^d"*

Omer Angel, BS/IMS Schramm Lecture *"Balloons in Space(s)"*

Martin Barlow, IMS Wald Lectures, I: *"Random Walks and Fractal Graphs"*; II: *"Low Dimensional Random Fractals"*; III: *"Higher Dimensional Spaces"*

Laurent Saloff-Coste, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Gambler's Ruin Problems"*

Gérard Ben Arous, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Random Determinants and the Elastic Manifold"*

Elchanan Mossel, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Simplicity and complexity of belief-propagation"*

Nicolas Curien, BS/IMS Doob Lecture: *"Parking on Cayley trees and Frozen Erdős–Rényi"*

Ashwin Pananjady, IMS Brown Award: *"Toward instance-optimal reinforcement learning"*

Didong Li, IMS Brown Award: *"Efficient manifold approximation with Spherelets"*

Yuqi Gu, IMS Brown Award: *"Bayesian pyramids: Identifying interpretable discrete latent structures from discrete data"*

Gabor Lugosi, IMS Blackwell Lecture: *"Estimating the mean of a random vector"*

Daniela Witten, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Selective inference for trees"*

Andrea Montanari, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"High-dimensional interpolators: From linear regression to neural tangent models"*

Jennifer Chayes, IMS Wald Lectures: *"Modeling and Estimating Large Sparse Networks I"* and *"Modeling and Estimating Large Sparse Networks II"*

Regina Liu, IMS Presidential Address: *"Proactive and All-Encompassing Statistics"*

Nancy Zhang, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"DNA Copy Number Profiling from Bulk Tissues to Single Cells"*

IMS Lawrence D. Brown PhD Student Award Session 2021

Robert Nowak, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"What Kinds of Functions Do Neural Networks Learn?"*

Axel Munk, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Empirical Optimal Transport: Inference, Algorithms, Applications"*

Jianqing Fan, IMS Le Cam Lecture: *"Understanding Spectral Embedding"*

Philippe Rigollet, IMS Medallion Lecture: *"Statistical Optimal Transport"*

IMS Special Lecture Preview

Regina Liu: Neyman Lecture

Regina Liu is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Statistics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. She received her PhD in statistics from Columbia University. Regina has made seminal contributions to several research areas. For example, she is credited for developing the critical foundation for the now vibrant field of data depth. She also contributed several fundamental works to resampling, including the now widely used moving-blocks bootstrap and moving-blocks jackknife methods for resampling dependent data, and other bootstrap methods for non-i.i.d. models. More recently, with her colleague Minge Xie and other collaborators, she has been pursuing a research program of distributional inference using the concept of "confidence distributions", to show confidence distribution to be an all-purpose powerful analysis tool for: quantifying uncertainty, combining inferences from different paradigms or from diverse data sources, and potentially providing a unifying framework for direct connection and comparison of the existing different statistical paradigms. Regina is an elected fellow of the ASA and the IMS, and she was President of the IMS in 2020–21. Among other distinctions, she is the recipient of the 2011 Stieltjes Professorship from the Thomas Stieltjes Institute for Mathematics in The Netherlands, and the 2021 ASA Noether Distinguished Scholar Award, and she gave the 2024 COPSS E.L. Scott Award Lecture at last year's JSM.

This 2025 IMS Neyman Lecture will be given at JSM Nashville (ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2025/index.cfm), on Monday, August 4, at 2:00pm.

Fusion Learning: Combining Complex Inferences from Diverse Data Sources

Modern data acquisition technology has greatly increased the accessibility of complex inferences, based on summary statistics or sample data, from diverse data sources. Fusion learning refers to combining complex inferences from multiple sources or studies to make a more effective overall inference for the target parameters. We focus on the tasks: (1) Whether/when to combine inferences; (2) How to combine inferences efficiently; and (3) How to combine inferences to enhance an individual study, thus named i-Fusion.

We present a general framework for nonparametric and efficient fusion learning for inference on multi-parameters, which may be correlated. The main tool underlying this framework is the new notion of depth confidence distribution (depth-CD), which is developed by combining data depth, bootstrap and confidence distributions. We show that a depth-CD is an omnibus form of confidence regions, whose contours of level sets shrink toward the true parameter value, and thus is an all-encompassing inferential tool.

The fusion approach is shown to be efficient, general and robust. It readily applies to heterogeneous studies with a broad range of complex and irregular settings. This property also enables the approach to utilize indirect evidence from incomplete studies to gain the hidden efficiency for the overall inference.

The approach is demonstrated with simulation studies and real applications in tracking aircraft landing performance and in zero-event studies in clinical trials with non-estimable parameters.

Jerzy Neyman (1894–1981)

Jerzy Neyman is considered one of the founders of modern statistics. He made significant contributions in probability theory, testing hypothesis, confidence intervals, generalized chi-square, and other areas of mathematical statistics—work that would have an impact on fields ranging from astronomy and agriculture, to biology and weather, to social insurance. Born Jerzy Splawa-Neyman in Bendery, Russia (now Transnistria, Moldova), in 1894, he received an early education at home, becoming proficient in several languages. He studied physics and mathematics at the University of Kharkiv, now in Ukraine. In 1921, with his early career having already been disrupted by war, revolution and political turmoil, Neyman was forced to move to Poland, and then to London in 1924. There, he studied under Karl Pearson, and worked with Egon Pearson and R.A. Fisher. The Neyman–Pearson theory of estimation and hypothesis testing, now generally accepted but famously disputed by Fisher, found applications throughout mathematics. In the 1930s, Neyman also worked on survey sampling, "contagious" distributions, and spurious correlations. In 1937, he accepted a position at the University of California at Berkeley, where he established the Statistical Laboratory and, in 1955, the Department of Statistics. He organized the Berkeley Symposia and nurtured many students. Neyman received numerous awards and degrees for his work, including the 1966 RSS Guy Medal and the National Medal of Science from President Johnson in January 1969. He died in 1981.

The IMS Neyman Award & Lecture, established in honor of Jerzy Neyman, is presented by a person whose contributions have been fundamental to the development of the interactions between statistical theory and scientific research.

A longer biography is at mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Neyman/

AcadMathSci seeks Fellows

The UK's Academy for the Mathematical Sciences (AcadMathSci) provides an authoritative, persuasive, and influential voice for the whole of the mathematical sciences. It brings together academia, education, business, industry, and government from across all four nations, providing crucial connectivity for harnessing the power of the discipline. Through expert-led policy development and broad access to mathematical expertise, and with sufficient resources, the Academy will be a critical, high-impact delivery mechanism to address essential national priorities. It will support the pipeline of people, knowledge, and skills that is vital for economic growth and societal wellbeing.

Call for Applications: Fellowship of the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences

The Academy for the Mathematical Sciences is actively seeking applications for its first cohort of Fellows. We are looking for exceptional candidates across the full breadth of the mathematical sciences—educators, researchers, scholars, and those who apply the mathematical sciences in business, industry, or government. The Fellowship of the Academy will together represent and embody the breadth of impact and excellence that can be found across the whole of the mathematical landscape in the UK. Fellows will between them have a diverse range of career paths and experiences—as befits their different fields of endeavour and different career stages—but each of them will have made an exceptional contribution to or with the mathematical sciences, with the appetite and potential to make further such contributions in the future.

Fellows of the Academy will play a crucial role going forward—as leading ambassadors for the Academy, and key points of contact and connectivity between the mathematical sciences community, the Academy, and the wider world of industry, government, learning and society. The Fellowship of the Academy—the collection of Fellows—will also be more than the sum of its parts, providing a visible representation of the range and diversity of excellence in the mathematical sciences, and a practical demonstration of the potential and value of collaborating across boundaries.

We expect to appoint a small first cohort of Fellows in 2025, with further cohorts appointed yearly. The Academy strongly encourages applications by a diverse range of candidates who stand out for their contributions to or using the mathematical sciences—including individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, different genders, ethnicities, regions and nations of the UK, and areas of the mathematical sciences.

Academy for the Mathematical Sciences

The President of the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences is Prof. Dame Alison Etheridge, FRS. She writes:

Mathematics underpins hundreds of billions of pounds of economic activity, from financial services and tech unicorns to engineering and the pharmaceutical industry. For example, in 2023, mathematical sciences contributed an estimated £495 billion, or 20% of the total, UK Gross Value Added. And yet, there are almost no national academies focused on the mathematical sciences. In the UK, the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences is a community-led initiative to put that right.

