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The members' magazine of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

IMS Bulletin

September 2025

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New Researchers in Nashville

Armeen Taeb (New Researchers Group [NRG] president), Panpan Zhang, Jinyuan Liu, and Eardi Lila (NRG treasurer) were the organizers of the recent IMS New Researchers Conference in Nashville, which took place immediately before the Joint Statistical Meetings. They report:

The 25th IMS Meeting of New Researchers in Statistics and Probability (known as the New Researchers Conference, or NRC) convened at Vanderbilt University from July 31–August 2, 2025: see https://nrc2025.github.io/. The conference was attended by 66 emerging researchers and 12 senior speakers and panelists.

The conference kicked off on Thursday, spotlighting a plenary talk by the **Tweedie Award** recipient, Bingxin Zhao, who spoke about high-dimensional statistical inference for linkage disequilibrium score regression; see Figure 1 [*right*] for a picture from the award ceremony. The day was further enriched by the first set of **three-minute flash talks** from junior attendees; see Figure 2 [*below*]. For the first time in the recent history of NRC, we then had a **panel session on teaching**. This session was led by Jennifer Kaplan, Rebecca Nugent, Hongtu Zhu, Kate Calder, and Bingxin Zhao. The panelists emphasized the importance of extremely clear communication, clear rubrics, and clear systems from the outset to prevent complaints. The next panel was on **publishing**, led by Hani Doss, Kate Calder, Hongtu Zhu, Rebecca Betensky, and Rebecca Nugent. The publishing panel facilitated a dynamic dialogue with editors from top statistical journals. In the late afternoon on Thursday, the junior attendees partook in a lively poster session. On Thursday evening, participants enjoyed the gift of time, with many of them going to the downtown area for a relaxing evening together.

Fig. 1. Tweedie Award Lecturer Bingxin Zhao [right], with NRG president Armeen Taeb

Fig. 2. One of the three-minute "flash talk" sessions

Friday began with a **panel discussion on funding**, featuring NSF Program Officer Yong Zeng and NIH Scientific Review Officer Kate Calder, along with Rebecca Betensky, Hani Doss, and Cindy Chen, who shared valuable experiences and lessons. The morning session also had a second round of three-minute flash talks

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Executive Committee

IMS Members' News

2025 COPSS Award Winners

Each year, the statistical profession recognizes outstanding members at the Joint Statistical Meetings in an awards ceremony organized by the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS).

The **Presidents' Award** is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the statistics profession, and granted (with some exceptions) to an individual who has not yet reached his or her 41st birthday. This year's recipient is **Lester Mackey**, Microsoft Research: *For deep and beautiful theory transforming high-dimensional statistics and machine learning, including path-breaking work on Stein operators and discrepancy, ranking algorithms, recommender systems, cross validation, and concentration bounds for random matrices, with applications to weather, climate and healthcare; and for service to the profession including leadership and tremendously caring mentorship.*

The **George W. Snedecor Award**, presented biennially to honor an individual who has been instrumental in the development of statistical theory in biometry and with a noteworthy publication in biometry in the last three years, is presented to **Hongtu Zhu**, University of North Carolina: *For pioneering contributions to statistical theory and methodology in imaging genomics, medical imaging analysis, big data integration, and reinforcement learning; for developing innovative approaches in high-dimensional inference, causal inference, and machine learning; and for exemplary mentorship of students, postdoctoral researchers, and service to the statistical and AI communities.*

The **Florence N. David Award and Lectureship** is presented biennially to a female statistician who serves as a role model to other women by her contributions to the profession through excellence in research, leadership of multidisciplinary collaborative groups, statistics education, or service to the professional societies. This year's award is to **Kathy Ensor**, Rice University: *For extraordinary leadership and contributions to the statistic profession; outstanding mentorship to the next generation of statisticians and data scientists; and for excellence in collaborative team science research.*

The **COPSS Distinguished Achievement Award and Lectureship** recognizes outstanding contributions to statistical methods that have had significant impact on scientific investigations. This year's recipient is **James Robins**, Harvard University: *For helping create the modern field of causal inference; for developing ground-breaking methods for causal inference; for the analysis of missing data; for semi- and non-parametric models, and for the wide adoption of these methods in public health, clinical medicine, and the social sciences.*

In addition, the COPSS Emerging Leaders awards were presented: see page 4.

International Congress of Mathematicians announces plenary lectures

Among the plenary lectures at next year's International Congress of Mathematicians (July 23–30, 2026, in Philadelphia, USA) is IMS Fellow **Peter Bartlett**, who is a Professor of the Graduate School in Statistics and Computer Science at UC Berkeley and Principal Scientist at Google DeepMind. He is President of the Association for Computational Learning, Honorary Professor of Mathematical Sciences at the Australian National University, and co-author with Martin Anthony of the book *Neural Network Learning: Theoretical Foundations.* He was awarded the Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year in Australia in 2001, and was an IMS Medallion Lecturer in 2008. Read more about the speakers at https://www.icm2026.org.

More IMS Members' News

Sara van de Geer awarded the Pierre-Simon de Laplace Prize

The Prix Pierre-Simon de Laplace was awarded to Sara van de Geer on June 2, 2025, at the 56th Journées de Statistique, the annual conference of the Société Française de Statistique (SFdS), in Marseille. Christophe Biernaki, president of the SFdS, presented her with the medal of Honorary Member of the Society. Marc Hallin, president of the Prix Laplace Jury, gave this introduction:

The Pierre-Simon de Laplace Prize is awarded every three years to a senior statistician who has made "significant contributions to the development of Statistics in France." The highest scientific distinction awarded by the SFdS, this Prize typically crowns an exceptional career. The winner is selected by a jury, which I had the privilege of chairing this year, comprising eight members—four French and four foreign, four men and four women—plus its (stateless and asexual) president.

Like the president of the Goncourt Jury, I would have liked to announce the winner's name at the end of a lavish lunch at Drouant, in front of a pack of journalists eager for information. However, the SFdS's finances only allow for internet meetings and email discussions. Nevertheless, I am pleased to announce that, after electronic deliberations, the jury unanimously agreed on the name of Sara van de Geer as the eighth recipient of the prize.

I am particularly pleased to see this prize awarded to a female statistician for the first time, following seven consecutive male winners. I hope this reflects a welcome and permanent evolution in the demographics of our community. I am also delighted that the Jury for the third time chose a laureate of foreign nationality—Dutch in this case—which testifies to the SFdS's great European and international openness.

It would be tedious to list all of Sara van de Geer's scientific distinctions. She is a member of the Royal Academy of the Netherlands, the US National Academy of Sciences, and the [German National Academy of Sciences] Leopoldina. She has received the most prestigious "named lectures" (including an invited lecture at the International Congress of Mathematics) and has served on the editorial boards of leading journals in Probability, Statistics and Machine Learning.

Sara van de Geer began her brilliant career at Leiden University and was recently granted emeritus status at ETH Zurich. Between the Netherlands and Switzerland, she also was a professor at the Université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse. Although her time there was relatively brief, Sara forged lasting links with the French statistical community, with numerous participations in the Journées de Statistique, the Ecoles d'Été de Saint-Flour, and doctoral courses at CIRM.