The appointment of the first cohort of Fellows is an important milestone as the Academy cements its position as an authoritative, persuasive, and influential voice for the whole of the mathematical sciences—providing crucial connectivity between academia, education, business, industry, and government.

As well as being an honour—and a mark of recognition by the community—Fellowship comes with an expectation to play a leading role in supporting the work of the Academy. To harness leadership right across our activities, we aim to appoint a balanced cohort of individuals who develop, teach, research, communicate, and use the full breadth of mathematical science disciplines.

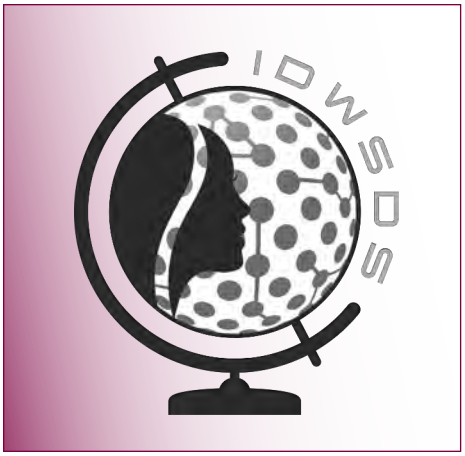
It is not necessary to be a Fellow to work with the Academy. There are myriad opportunities, for individuals who care about strengthening the people pipeline, excellence in research or teaching, effective knowledge exchange, advocacy and communication, applying the mathematical sciences in business or the public sector, maths for policy, or policy for maths, diversity of the mathematical sciences workforce, or…

We see this call as an opportunity for anyone who shares our ambition to transform the landscape of the mathematical sciences in the UK to get in touch.

For now, the Academy is a UK initiative, but we hope that others will follow and this will be just part of a wider wave of recognition of the central importance of the mathematical sciences.

The Academy is seeking applications for its first cohort of Fellows. The closing date for applications is Monday 15th September, 2025 at 23.59 (UK time). For details, see https://www.acadmathsci.org.uk/2025/06/23/call-for-fellowship-applications-academy-for-the-mathematical-sciences/

International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science



The Fourth International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science:
Thriving in Your Environment
Tuesday, October 14, 2025

https://www.idwsds.org

A free, virtual, 24-hour conference, hosted by the Caucus for Women in Statistics and Data Science

The Caucus for Women in Statistics and Data Science (CWS) will host the Fourth Annual International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science on October 14, 2025—all day in UTC time—to celebrate women statisticians and data scientists around the world.

The theme this year is *Thriving in Your Environment*.

Women are often minorities in statistics and data science. IDWSDS highlights the pressing need for more opportunities, mentorship, and recognition. We are helping to provide a brighter future for women in these fields.

The aims of the virtual conference continue to be:

- Showcasing women and their contributions to the fields;
- Connecting women statisticians and data scientists internationally;
- Encouraging collaborations among statistical societies around the world;
- Prompting statistics and data science to become more inclusive and diverse;
- Bridging the fields of statistics and data science.

Submit your session ideas via https://www.idwsds.org/join-the-program/. As you plan your session, consider what is your environment—your location, sector, areas of application, career phase, or something else! How do you define "thriving" and how do you get the support you need from the statistics and data science community? What more is needed? We value session submissions that connect to the conference theme. The deadline for invited session proposal submissions is August 15, 2025.

Registration (the conference is free) is open at https://www.idwsds.org/registration/.

We have opportunities for sponsorship as well: https://www.idwsds.org/sponsorship/. Email idwsds@cwstat.org and follow updates on X.

We have the opportunity with Springer Nature to have a IDWSDS topical collection that will appear in the *Journal of Statistical Theory and Practice,* with articles that are developed based on the talks presented. We will have guest editors and reviewers to help with this edition. Presenters during IDWSDS 2025 will have the opportunity to submit an outline of their paper for consideration for publication. The paper must be directly related to the IDWSDS presentation. Authors will complete their outline and papers will be submitted to the journal in March of 2026. The papers will go through peer review and will be published later that year.

By supporting IDWSDS, you become a catalyst for change—a force that amplifies the voices of women in statistics and data science. Join us as we pave the way for innovation, collaboration, and empowerment within our global community.

The Caucus for Women in Statistics and Data Science (CWS), the Portuguese Statistical Society (SPE), and the American Statistical Association (ASA) launched the International Day for Women in Statistics and Data Science (IDWSDS) in October 2022.

After the success of the first three events we know that this will be the annual event for the celebration of women statisticians and data scientists around the world.
We are grateful to our sponsors, keynote presenters, invited speakers, volunteers, and attendees who made the previous conferences such a success.

Lines from Layla: The Art (and Gift) of Deleting Emails

Our contributing editor **Layla Parast** writes in praise of "glorious, unapologetic" email deletion:

Do you ever spend an entire morning, or even an entire day, just dealing with email? I hate that feeling. If you've read any of my previous columns, it may not surprise you that I'm a fan of Cal Newport's book, *A World Without Email*, where he convincingly argues that email is a primary culprit in the erosion of intellectual work. After reading it, I couldn't help but wonder: How much better could my own work be—more thoughtful, more creative, more satisfying—if I weren't constantly managing my inbox?

Over the past few years, I've tried to answer that question in practice. In doing so, I've learned a new skill. It wasn't easy. It went against my instincts. But it's been liberating. My husband (also a professor) first suggested it, and I eventually realized: everyone else was already doing it.

The skill? Deleting emails. Glorious, unapologetic deletion.

If the email isn't addressed to me directly—delete.

If a student asks a question clearly answered in the syllabus—delete.

If the email asks about research opportunities and the font changes midway through the message—delete.

If the email is from someone in another department asking me to work on an NIH grant proposal with them, and by the way, the grant is due tomorrow, and all they need is a power calculation—delete.

If the email annoys me even a little—delete.*

(Side note: I do *not* delete emails requesting that I review a paper. I either accept or decline. As an associate editor myself, please don't delete those emails.)

Yes, this has backfired. I once deleted an invitation from the interim president's office for a small faculty gathering at the University of Texas Tower (trust me, this was an important one). They followed up with my department chair, who emailed me, and I was genuinely embarrassed. Another time, a new student introduced himself in person and mentioned he had emailed me over the summer to ask about my research—and never heard back. Oops. I admitted that I must have deleted it and I apologized. But I also said that if I answered every email like his, there would be no research to discuss.

I wasn't always like this. I prided myself on responsiveness. I was that person who would answer your email, promptly and thoroughly. But here's the thing: there are no prizes for prompt email replies in academia. The only "reward" is often more email—and more work that may not align with the work you actually want to do.

Sure, I still respond when I truly need to. If I reply and say I'll take care of something, I will. But there is a non-negligible probability that I won't respond at all. And I cannot tell you how good that feels. Is it sad that deleting emails brings me joy? Maybe. But it's better than feeling like a hamster on an ever-spinning wheel of inbox triage.

Another comforting truth: if it's really important, they'll probably email you again.

I've experimented with other email management philosophies. There was my *Inbox Zero* phase—each day ending with a clean inbox, achieved through a mix of archiving, to-do lists, and magical thinking. I now recognize when other people are Inbox Zero devotees: they write things like, "I'll put this on my list. Please email me again in a week if I haven't responded," which is essentially them outsourcing follow-up to you. I now delete such emails.

Then there was the *Twice-a-Day Email Check* phase: one session at 8 AM, one at 4 PM, no peeking in between. That… didn't work for me.

These days, I also try to be more thoughtful in my own emails. Do I really need to send this, or can I stop by someone's office? Can I combine it with something I need to say tomorrow? Can I write it better to avoid unnecessary follow-up?

Take, for example, two options for proposing a meeting:

Option A: *"Do you want to meet to talk about that paper idea sometime next week?"*

Option B: *"It would be great to meet about our paper idea. Are you available next Tuesday at 2 PM CT in my office? If not, could you send a few other times next week that work for you?"*

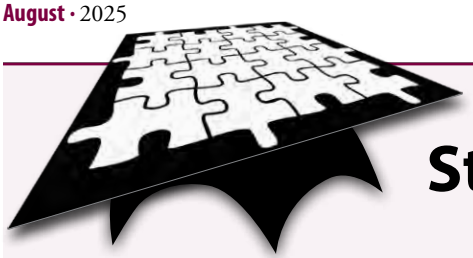
Option B, at worst, leads to two emails. Option A? Guaranteed back-and-forth. Now, if your response to Option B includes something like: "I can do 2 PM for ten minutes, then Zoom from my car at 5:30 PM, unless a meeting ends early Wednesday…" I might delete that email. Unless we're already good friends, we're probably not going to be collaborators.