Sara van de Geer, holding the Pierre-Simon de Laplace Prize with Marc Hallin, president of the Prix Laplace jury [left] and Christophe Biernaki, president of the SFdS [right]

= access published papers online

IMS Journals and Publications

Annals of Statistics: Hans-Georg Müller, Harrison Zhou
https://imstat.org/aos
https://projecteuclid.org/aos

Annals of Applied Statistics: Lexin Li
https://imstat.org/aoas
https://projecteuclid.org/aoas

Annals of Probability: Paul Bourgade & Julien Dubedat
https://imstat.org/aop
https://projecteuclid.org/aop

Annals of Applied Probability: Jian Ding, Claudio Landim
https://imstat.org/aap
https://projecteuclid.org/aoap

Statistical Science: Moulinath Bannerjee
https://imstat.org/sts
https://projecteuclid.org/ss

IMS Collections
https://projecteuclid.org/imsc

IMS Monographs and *IMS Textbooks:* Yingying Fan
https://www.imstat.org/journals-and-publications/ims-monographs/

IMS Co-sponsored Journals and Publications

ACM/IMS Journal of Data Science: Jelena Bradic, Stratos Idreos, Barbara Engelhardt: https://jds.acm.org/

Electronic Journal of Statistics: Alexandra Carpentier & Arnak Dalalyan: https://projecteuclid.org/ejs

Electronic Journal of Probability: Cristina Toninelli
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ejp

Electronic Communications in Probability: Patrícia Gonçalves
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ecp

Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics: Yuguo Chen, Laura M. Sangalli https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Publications/Journals.aspx
log into members' area at www.imstat.org

Probability Surveys: Adam Jakubowski
https://imstat.org/ps
https://projecteuclid.org/ps

Statistics Surveys: Yingying Fan
https://imstat.org/ss
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ssu

IMS-Supported Journals

ALEA: Latin American Journal of Probability and Statistics: Víctor Rivero
http://alea.impa.br/english

Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré (B): Giambattista Giacomin, Yueyun Hu:
https://imstat.org/aihp
https://projecteuclid.org/aihp

Bayesian Analysis: Igor Prünster
https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ba

Bernoulli: Kengo Kato
https://projecteuclid.org/bj

Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics: Francisco José A. Cysneiros: https://imstat.org/bjps
https://projecteuclid.org/bjps

IMS-Affiliated Journals

Observational Studies: Nandita Mitra
https://obs.pennpress.org/

Probability and Mathematical Statistics: Krzysztof Bogdan, Krzysztof Dębicki
http://www.math.uni.wroc.pl/~pms/

Stochastic Systems: Devavrat Shah
https://pubsonline.informs.org/journal/stsy

COPSS Emerging Leader Awards 2025

The Emerging Leader award, given annually by the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies, recognizes early-career statistical scientists who show evidence of and potential for leadership and who will help shape and strengthen the field. The eight 2025 recipients are:

Lucy D'Agostino-McGowan, Wake Forest University: *For advancing causal inference and missing data methods. For innovative teaching in and out of the classroom and through the Casual Inference podcast. For dedicated service to students, mentees, and the profession.*

Eric J. Daza, Stats-of-1: *For building the urgently needed new field of "esametry", idiographic statistics that expand* n*-of-1 and single-case methods for precision digital health; for leadership and service in making statistics and data science more inclusive; for improving statistical scientific communication.*

Irina Gaynanova, University of Michigan: *For significant contributions to statistical methods for integrative analysis of biomedical data, advancing continuous glucose monitoring data analysis with open-source software, commitment to statistical education, mentoring, and leadership in editorial and professional roles.*

Lucas Janson, Harvard University: *For contributions to statistical methodology, particularly methods that leverage machine learning for statistical inference on data that is high-dimensional or adaptively collected, and for commitment to teaching, mentorship, and outreach.*

Bei Jiang, Univ. of Alberta: *For pioneering contributions to statistical methodologies in trustworthy machine learning, strengthening the integration between statistics and machine learning with novel methodologies in neuroimaging data analysis, data privacy, and algorithmic fairness; and for exemplary mentorship and dedicated service to the statistical community.*

Nadja Klein, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology: *For contributions to statistical sciences, spanning Bayesian deep learning, computational methods, and spatial statistics; commitment to impactful research, mentorship, professional service, and ensuring methods and software are accessible to researchers and practitioners.*

Ana M. Ortega-Villa, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: *For impactful and dynamic leadership, including the training, mentoring, and uplifting of junior colleagues; For effective communication with non-statistical collaborators promoting statistical rigor; and for energetic and innovative service to the profession.*

Yize Zhao, Yale University: *For fundamental contributions to statistical and machine learning methods and applications for medical imaging, neuroscience, psychiatry and mental health; for exceptional contributions to Bayesian statistical inference and computation for structural and graphical data; and for outstanding mentorship, professional services, and leadership.*

In creating this award, COPSS recognizes the increasingly important role that early-career statistical scientists play in shaping the future of the discipline. The award is designed both to call attention to the efforts of these individuals and to provide a mechanism for them to share their vision for the field with each other and the statistical community.

Pictured at the COPSS Awards ceremony, with selection committee member Qi Long on the left, are the Emerging Leaders of 2025 [left–right]: Ana M. Ortega-Villa, Lucas Janson, Bei Jiang, Lucy D'Agostino McGowan, Eric J. Daza, Nadja Klein, and Irina Gaynanova (plus, inset top right, Yize Zhao, who was unable to attend).

Photo: Eric Sampson / ASA

IMS New Researchers continued from cover

Figure 3. IMS President Tony Cai delivered a plenary lecture


Figure 4. The panel on mentoring


Figure 5. Buffet dinner and trivia quiz


Figure 6. The attendees at NRC2025

from junior attendees. In the afternoon, **IMS President Tony Cai** delivered the plenary talk, highlighting the future of statistics and federated learning under constraints on communication and privacy; see Figure 3 [*left*]. This was followed by the **promotion panel**, led by Yu Shyr, Kate Calder, Jeff Morris, and Ryan Tibshirani, who offered unique perspectives on the promotion path for junior faculty. The day concluded with a **mentoring panel** led by Tony Cai, Hongtu Zhu, Jeff Morris, and Ryan Tibshirani, which fostered a dynamic dialogue and provided junior faculty with rich insights from the extensive experiences of senior scholars; see Figure 4. Friday was concluded with a **buffet dinner**; see Figure 5. Two of the organizers, Armeen and Eardi, hosted a lively trivia quiz at dinner involving three topics: the history of statistics, naming the concept based on poetry generated by ChatGPT, and exploratory analysis.

The last day of the conference began with a **panel on collaboration**, led by Bin Yu, Ryan Tibshirani, Yong Zeng, and Jeff Morris. These great panelists offered tips on cultivating successful collaborations. The final panel session was on **the future of statistics**, and was led by Bin Yu, Hongtu Zhu, Bingxin Zhao, Hani Doss, and Yon Zeng.

A **group picture** is shown in Figure 6.

This year's meeting was co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, and Vanderbilt University.

Armeen Taeb also reports on the New Researchers JSM Mixer:
The New Researcher Group committee additionally organized a mixer for folks at JSM on the Tuesday evening at a BBQ restaurant (Figure 7, below). Many junior researchers came to eat, have a drink, and mingle.

Figure 7. The NRG mixer at JSM, a few days after the New Researchers Conference

SSC Gold Medal awarded to Grace Yi


Grace Yi

Grace Y. Yi is the Statistical Society of Canada 2025 Gold Medal recipient. Grace is professor and Tier I Canada Research Chair in Data Science at the University of Western Ontario. She joined Western in July 2019 after nearly two decades at the University of Waterloo, where she began as a postdoctoral fellow in January 2000 and held positions as assistant, associate and full professor, and finally, university research chair.

Born in Sichuan province, China, Grace obtained her bachelor's and Master's degrees in mathematics from Sichuan University. She then taught advanced mathematics at the University of Electronic Science and Technology in China before moving to Canada in 1995 to pursue graduate studies in statistics. She obtained her MSc in statistics from York University in 1996 and her PhD in statistics from the University of Toronto in 2000, under the supervision of Don Fraser. Her thesis, "On the Structure of Asymptotic Distributions," laid the foundation for her deep engagement with theoretical statistics. During her PhD studies, she also worked with Nancy Reid as a research assistant for the book *The Theory of the Design of Experiments*.