Ultimately, everyone finds their own email workflow. But if I may offer one plea: don't leave your email open all day. And please turn off the sound notifications.

If you haven't tried it, I recommend experimenting with email deletion. It's not just a tool. It's a gift. It won't solve everything, but it just might bring a little more clarity, calm, and joy to your day.

* Of course, if you have a job outside of academia, this practice may get you fired. In that case, take this column as a playful opportunity to roll your eyes at academics.

Deadline: August 15



Student Puzzle 57

The student puzzle in this issue is courtesy of guest puzzlers, Stanislav Volkov and Magnus Wiktorsson:

Puzzle 57 Two players engage in the following game: in each round, Player 1 wins with probability p, and Player 2 wins with probability $q = 1-p$. The game continues until the first time one of the players has won exactly n rounds. The first player to reach n wins is declared the overall winner and receives a reward equal to the difference between their number of wins (which is n for the overall winner) and the number of wins accumulated by the opponent (which is strictly less than n). Let $E_{n,p}$ denote the expected net profit of Player 1 as a function of n and p.

Express $E_{n,p}/(p-q)$ as a polynomial of degree $(n-1)$ in $z = pq$.

Bonus question: What is special about the coefficients in the above polynomial?

Student members of IMS are invited to submit solutions to bulletin@imstat.org (subject "Student Puzzle Corner"). If correct, we'll publish your name (and photo, if there's space), and the answer, in the next issue.

The Puzzle Editor is Anirban DasGupta. His decision is final.

Solution to Puzzle 56

Well done to IMS student member **Aidan W. Kerns** (Kansas State University) who sent correct solutions. Aidan said he is an "avid enthusiast" of the puzzles and often discusses multiple methods of approaching the problems with his fellow students. Puzzle Corner Editor Anirban DasGupta explains the solutions to Puzzle 56:

Aidan W. Kerns

Puzzle 56.1: Suppose we keep observing i.i.d. Poisson random variables with mean one, until the sum exceeds a given positive integer k. Let u_k denote the expected overshoot when we stop. Give an analytical expression for u_k and discuss the convergence of $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} u_k$.

Let N denote the first time the partial sum exceeds k. Then $P(N > n) = P(G(k + 1, 1) > n)$, where $G(m, 1)$ denotes a Gamma random variable with parameters m and 1. By Wald's identity, the expected overshoot at any given level k is $E(N) - k \approx 1$.

Puzzle 56.2: True or False?

(a) A fair coin is tossed n times. Let H be the number of heads and T the number of tails. Then, $E(|H - a\,T|)$ is minimized at $a = 1$.

TRUE. Use convexity.

(b) Two i.i.d. observations are obtained from a Cauchy distribution with location μ and scale parameter 1. The first observation is $x_1 = 5$. Then the set of all values of x_2, the second observation, for which the likelihood function is unimodal is an interval in the real line.

TRUE. Because of the location parameter structure, without loss of generality we may assume that $x_1 = 0$, and denote the second observation x_2 as just x. Then the stationary points of the likelihood function are the real roots of the cubic $2\mu^3 - 3x\mu^2 + (1 + x^2)\,\mu - x$. This has three real roots for a set of values of x, and in those cases, the likelihood function is not unimodal. This set of x-values is a union of two unbounded intervals of the form $(-\infty, a) \cup (b, \infty)$. For the complement of this set of x-values, the likelihood function is unimodal.

(c) Suppose X ~ Poisson(λ). Then, $E(|X - \lambda|)$ is differentiable for almost all λ.

TRUE. At all non-integer values of λ, it is differentiable, and at all values of λ, it is continuous.

(d) Suppose we obtain i.i.d. observations X_1, X_2, X_3 from a uniform distribution on $[0, \theta]$, $\theta > 0$. Denote the median of X_1, X_2, X_3 by Y. For testing H_0: $\theta = 1$ against $\theta = 2$ at level $\alpha = 0.05$, there exists a test based on Y with power > 0.5.

TRUE. Consider the test that rejects H_0 if $Y > 0.86465$.

(e) Suppose $X \sim C(0, 1)$, the standard Cauchy distribution. Then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n P(X > n)$ diverges.

FALSE. The series converges by the alternating series theorem.

(f) Let $X_{n\times p}$ be the design matrix in a standard linear model. Then $R(X'X) \geq 2R(X) - n$, where $R(A)$ denotes the rank of A.

TRUE. Use Sylvester's inequality.

(g) Suppose $X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n$ are i.i.d. $N(\mu, 1)$, where μ is known to be a rational number. Then $\overline{X}$ is a minimal sufficient statistic.

TRUE. Use the denseness of rationals and the continuity of the likelihood function.

Obituary: Thomas G. Kurtz

1941–2025

Thomas (Tom) Kurtz

Thomas G. Kurtz, renowned for his work on Markov processes and stochastic analysis, passed away on April 19, 2025, at the age of 83. He was born on July 14, 1941, in Kansas City, and earned a BA in mathematics from the University of Missouri in 1963 and a PhD in mathematics from Stanford University in 1967. That year, he joined the Department of Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he remained for his entire career, retiring from teaching in 2008. He received a joint appointment with the Department of Statistics in 1985.

Tom served as the Department of Mathematics Chair (1985–88) and as the Director of the Center for Mathematical Sciences (1990–96). In 1996, he was awarded the WARF–University Houses Professorship, which he chose to identify as the Paul Lévy Professorship.

Tom had a year-long sabbatical at the Université de Strasbourg in France in 1977–78 (to learn "Strasbourgeois," as he said, which is the stochastic analysis theory developed by the French school), and many shorter visiting positions around the world. He loved to travel.

Tom was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the American Mathematical Society. He served as the IMS President (2005–06) and as the Editor of *The Annals of Probability* (2000–02). He gave the Wald Memorial Lectures in 2014 at the IMS Annual Meeting in Sydney.

Tom supervised 29 PhD students and organized a Summer Internship Program in Probability in Madison for nearly a decade, significantly impacting a large number of young probabilists. He always took special care to encourage and support young mathematicians.

Tom's PhD thesis, written under the supervision of James McGregor, was titled "Convergence of Operator Semigroups with Applications to Markov Processes." It extended Trotter's operator semigroup approximation theorem by providing necessary and sufficient conditions, which later led to perturbation and averaging theorems for operator semigroups, as well as to conditions for weak convergence to Markov processes. But the martingale problem, formulated and developed by D.W. Stroock and S.R.S. Varadhan in the late 1960s for finite-dimensional diffusion processes, came to be Tom's preferred approach. The recognition of the need for a more general treatment led to Tom's 1986 book, *Markov Processes: Characterization and Convergence* (with his former student Stewart Ethier), which has had nearly 10,000 citations. Subsequent work by Tom and his coauthors included martingale problems for conditional distributions of Markov processes, the filtered martingale problem, martingale problems for controlled and for constrained Markov processes, and a martingale problem formulation of the Markov mapping theorem.

Characteristic of Tom was his determination to always achieve maximum generality, which allowed him to apply his techniques to a great variety of fields: population genetics, chemical reaction networks, stochastic filtering and control, SPDEs, numerical methods, and others. A drawback of this generality is that potential users often found his papers difficult to understand. Tom recognized the problem, because he began a 2014 paper by writing:

> This paper is essentially a rewrite of Kurtz (2007) following a realization that the general, abstract theorem in that paper was neither as abstract as it could be nor as general as it should be. The reader familiar with the earlier paper may not be pleased by the greater abstraction, but an example indicating the value of the greater generality will be given in Section 2.

That paper included a generalization of the Yamada–Watanabe and Englebert theorems concerning existence and uniqueness of strong and weak solutions for stochastic equations. Related important work by Tom, in this case with Philip Protter, includes necessary and sufficient conditions for the weak convergence of stochastic integrals, and semimartingales in general, that were particularly easy to verify in practice, and hence became very popular.