Although her initial encounters with statistics were marked by dislike or even aversion, her doctoral studies completely transformed her perspective. With the inspiring mentorship of Don Fraser and Nancy Reid, she moved from struggling with concepts such as confidence intervals to becoming immersed in statistical research. Her time at the University of Toronto led her into what she now calls "the wonderland of statistical science."

Grace began her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Waterloo and subsequently joined the faculty there. Collaborating with eminent scholars including Richard Cook, Jack Kalbfleisch, Mary Thompson, and Jerry Lawless, she focused on developing new methods for missing data, data measured with error, survival data, and longitudinal data. This productive period marked the beginning of her longstanding commitment to methodological development in statistics and biostatistics.

Her contributions to the field are both foundational and far-reaching. Internationally recognized as a leading expert in measurement error and missing data, Grace was among the first to address the intertwined complexities of these issues by introducing a unified framework. These aspects of noisy data—individually challenging and even more so in combination—present serious barriers to valid inference and model development. Grace's pioneering work in this space has influenced a broad range of applied and theoretical research. She is the author of the monograph *Statistical Analysis with Measurement Error or Misclassification: Strategy, Method, and Application* (2017) and coeditor of the *Handbook of Measurement Error Models* (with Aurore Delaigle and Paul Gustafson, 2021). Grace has also made substantial contributions to foundational statistical inference methods, including composite likelihood theory, estimating functions, likelihood-based inference, causal inference, and high-dimensional data analysis. She is coauthor of the monograph *Likelihood and its Extensions* (with Nancy Reid and Cristiano Varin, 2025).

Since joining Western, Grace has expanded her research into machine learning, with a focus on statistical methods that address modern data challenges related to label noise, missing data, source-free domain adaptation, transfer learning, boosting, and deep learning. Her work at the intersection of statistical science and machine learning has led to robust methodologies for analyzing noisy and incomplete data, bringing new insights and perspectives.

A passionate educator and mentor, Grace has mentored many postdoctoral fellows and MSc students and has supervised 23 PhD students. In 2023 her efforts were recognized with the Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring by Western.

Grace is a fellow of the IMS and the American Statistical Association, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. She received the CRM–SSC Prize in 2010. Her paper with Xianming Tan and Runze Li was awarded the *Canadian Journal of Statistics* Award in 2016. In 2025 she delivered the Myra Samuels Memorial Lecture at Purdue University. She served as co-editor in chief of the *Electronic Journal of Statistics* (2022–24), editor in chief of the *Canadian Journal of Statistics* (2016–18), and is currently editor of the methodology section of the *New England Journal of Statistics in Data Science*. She has served as president of the SSC (2021–22) and of its Biostatistics Section (2016), and as chair of the ASA Lifetime Data Science Section (2023). In 2012 she founded the Canada chapter of the International Chinese Statistical Association.

Grace credits much of her success to her collaborators and students. She is especially grateful to her family, who have been a continuous source of inspiration and strength.

The citation for the award reads: *"In recognition of an impactful and extensive body of research on statistical theory and methodology, with a special focus on missing and mismeasured data and applications in biostatistics; and for her leadership in statistical science in Canada."* [Slightly condensed from the *Liaison* article at https://ssc.ca/en/publications/ssc-liaison/vol-39-3-2025-06/grace-y-yi-ssc-gold-medalist-2025]

Linglong Kong wins CRM–SSC Prize in Statistics


Linglong Kong

The CRM–SSC Prize in Statistics recognizes a statistical scientist's excellence and accomplishments in research during the first 15 years after their doctorate. It is awarded annually by the Centre de recherches mathématiques (CRM) and the Statistical Society of Canada. This year's winner is **Linglong Kong**, University of Alberta.

Born in 1978, Linglong Kong grew up in a village in Henan province, China. He obtained his bachelor's degree in statistics at Beijing Normal University in 1999, and a Master's in statistics from Peking University in 2002. His MSc dissertation, supervised by Professor Zhonjie Xie, was titled "Monte Carlo Filter and an Application in a Signal Modulated Model."

Linglong then joined the University of Alberta, where his PhD dissertation "On Multivariate Quantile Regression: Directional Approach and Application with Growth Charts" was supervised by Professor Ivan Mizera. Even before publication, the thesis earned Kong and Mizera an invitation to be discussants of a related paper in the *Annals of Statistics*. Linglong continued this work as a postdoctoral fellow at Michigan State University, under the supervision of Yijun Zuo. (Of Linglong's work in robustness, a letter supporting his nomination reads: "His work, widely cited in the literature, stimulated much of the recent research on multivariate quantiles and multivariate depth. A recent publication integrated quantile regression and copula modelling to develop a new spatial quantile function-on-scalar regression model. This is one of the few significant pieces of work on the quantile analysis of functional response, and the method is useful in the analysis of image data.")

There followed a second postdoctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, under the supervision of Hongtu Zhu. Here Linglong's interests mushroomed from robustness to neuroimaging data analysis, functional data, and statistical machine learning. Indeed, a hallmark of Linglong's career has been the breadth of his research, and his ability to synthesize results from diverse areas.

Since he joined the faculty at the University of Alberta in 2012, Linglong's record has been breathtaking. His CV shows over 80 published or in-press refereed journal papers in first-rate outlets, and over 40 refereed papers presented at conferences with generally very low acceptance rates. There is a phenomenal list of invited presentations and short courses. His mentorship has been outstanding—at last count, he is supervising eight post-docs, 15 PhD students, six MSc students and has graduated a multitude of others. A letter writer says, "His mentorship fosters independence, inclusivity, and a culture of excellence. He has allowed his students to engage in high-profile research projects, resulting in numerous coauthored publications in top-tier journals and conferences."

Linglong is the principal investigator or Co-PI on national and international grants that total over $3,500K. He has made outstanding contributions to the profession in the form of editorial work. He is associate editor of *JASA*, *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *International Journal of Imaging Systems and Technology*, *Statistics and Its Interface*, and *The Canadian Journal of Statistics*, and was a guest editor of a special issue on neuroimaging data analysis in *CJS* as well as guest associate editor at *Frontiers in Neuroscience*.

Linglong was promoted to associate professor in 2018 and to full professor in 2022. He is a fellow of the ASA. He is already an internationally recognized researcher in statistical machine learning and statistical optimization—he is AI Chair in the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), for which he is based at the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute where he is a fellow. This follows his 2020 appointment as Canada Research Chair in Statistical Learning, based on his work in neuroimaging data analysis, with contributions to ensemble and hierarchical modelling, matrix factorization, and distributional reinforcement learning. More recently, he has "pioneered privacy-preserving methods under Local Differential Privacy and extended privacy frameworks to Riemannian manifolds, safeguarding sensitive data in fields such as medical imaging and health care analytics."

Of his work as a whole, a writer says that Linglong has "pioneered statistical methods in neuroimaging data analysis that integrate spatial, functional, and high-dimensional data, enabling ground-breaking insights into brain structure and function." He goes on to say that "Dr. Kong's contributions to trustworthy machine learning address some of the most pressing challenges in AI, including fairness and privacy. His work on conformalized fairness via quantile regression and Gaussian differential privacy on Riemannian manifolds exemplifies his ability to combine rigorous statistical theory with impactful, ethical applications. These contributions are critical for developing AI systems that are equitable, reliable, and aligned with societal values."

In summary, Linglong has risen to the top tier of mathematical statisticians and data scientists in Canada and internationally.

Linglong and his wife, colleague, and prolific collaborator Bei Jiang have, apart from a host of significant papers, also two sons, Denver and Daylan.