The impact of Tom's work in population genetics has been broad. The most obvious example is the lookdown construction, which was developed in a series of papers with Peter Donnelly in the mid- to late 1990s. In a 1996 paper, they constructed an interacting particle system that carries both the Fleming–Viot superprocess, a probability-measure-valued diffusion process that generalizes the Wright–Fisher

Obituary: Thomas G. Kurtz

Continued from previous page

diffusion model of population genetics, and Kingman's coalescent, a continuous-time Markov chain that tracks the genealogy of the population looking backwards in time. Until then, the Fleming–Viot process and the coalescent represented two distinct approaches. The approach was rapidly generalized to incorporate selection, recombination, fat-tailed offspring distributions, and a huge variety of measure-valued population processes. These papers are a treasure trove of results, such as the introduction of generalized Fleming– Viot processes and the multiple-merger coalescent duals that have come to be known as Lambda coalescents. Nowadays, the merger of forwards- and backwards-in-time models provided by lookdown constructions is rightly recognized as a powerful tool, especially important in the study of scaling limits.

Analogously, Tom's work has had a deep and lasting impact in the field of (bio)chemical reaction networks. His early 1970s results established a rigorous connection between deterministic and stochastic models and his random timechange representation of Markov processes led—among other applications, for instance in statistical mechanics—to the strong diffusion approximation of density-dependent pure jump Markov processes. More recently, his averaging results for martingale problems allowed him and his collaborators to obtain multiscale approximations of reaction networks with fast and slow components. This body of work was disseminated widely through his 2015 monograph *Stochastic Analysis of Biochemical Systems* (with David Anderson).

Tom's 2006 monograph *Large Deviations for Stochastic Processes* (with his former student Jin Feng) presents a unified approach to large deviations for Markov processes based on convergence of nonlinear semigroups. A derivative-free notion of viscosity solution and a functional analytic version of the maximum principle are developed. A convergence theory for the Hamilton–Jacobi equation in the space of probability measures was given for the first time in this work.

Tom was married to Carolyn, and had two children, Marci and Kevin, and six grandchildren. His family was deeply important to him.

Tom was known for his dedication to his profession and his students. He was always generous of his time and expertise with everybody, and he was an incredible resource for probabilists. He will be greatly missed.

Written by Cristina Costantini, Alison Etheridge, Stewart Ethier, Jin Feng, Hye-Won Kang, and Richard Stockbridge

Recent papers: two IMS-supported journals

Bayesian Analysis

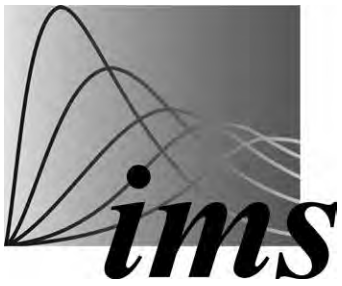
Bayesian Analysis is an electronic journal of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis. It seeks to publish a wide range of articles that demonstrate or discuss Bayesian methods in some theoretical or applied context. The journal welcomes submissions involving presentation of new computational and statistical methods; critical reviews and discussions of existing approaches; historical perspectives; description of important scientific or policy application areas; case studies; and methods for experimental design, data collection, data sharing, or data mining. The Editor-in-Chief is Mark Steel (University of Warwick, UK).
Access papers at **https://projecteuclid.org/journals/bayesian-analysis**

Volume 20, No 2, June 2025

Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics

The *Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics* is an official publication of the Brazilian Statistical Association and is supported by the IMS. The Journal publishes papers in applied probability, applied statistics, computational statistics, mathematical statistics, probability theory and stochastic processes. The Editor is Francisco José A. Cysneiros.
Access papers at **https://projecteuclid.org/journals/brazilian-journal-of-probability-and-statistics**

Volume 39, No 1, March 2025



Join Us for an Informal Networking Lunch

Co-hosted by **IMS** and **CANSSI**

Connect with fellow statisticians, share ideas, and enjoy great food in a relaxed setting.

Date: Monday, August 4
Time: 12:30 – 1:50 PM
Location: Boqueria, 5005 Broadway Place
RSVP by August 1: [Sign-up sheet link]*

Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon!
We look forward to seeing you there.

* *The link is only for the PDF version of this issue, as the event will have happened by the time you read this in print!*

IMS meetings around the world

Joint Statistical Meetings

2025 Joint Statistical Meetings (including 2025 IMS Annual Meeting)
August 2–7, 2025, Nashville, USA
w https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2025/

Registration is open for the 2025 Joint Statistical Meetings, the largest gathering of statisticians and data scientists from all corners of the globe—hailing from academia, industry, and government. Share groundbreaking ideas, forge collaborations, learn from the brightest minds in the field, expand your professional network, and fuel your growth in this evolving discipline. JSM is for everyone, whether a seasoned professional, early-career data scientist, or student. Nashville, Tennessee, the host of JSM this year, is known as "Music City" and offers a blend of Southern charm and a thriving cultural scene. Attendees will experience world-class entertainment, from live music at iconic venues to renowned dining and cultural attractions.

JSM dates for 2026–2030

JSM 2026	IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM 2027	JSM 2028	IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM 2029	JSM 2030
August 1–6, 2026	August 7–12, 2027	August 5–10, 2028	August 4–9, 2029	August 2028 [dates and location TBC]
Boston, USA	Chicago, USA	Philadelphia, USA	Seattle, USA	

JSM 2026: August 1–6, 2026, Boston, USA NEW
w https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2026/

It's time to submit your Invited Session proposals (deadline September 3, 2025), Short Course proposals (by September 30), and Computer Technology Workshop proposals (by January 15, 2026). Topic-contributed session proposal submission: November 13–December 10, 2025. Contributed session abstract submission: December 2, 2025–February 2, 2026. Registration & housing reservations open May 1, 2026

Frontiers in Statistical Machine Learning (FSML)
August 2, 2025
Nashville, USA
w https://fsmlims.wixsite.com/fsml25

This inaugural IMS co-sponsored workshop aims to ignite conversations and collaborations at the intersection of statistics and machine learning. Featuring peer-reviewed, open-call submissions for four-page extended abstracts, this event will showcase ideas in statistical machine learning that deserve broader attention within the statistical community.

There will be two main streams in the 2025 workshop: **The Science of Deep Learning**, and **Statistical Learning from Heterogeneous Data Sources and Generalization**.

IMS New Researchers Conference
July 31–August 2, 2025
Nashville, USA
w https://nrc2025.github.io/

The IMS Meeting of New Researchers in Statistics and Probability (a.k.a. the New Researchers Conference, or NRC) will be held at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, July 31–August 2, 2025 (immediately before JSM).

The application deadline has passed.

NRC promotes networking and interaction among new researchers in the fields of statistics, biostatistics, and probability, including those who expect to hold tenure-track positions in the near future. Attendees have the opportunity to present their research through brief expository talks and posters and meet other early-career researchers. There will be panels and presentations by senior researchers on topics including publishing, grant applications, collaboration, and mentoring.

At a glance:

forthcoming IMS Annual Meeting and JSM dates

2025

IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM: Nashville, TN, USA, **August 2–7, 2025**

2026

IMS Annual Meeting: Salzburg, Austria, **July 6–9**

JSM: Boston, MA, **August 1–6, 2026**

2027

IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM: Chicago, USA **August 7–12, 2027**

2028

IMS Annual Meeting/ 12th World Congress: Singapore, **July 24–28, 2028**

JSM: Philadelphia, USA, **August 5–10, 2028**

The 9th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies

NEW

June 1–4, 2026

American University, Washington DC, USA

w https://www.american.edu/cas/iwsm2026/

Now an IMS co-sponsored meeting.

The technical program of the 9th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM) consists of theoretical and applied presentations in the field of sequential statistics and closely related areas of statistics and applied probability. The workshop brings together researchers and practitioners to explore recent advances and emerging challenges. General topics covered include sequential testing, change-point detection, sequential estimation, selection and ranking, machine learning, artificial intelligence, clinical trials, adaptive design, stochastic quality and process control, optimal stopping, stochastic approximation, applied probability, mathematical finance, and related fields of probability, statistics, and applications.

The program includes invited and contributed talks, with dedicated sessions on both methodology and applications. Plenary lectures are delivered by leading experts in the field, highlighting foundational developments and innovative contributions that shape the future of sequential analysis.

Confirmed plenary speakers:

Moshe Pollak, Professor Emeritus, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Statistics and Data Science

Alexander Tartakovsky, President, AGT StatConsult

Dong-Yun Kim, Mathematical Statistician, NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Jay Bartroff, Professor and Associate Chair, University of Texas at Austin, Department of Statistics and Data Sciences

Peihua Qiu, Dean's Professor and Chair, University of Florida, Department of Biostatistics

Invited session proposals

Session organizers: thank you for proposing an Invited Paper Session. Please submit your session proposals using the Invited Session Proposal Submission Form linked at https://www.american.edu/cas/iwsm2026/invited-session-proposals.cfm.

Invited sessions last 90 minutes. Most of them will likely have three presentations, 30 minutes each, including questions. You can plan for 25-minute talks plus five minutes for questions and answers. However, you can be creative within the 90-minute frame and plan for four speakers, 22.5 minutes each, including questions (say, 18 minutes for the talk plus 4.5 minutes for Q&A), or three speakers and a discussant, or a panel discussion, etc.

The Invited Session Proposal Submission Form will ask you for your contact information, the session title, speakers' names and affiliations, and the titles and abstracts of their talks. These may be tentative titles and tentative abstracts, assuming that the speakers stay within the chosen topic. Do not worry if you don't have abstracts at this time. Your speakers will upload their final titles and abstracts at the time of their registration. The form also asks about your session chair. You can choose to chair your session or ask someone else to chair. If you do not have a chair at this time, the form allows you to postpone your choice.

Any questions? Innovative ideas? Unusual requests or setups? Please feel free to share with the IWSM-2026 Organizing Committee: Michael Baron, American University (baron@american.edu), and Yaakov Malinovsky, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (yaakovm@umbc.edu).

Have you been to a really great meeting recently?

Or maybe you organized one?

Do you want to tell other people about it?

Get in touch with the editor to discuss your meeting report: bulletin@imstat.org

International Conference on Statistics and Data Science 2025

December 15–18, 2025, in Seville, Spain

The 2025 IMS–ICSDS (International Conference on Statistics and Data Science) will be held December 15–18, 2025, in Seville, Spain: see https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/

Its program is shaping up to be rich and exciting, with **four plenary speakers**: **Francis Bach** (Ecole Normale Supérieure, France), **Richard Samworth** (University of Cambridge, UK), **Daniela Witten** (University of Washington, US), and **Bin Yu** (University of California, Berkeley, US). More of the invited program will be uploaded soon. Check the website https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/plenary-speakers

Seville, in the heart of Andalusia in southern Spain, has long been an alluring travel destination, celebrated for its fascinating blend of rich history, multifaceted culture, stunning architecture, delectable cuisines, vibrant atmosphere, and varied geographic charms. Participants at this fourth ICSDS will have the opportunity to appreciate Andalusian cuisine and a flamenco performance at the ICSDS conference banquet, and to explore several spectacular historical landmarks with the conference tours, including the Real Alcázar palace, Seville cathedral with its iconic Giralda bell tower, and the Real Fábrica de Tabacos (Royal Tobacco Factory, which served as the setting of the opera *Carmen*).

The Real Alcázar palace

ICSDS Student Travel Award (20 now available): apply by September 15

ICSDS offers Student Travel Awards to encourage the participation of PhD students. In response to the large number of entries for Student Travel Awards last year, ICSDS is pleased to increase the number of awards this year to 20. All PhD students who give invited or contributed presentations are encouraged to apply. Applicants for the awards must be members of IMS, and joining IMS at the time of application is allowed. (*IMS membership is FREE for all students.*) **Applications are due September 15, 2025.**

A winding cobbled street in the old town, Santa Cruz

ICSDS Junior Researcher Travel Fund: apply by September 15

To ensure inclusivity and accessibility of ICSDS to junior researchers all over the world, IMS is pleased to offer travel support fund for junior faculty and post-docs who do not have other forms of institutional support. **Applications should be submitted via the website by September 15, 2025.**

ICSDS gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Industry Friends of IMS (IFoIMS) for both ICSDS Junior Researcher Travel Fund and Student Travel Award.

Please alert your PhD students and junior researchers to these funding opportunities and encourage them to apply.

Plaza de España

SkareMedia / Wikimedia / CC BY-SA3.0

Registration and abstract submission

The websites for registration and abstract submissions (for all invited, contributed talks and posters) will be open shortly. Please register soon to take advantage of early registration discounted rates. To be listed on the conference program, **abstracts must be submitted by October 31.**

We look forward to seeing you at the ICSDS this December!

IMS 2025 ICSDS Organizing Team: Regina Liu and Annie Qu (Program Co-Chairs), Min Xu (Program Coordinator), and Arlene Gray (Administrator)

Seville panorama

More IMS meetings

2026 IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meeting (IMS–APRM)
June 13–16, 2026. Hong Kong, China
w TBC
The IMS Asia Pacific Rim (IMS-APRM) conferences provide an excellent forum for scientific communications and collaborations for researchers in Asia and the Pacific Rim, and promote communications and collaborations between researchers in this area and those from other parts of the world.

The 2026 Local Organizers are Xinyuan Song and Junhui Wang.

More details coming; please mark your calendars.

2026 IMS Annual Meeting
July 6–9, 2026
Salzburg, Austria
More details TBD. The Local Chair is Arne Bathke.

Bernoulli–IMS 12th World Congress in Probability & Statistics
July 24–28, 2028
Singapore
w TBC
The Institute of Mathematical Statistics annual meeting will be held at the 12th Bernoulli–IMS World Congress in Probability and Statistics, in Singapore.
Details to follow.

Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics
Ongoing and online
w https://sites.google.com/view/apsps/home
The Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics (APSPS) is a monthly online seminar, broadcast on a mid-month Wednesday via Zoom. The seminar series was created as a permanent forum for good research in the field. Topics include: probabilistic models for natural phenomena, stochastic processes and statistical inference, statistical problems in high-dimensional spaces, asymptotic methods, statistical theory of diversity. The organizers—Sanjay Chaudhuri, Mark Holmes, Estate Khmaladze (chair), Krishanu Maulik, Spiro Penev, Masanobu Taniguchi, Lijiang Yang, and Nakahiro Yoshida—seek an emphasis on novelty, beauty, and clarity. Presentations are intended to be accessible to good postgraduate students in probability and mathematical statistics.

If you are interested in receiving email announcements about the next speakers, send an email to any of the Board members listed above.

One World Approximate Bayesian Inference (OWABI) Seminar
Ongoing, online
w https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar
After five seasons of the One World Approximate Bayesian Computation (ABC) Seminar (https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar/owabc/), launched in April 2020 to gather members and disseminate results and innovation during those weeks and months under lockdown, we have now decided to launch a "new" seminar series, the One World Approximate Bayesian Inference (OWABI), to better reflect the broader interest and scope of this series, which goes beyond ABC. In particular, simulation-based inference and ML related techniques will have a particular role.

Feel free to contact any of the organisers if you want to suggest yourself or someone else for a talk.

All webinars will be held on Zoom/MS Teams, with a link shared on the email sent via the mailing list. So if you are interested in the OWABI seminar and would like to hear from us monthly about the announced speaker, title and abstract and, most importantly, be able to join the talk, please register at https://listserv.csv.warwick.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/abc_world_seminar.

A "One World ABI" playlist on the ISBA YouTube channel, with all past OWABC and current OWABI talks is available at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUaj_wLsosMTjqTN8kmn6nNo7YtLV6-1Z

This webinar is part of the larger One World seminar initiative [*see right*].

One World Probability Seminar (OWPS): Ongoing and online
w https://www.owprobability.org/one-world-probability-seminar/
Thursdays, 14:00 UTC/GMT. Please subscribe to the mailing list for updates: https://www.owprobability.org/mailing-list

Other meetings and events around the world

C.R. Rao Birthday Talk: Ravindra Khattree

NEW

September 10, 2025
Online, via Zoom
w [Zoom link to be provided in the next issue]

This online talk will be delivered on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, by **Ravindra Khattree**, Distinguished University Professor of Applied Statistics, and Co-Director of the Center for Data Science and Big Data Analytics, Oakland University, Michigan, in honor of the late Dr. C.R. Rao's birthday. This online event is the second in a series organized to celebrate the birthday of the esteemed statistics legend, who passed away in 2023 at the age of 102.