[Slightly condensed from the *Liaison* article at https://ssc.ca/en/publications/ssc-liaison/vol-39-3-2025-06/linglong-kong-winner-crm-ssc-prize-statistics-2025]

JSM 2025 in pictures

Wald lecturer Jianqing Fan [r] with Tony Cai

Regina Liu [r] with the Neyman Award from Annie Qu

Wahba lecturer Richard Samworth [left] with Jing Lei

Photo: Eric Sampson / ASA

COPSS Presidents' Award winner Lester Mackey

Lively discussions at the poster sessions

Peter Bickel gave the Le Cam lecture to a packed room

Some of the new IMS Fellows: Weijie Su, Jelena Bradic, Allan Sly, Nicholas Horton, Chiung-Yu Huang, Aaditya Ramdas, IMS President Tony Cai, Philip Ernst, Tianxi Cai, Jose Blanchet, Bhramar Mukherjee, and Qi Long

Chengchun Shi [r] won the Peter Hall Prize

Rietz lecturer Kathryn Roeder [left] with Nancy Zhang

Medallion lecturer Boaz Nadler [r] with Iain Johnstone

Medallion lecturer Florentina Bunea [r] with Liza Levina

Victor Panaretos [r] received a Medallion from John Aston

One of the Lawrence Brown PhD Student awardees, George Stepaniants, with Linjun Zhang

Medallion lecturer Sandrine Dudoit with Kasper Hansen

Covid forced the new IMS President Kavita Ramanan to receive the gavel virtually from Tony Cai!

At the Annals of Applied Statistics *Invited Session, speaker Xiaotong Shen [third from left], pictured with discussants [l–r] Bin Yu, Xihong Lin Susan Murphy and Hongyu Zhao, with organizer Ji Zhu*

IMS–CANSSI Mentoring and Networking event at JSM Nashville

Shili Lin, on behalf of the CIMEP working group, reports:

Following the successful inaugural IMS–CANSSI mentoring and networking event at JSM 2024, we hosted the second gathering at JSM 2025 in Nashville, Tennessee. These two events reflect IMS and CANSSI's strong commitment to serving the community, supporting professional growth, and nurturing statisticians at all career stages. They were made possible through the dedicated efforts of the CANSSI–IMS Mentoring and Engagement Program (CIMEP) working group.

Thirty-seven members from the IMS and CANSSI communities attended the lively lunch event at Boqueria restaurant, where they shared tapas, conversations, and career advice. Attendees included statisticians from government and academia, representing junior, mid-level, and senior career stages.

To encourage new connections, participants were randomly assigned to six tables rather than sitting with friends. Each table began with an icebreaker question: *"How did you get into statistics?"* or, for fun, *"What's your favorite statistics joke?"* Between rounds of tapas, discussions ranged from professional topics—such as the role of statisticians in the AI era, favorite tools and packages, navigating hybrid and remote work, collaborating across disciplines, and the importance of mentorship—to lighter conversations, including inbox habits, career paths, "data disasters," data storytelling, work–life balance, and reflections on lessons learned earlier in their careers.

A post-event survey revealed overwhelmingly positive feedback, with particular appreciation for the informal lunch format and the strong IMS–CANSSI partnership. Suggestions for future events included hosting a tea party, morning coffee session, or even a "speed-dating" format for mentorship.

Overall, feedback confirmed that by pooling resources and collaborating, IMS and CANSSI are making a stronger impact—both within their societies and across the broader statistical community.

CANSSI–IMS Mentoring and Engagement Program (CIMEP) working group members: Andrea Benedetti (McGill University), Jessica Gronsbell (University of Toronto), Shili Lin (Ohio State University), Nicole Pashley (Rutgers University), and Ali Shojaie (University of Washington).






Radu's Rides: **La Vie en… Beige**

Summer's change of pace has made our contributing editor **Radu Craiu** ponder, just how beige *is* a statistics professor's life, and how colourful is our future?