The event is being held by friends, collaborators, and students of Dr. Rao and will be hosted by Arni S.R. Srinivasa Rao from the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, USA. It will take place from 9:00–10:00 am PT / 12:00–1:00 pm ET. Special guests from C.R. Rao's family will attend. A vote of thanks will be given by Soumendra Lahiri, Stanley A. Sawyer Professor in Mathematics and Statistics, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

The Zoom link will be provided in the September issue of the Bulletin.

Applied Statistics 2025

UPDATED

September 21–23, 2025
Koper/Capodistria, Slovenia
w https://as.mf.uni-lj.si/

The 21st Applied Statistics International Conference brings together researchers and practitioners from around the world working on various aspects of data analysis, data science, and statistics to present their latest research and learn from each other.

The scientific program at Applied Statistics includes invited talks, as well as oral and poster presentations of accepted abstracts. The two-day main conference (Monday and Tuesday) will be preceded by a workshop day (Sunday).

Registration is open (regular rates apply).

There will be two keynote lectures, delivered by: **Els Goetghebeur**, Professor of Statistics at Ghent University, Gent, Belgium: *The rise of causal inference in observational settings: Opportunities and pitfalls;* and **Tamás Rudas**, Emeritus Professor of Statistics, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary: *On the analysis of data from sequential experiments with an unspecified number of observations.*

65th ISI World Statistics Congress

UPDATED

The Hague, The Netherlands
October 5–9, 2025
w https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/

The 65th World Statistics Congress will take place in The Hague (Den Haag), October 5–9, 2025. Join us for the 65th ISI World Statistics Congress, the leading global event for Statistics and Data Science, held every two years by the International Statistical Institute. Taking place in The Hague, this congress will bring together around 2,000 statisticians and data scientists from academia, official statistics, private sector businesses, central banks, statistical societies and more.

With a scientific programme covering more than 250 premium sessions, inspiring talks featuring some of the industry's most influential names, and useful workshops and short courses, participants of all levels can explore the latest trends, network, share knowledge, and create new collaborations. A vibrant social programme complements the event, offering opportunities to connect in an inspiring and informal atmosphere.

The Hague, known for its rich history and cultural significance, offers the perfect setting for this exciting global statistics event.

We are now **open for regular registration until 1 September.**

We are excited to announce Professor Bhramar Mukherjee as our President Invited Speaker. The Anna M.R. Lauder Professor of Biostatistics and Senior Associate Dean at Yale, she is renowned for her work in integrating genetic, environmental, and health data. With over 390 publications and election to the US National Academy of Medicine, her expertise will be invaluable to our congress.

The keynote speakers are Professor Ionica Smeets, Chair of the Science Communication and Society Department at Leiden University, and Ed Humpherson, Head of the UK's Office for Statistics Regulation.

ISBIS Conference 2025
NEW
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
October 2–3, 2025
w https://ai4business.uva.nl/isbis-conference-2025/isbis-conference-2025.html

The International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS) is pleased to announce its upcoming conference, to be held on 2–3 October 2025, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. This event is organised as a satellite conference of the 65th ISI World Statistics Congress [*see previous page*], which will take place from 5–9 October 2025, in The Hague, located approximately 60 km from Amsterdam.

The ISBIS 2025 Conference promises to be an engaging and impactful event, featuring sessions and presentations on topics including business and industrial statistics, data science, business analytics, and the application of (generative) artificial intelligence in industry and education.

We are especially pleased to welcome Professor **Dick den Hertog** as a keynote speaker. Professor den Hertog is a leading expert in operations research and serves as Science to Impact Director at Analytics for a Better World. His keynote will highlight the transformative role of analytics in supporting non-governmental organisations to achieve greater progress towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Furthermore we are planning sessions on: Advances in Statistical Classification; Multivariate methods in quality and process modelling; Time series analysis and forecasting; Statical Learning and AI for societal challenges; ENBIS, ASMBI, ISBA and y-Bis sessions; (Social) network analysis; and more! Details will follow once the programme has been finalised.

Statistics and Data Science Workshop
NEW
December 9–12, 2025
Bogotá, Colombia
w https://stats-workshop.github.io/

This Statistics and Data Science Workshop will be held at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, from December 9–12, 2025. The goal of the workshop is to bring together researchers and students from local and international communities, fostering collaboration and innovation in the field.

The workshop will feature over 20 talks presented in a single-track format, ensuring that participants can attend all presentations. Our program is designed to benefit participants at all career stages, from students to established researchers. Further, it will include:

- Minicourses to introduce new students to relevant topics,
- Social events for building academic connections,
- A poster session for students to share their own research.

We encourage all attendees, regardless of their experience level, to actively engage in discussions and take full advantage of the collaborative environment. Join us in Bogotá for this enriching academic experience that promises to inspire and connect the next generation of statisticians!

There will be four keynote lectures. The keynote speakers are: **Mahdi Soltanolkotabi**, University of Southern California (USA); **Marina Meila**, University of Washington (USA); **Mauricio Velasco**, Universidad de la República (Uruguay); and **Rebecca Willett**, University of Chicago (USA).

Two mini-courses will be delivered. The lecturers are **Bodhisattva Sen**, Columbia University (USA), and **Gábor Lugosi**, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain).

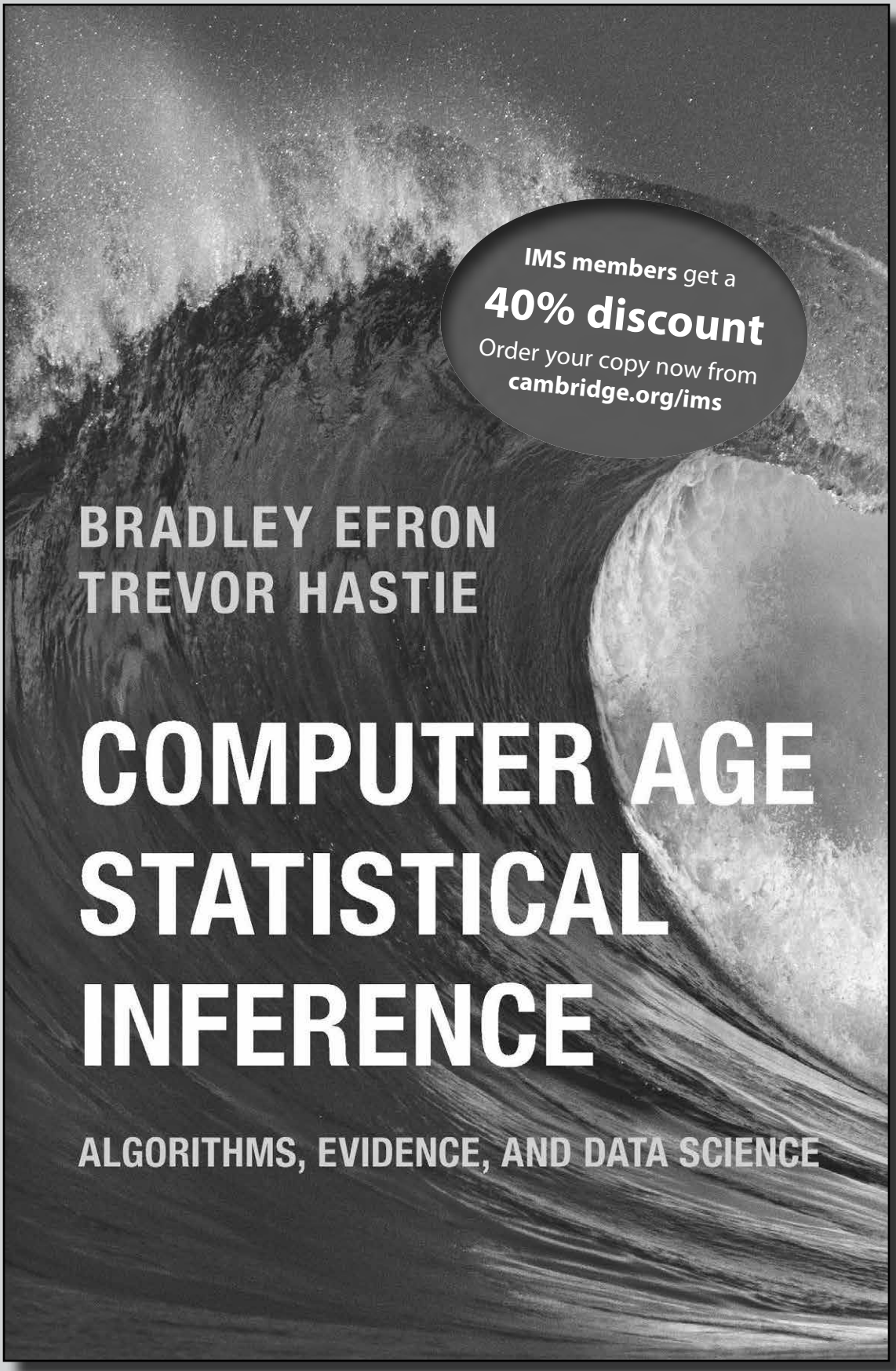
The Fourth International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science
NEW
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 (24 hours), online
w https://www.idwsds.org

The Caucus for Women in Statistics and Data Science (CWS) will host the Fourth Annual International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science on October 14, 2025—all day in UTC time, free to attend—to celebrate women statisticians and data scientists around the world. The theme this year is *Thriving in Your Environment*.

Women are often minorities in statistics and data science. IDWSDS highlights the pressing need for more opportunities, mentorship, and recognition. We are helping to provide a brighter future for women in these fields.

The aims of the conference are: showcasing women and their contributions to the fields; connecting women statisticians and data scientists internationally; encouraging collaborations among statistical societies around the world; prompting statistics and data science to become more inclusive and diverse; and bridging the fields of statistics and data science.

Submit your session ideas at https://www.idwsds.org/join-the-program/. Registration is open. We have opportunities for sponsorship as well. By supporting IDWSDS, you become a catalyst for change—a force that amplifies the voices of women in statistics and data science. Join us as we pave the way for innovation, collaboration, and empowerment within our global community.


IMS members get a
40% discount
Order your copy now from
cambridge.org/ims
BRADLEY EFRON
TREVOR HASTIE
COMPUTER AGE
STATISTICAL
INFERENCE
ALGORITHMS, EVIDENCE, AND DATA SCIENCE

More meetings

Young Researchers in Stochastic Analysis and Stochastic Geometric Analysis
September 23–26, 2025
Lausanne, Switzerland
w https://www.epfl.ch/labs/stoan/events/future-events/young-researchers-workshop/

This workshop provides a platform for young researchers to present their work, engage in discussions, and foster collaboration and idea-sharing in the fields of stochastic analysis and stochastic geometric analysis. The workshop will feature lectures from **Yu Deng** (U. Chicago, USA) and **Alex Dunlap** (Duke University, USA).

We encourage contributions in the following areas:

- Solution theory
- Large-time dynamics, ergodicity, and limit theorems
- Stochastic differential and stochastic partial differential equations as mathematical models
- Geometric properties of stochastic processes, including stochastic processes on manifolds and geometric methods in stochastic analysis
- Multi-timescale stochastic equation.

MaxEnt 2025
December 14–19, 2025
Auckland, New Zealand
w https://www.maxent2025.co.nz/

For the 2025 edition of the MaxEnt conference, the focus will be the application of Bayesian inference and/or the maximum entropy principle to inference and inverse problems in various scientific and engineering domains. Inverse and uncertainty quantification problems emerge in a wide variety of fields, such as earth science, astrophysics, material and plasma science, geophysical and medical imaging, nondestructive testing, density estimation, remote sensing, Gaussian process regression, optimal experimental design, statistics, machine learning, and data mining.

The conference invites contributions on all aspects of probabilistic inference, encompassing novel techniques and applications, as well as work that provides new insights into the foundations of inference.

Employment Opportunities

Germany: Göttingen
Georg-August University Goettingen
W3 Professorship in Stochastics and its Applications
http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=78949342

Switzerland: Lausanne
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Mathematics Department
Lecturer in Statistics
http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=78983728

Switzerland: Lausanne
Ecole Polytechnique FÈdÈrale de Lausanne (EPFL), Mathematics Department
Lecturer in Statistics
http://jobs.imstat.org/c/job.cfm?site_id=1847&jb=78983728

International Calendar of Statistical Events

IMS meetings are highlighted in maroon with the IMS logo, and new or updated entries have the NEW or UPDATED symbol.
Please submit your meeting details and any corrections to Elyse Gustafson: ims@imstat.org

Online and Ongoing series

ONLINE IMS **Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics** **w** https://sites.google.com/view/apsps/home

ONLINE IMS **One World ABI (Approximate Bayesian Inference,** formerly ABC, Approximate Bayesian Computation) **Seminar** **w** https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar

ONLINE IMS **One World Probability Seminar** **w** https://www.owprobability.org/one-world-probability-seminar

ONLINE IMS **One World YoungStatS Webinar series** **w** https://youngstats.github.io/categories/webinars/

ONLINE **Video series:** *The Philosophy of Data Science* **w** https://www.podofasclepius.com/philosophy-of-data-science

July 2025

IMS July 18 & 25 (online), and August 3 (at JSM): **NISS Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers 2025** **w** www.niss.org/events/writing-workshop-junior-researchers-2025-day-1-online

July 21–25: Turin, Italy. **24th European Young Statisticians Meeting** **w** https://sites.google.com/view/eysmtorino2025/home

July 22–25: Schenectady, USA. **2025 Progress in Discrete and Continuous Probability Conference** **w** https://www.math.union.edu/~marianop/ProbabilityConference2025/ProgressDiscContProb2025.html

July 28–August 1: Chicago, USA. **International Conference on Monte Carlo Methods and Applications (MCM) 2025** **w** https://ccbatiit.github.io/mcm2025/

July 28–August 1: Sofia, Bulgaria. **11th International Conference on Lévy Processes 2025** **w** https://sites.google.com/view/levyconference2025/home

IMS July 31–August 2: Nashville, TN, USA. **IMS New Researchers Conference** **w** https://nrc2025.github.io

August 2025

IMS August 2: Nashville, USA. **Frontiers in Statistical Machine Learning (FSML)** **w** https://fsmlims.wixsite.com/fsml25

IMS August 2–7: Nashville, USA. **2025 IMS Annual Meeting at JSM 2025** **w** https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2025/

August 26: Online 12–1:30pm ET. **Sequential causal inference in experimental or observational settings (AI, Statistics & Data Science in Practice Series)** **w** https://www.niss.org/events/sequential-causal-inference-experimental-or-observational-settings-ai-statistics-data-science

September 2025

September 1–4: Edinburgh, UK. **Royal Statistical Society 2025 International Conference** **w** https://rss.org.uk/training-events/conference-2025/

NEW September 10: Online. **C.R. Rao Birthday Talk: Ravindra Khattree** **w** [*Zoom link to be confirmed: check the listing in the next issue*]

September 11–14: Iowa State University, Ames, USA. **Statistics in AI Conference** **w** https://www.niss.org/events/statistics-ai-conference

September 15–18: Prague, Czech Republic. **14th European Congress for Stereology and Image Analysis (ECSIA)** **w** https://ecsia2025.karlin.mff.cuni.cz

September 18: Online 1–2pm ET. **NISS–CANSSI Collaborative Data Science Webinar** w https://www.niss.org/events/niss-canssi-collaborative-data-science-webinar-sept-18-2025

September 19–20: New Brunswick, USA. **2025 NBER–NSF Time Series Conference** w https://econweb.rutgers.edu/nswanson/Main-nbernsf.html

September 21–23: Koper/Capodistria, Slovenia. **Applied Statistics 2025** w https://as.mf.uni-lj.si/

September 23–26: Lausanne, Switzerland. **Young Researchers in Stochastic Analysis and Stochastic Geometric Analysis** w https://www.epfl.ch/labs/stoan/events/future-events/young-researchers-workshop/

September 24–26: Rockville, USA. **2025 ASA Regulatory-Industry Statistics Workshop** w ww2.amstat.org/meetings/risw/2025/

October 2025

NEW October 2–3: Amsterdam, The Netherlands. **ISBIS Conference 2025** (satellite to ISI World Statistics Conference) w https://ai4business.uva.nl/isbis-conference-2025/isbis-conference-2025.html

October 5–9: The Hague, Netherlands. **65th ISI World Statistics Congress** w https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2025/

NEW October 14: Online, 24 hours in UTC time. **Fourth International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science** w https://www.idwsds.org

October 15: Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. **8th IMA Conference on Mathematics in Defence and Security Mathematics for Decision Support** w https://ima.org.uk/26135/8th-ima-conference-on-mathematics-in-defence-and-security-mathematics-for-decision-support/

October 20–24: IMSI, Chicago, USA. **Data Science at the Intersection of Public Health and the Environment—Ideas Lab (Workshop)** w https://www.niss.org/events/data-science-intersection-public-health-and-environment-ideas-lab-workshop

October 22–24: Leiden, The Netherlands. **Bayesian Biostatistics Conference (Bayes 2025)** w https://www.bayes-pharma.org/

November 2025

November 13–14: Nugegoda, Sri Lanka. **2025 International Research Conference of the Open University of Sri Lanka, OUSL** w https://ours.ou.ac.lk/

December 2025

NEW December 9–12: Bogotá, Colombia. **Statistics and Data Science Workshop** w https://stats-workshop.github.io/

December 14–19: Auckland, New Zealand. **MaxEnt 2025** w https://www.maxent2025.co.nz/

Continues on **page 29**

International Calendar *continued*

December 2025 continued

December 15–18: Seville, Spain. **IMS International Conference on Statistics and Data Science (ICSDS)** **w** https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2025/

June 2026

NEW June 1–4: Washington DC, USA. **9th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies** (now IMS co-sponsored) **w** https://www.american.edu/cas/iwsm2026/

June 13–16: Hong Kong, China. **IMS–APRM2026: IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meeting** **w** TBC

June 15–19: Chicago, USA. **Stochastic Networks Conference** **w** https://www.chicagobooth.edu/events/stochastic-networks-conference

July 2026

July 6–9: Salzburg, Austria. **2026 IMS Annual Meeting**. **w** TBC

Scenic Salzburg is the location of the 2026 IMS Annual Meeting

July 23–30: Philadelphia, USA. **International Congress of Mathematicians 2026** **w** https://www.icm2026.org/

August 2026

August 1–6: Boston, MA, USA. **JSM 2026** **w** https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2026/

August 24–28: Lugano, Switzerland. **2026 European Meeting of Statisticians** **w** https://www.bernoullisociety.org/organization/erc/ems

August 2027

August 7–12: Chicago, USA. **IMS Annual Meeting at JSM 2027** **w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

July 2028

July 24–28: Singapore. **Bernoulli–IMS 12th World Congress in Probability and Statistics** (incl. 2028 IMS Annual Meeting). **w** TBC

August 2028

August 5–10: Philadelphia, USA. **JSM 2028** **w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

August 2029

August 4–9: Seattle, USA. **IMS Annual Meeting at JSM 2029** **w** www.amstat.org/meetings/joint-statistical-meetings

Are we missing something? If you know of any statistics or probability meetings which aren't listed here, please let us know. You can email the details to Elyse Gustafson at ims@imstat.org, or you can submit the details yourself at https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/ We'll list them here in the Bulletin, and on the IMS website too, at imstat.org/meetings-calendar/

Membership and Subscription Information: 2025

Journals

The scientific journals of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics are *The Annals of Statistics*, *The Annals of Probability*, *The Annals of Applied Statistics*, *The Annals of Applied Probability*, and *Statistical Science*. The *IMS Bulletin* is the news organ of the Institute.

Individual Memberships

Each individual member receives the *IMS Bulletin* (print and/or electronic) and may elect to receive one or more of the five scientific journals. Members pay annual dues of $105. An additional $149 is added to the dues of members for each scientific printed journal selected ($99 for *Stat Sci*). **Reduced membership dues** are available to full-time students, new graduates, permanent residents of countries designated by the IMS Council, and retired members.

Individual and General Subscriptions

Subscriptions are available on a calendar-year basis. **Individual subscriptions** are for the personal use of the subscriber and must be in the name of, paid directly by, and mailed to an individual. Individual subscriptions for 2025 are available to the *Annals of Applied Probability*, *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *Annals of Probability*, *Annals of Statistics* ($264 for each title), *Statistical Science* ($214), and *IMS Bulletin* ($115). **General subscriptions** are for libraries, institutions, and any multiple-readership use. Institutional subscriptions for 2025 are available to *The Annals of Applied Probability, The Annals of Applied Statistics, The Annals of Probability,* and *The Annals of Statistics* (each title $614 online only / $832 print+online), *Statistical Science* ($354/$459), and *IMS Bulletin* ($200 print). Airmail delivery is no longer offered.

IMS Bulletin

The *IMS Bulletin* publishes articles and news of interest to IMS members and to statisticians and probabilists in general, as well as details of IMS meetings and an international calendar of statistical events. Views and opinions in editorials and articles are not to be understood as official expressions of the Institute's policy unless so stated; publication does not necessarily imply endorsement in any way of the opinions expressed therein, and the *IMS Bulletin* and its publisher do not accept any responsibility for them. The *IMS Bulletin* is copyrighted and authors of individual articles may be asked to sign a copyright transfer to the IMS before publication.

The *IMS Bulletin* (ISSN 1544-1881) is published eight times per year, in January/February, March, April/May, June/July, August, September, October/November and December, by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 9760 Smith Rd, Waite Hill, Ohio 44094, USA. Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to 9760 Smith Rd, Waite Hill, Ohio 44094, USA or dues.subs@imstat.org. Printed by The Sheridan Press, 450 Fame Avenue, Hanover, PA 17331, USA.

Information for Advertisers

General information: The *IMS Bulletin* and webpages are the official news organs of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. The *IMS Bulletin*, established in 1972, is published 8 times per year. Print circulation is around 3,500 paper copies, and it is also free online in PDF format at https://www.imstat.org/ims-bulletin-archive/, posted online about two weeks before mailout (average downloads over 8,000). Subscription to the *IMS Bulletin* costs $115: call 877-557-4674 (US toll-free) or +1 216 295 2340 (international), or email dues.subs@imstat.org. The IMS website, https://imstat.org, established in 1996, receives over 30,000 visits per month.

Advertising job vacancies: A single 60-day online job posting costs just $410.00. We will also include the basic information about your job ad (position title, location, company name, job function and a link to the full ad) in the *IMS Bulletin* at no extra charge. See https://jobs.imstat.org

Advertising meetings, workshops and conferences: Meeting announcements here and on the IMS website at https://imstat.org/meetings-calendar/ are free. Submit your meeting details at https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/

Rates and requirements for display advertising: Display advertising allows for placement of camera-ready ads for journals, books, software, etc. A camera-ready ad should be sent as a grayscale PDF (min. 300dpi, with all fonts embedded). Email your advert to Elyse Gustafson ims@imstat.org or see https://imstat.org/advertise

	Dimensions: width x height	Rate
1/3 page *horizontal*	4.93" wide x 4.0" high (125.5 x 102 mm)	$350
1/3 page *vertical*	2.39" wide x 9.42" high (60.7 x 239.1 mm)	$350
1/2 page *horizontal*	7.5" wide x 4.7" high (190.5 x 119.4 mm)	$440
1/2 page *vertical*	3.67" wide x 9.42" high (93.1 x 239.1 mm)	$420
Full page (to edge, including ⅛" bleed)	8.75" wide x 11.25" high (222 mm x 286 mm)	$600
Full page (within usual Bulletin margins)	7.5" wide x 9.42" high (190.5 mm x 239.1 mm)	$600

Deadlines and mailing dates for *IMS Bulletin*

Issue	Deadline	Online by	Mailed
1: January/February	**December 1**	December 15	January 1
2: March	**February 1**	February 15	March 1
3: April/May	**March 15**	April 1	April 15
4: June/July	**May 1**	May 15	June 1
5: August	**July 1**	July 15	August 1
6: September	**August 15**	September 1	September 15
7: Oct/Nov	**September 15**	October 1	October 15
8: December	**November 1**	November 15	December 1

Volume 54 · Issue 5

the next issue is September 2025

Read IMS Bulletin articles online at https://imstat.org/news

DEADLINES for submissions

August 15, then **September 15**

Please see inside the back cover for subscription details and information for advertisers, including all our deadlines and requirements

Journal alerts

For email alerts when new IMS journal issues are released, sign up at **https://imstat.org/portal/login**

The purpose of the Institute is to foster the development and dissemination of the theory and applications of statistics and probability

IMS: Organized September 12, 1935