Summer is when we are reminded, more than ever, that the world has colours. Sharp, vibrant colours that often accompany things that taste good or make us laugh. This is the time when we disentangle our daily program from chores and focus on what we really like, on the only things that we would do if "necessary" and "salary" were just some words from someone else's diary. Those reading this column are probably summoning a kaleidoscope of summery images that include diving into a blue sea and into a hard problem. The two rarely meet in this *Bulletin,* so we will deal with the latter and leave you to enjoy the former.

Among the biggest joys offered by hard problems is the *eureka* moment when a new angle is glimpsed, derived or simply felt. Pulled or pushed by that moment of inspiration, we follow the thread of exhilarating ideas and proceed to dream big and write expansively. Nothing this important deserves to sit in a drawer or in a cloud, so we must do what it takes to share it with the world. And this is where things start to turn. For one thing, summer is probably over by submission time and the first round of reviews have a diabolical tendency to coincide with the first wave of angry emails from students about that midterm that was way too difficult and super-extra-unfairly marked. If the reviewers are generous, there's the chance to labour for a couple of months on clarifications and simulations… winter arrives, snow must be shovelled, and committees are formed out of thin air like devious genies whose mission is to dash all hopes and good wishes. Too negative, you say? I completely agree, and yet everywhere I turn I hear grumbles about the downsides of an academic career. I would be a fool not to acknowledge that there are plenty of reasons to be worried about the future of higher education in many—perhaps in most—parts of the world. But the battle for saving this profession and its standards is essential for everyone's future, not just this *Bulletin*'s readers. Painting a professor's life in beige is not going to save the world but rather accelerate its decay. Stupid optimism may not sound attractive, but perhaps it is the only way to move forward in difficult times. And not only for the stupid who practice it, but especially for all the young, smart ones around them. If you, an established researcher, have reasons to be sad and disappointed and pessimistic, imagine how it feels to be starting in this career at a time of extreme uncertainty. The least we can do is to project confidence that the present will bring a colourful future. Let me give you an example.

As summer heat and AI rumours creep in and out of my life like indecisive robbers, I sense a certain pressure to take a firm position with respect to the latter, which, come to think of it, is a funny thing to do in a fast-evolving world. Every time I am contemplating making a jump into the unknown, I start to seriously question whether the world is better served by a mumbling statistician or a fumbling AI-ician. When in Athens at the O'Bayes meeting (https://obayes25.aueb.gr/), with a week at my disposal to ponder statistical questions in a city drenched in culture and Mediterranean sun, I lean towards the former. Back on the North American continent, I have conversations with students and most of them seem to push me towards the latter. On the one hand, there is plenty of new, ongoing or unfinished business in the statistical world. On the other, there are a lot more jobs that require AI/ML training and expertise. I have been told to gain perspective by looking at the big picture, but people who say that automatically assume that the details are still visible when you pan out. My experience is a bit different, as losing track of details can feel like a scary departure from the usual mathematical approach in which even infinitesimal parts play big roles.

Rather than a big picture, we should perhaps contemplate an *earlier* one. We all know that when we are young, we live under the impression that originality is our modus operandi. For the rare few, the sentiment is anchored in true ingenuity, but for the majority it appears because they know very little of what happened before… them. As we advance in age, we learn more about life, statistics, etc., and the sense that everything has been already thought of can become an obstacle in the way of creativity. The AI revolution has the potential to make all of us feel young again, so that's a silver lining to the general beige cloud that permeates many statistics departments.

I take my leave by invoking the eloquence of Joseph Davis, an economist at Stanford's Food Research Institute, who wrote in 1940 for a special issue of *JASA* commemorating the American Statistical Association's centennial, and whose words ring as true today as almost 100 years ago:

> "Pausing in our stride, we seek perspective from a long look backward, enlightenment from a review of current trends, and inspiration from a long look ahead. Standing at the mid-point of two centuries, we gird up our collective loins for the tasks ahead—new decades of effective progress and constructive leadership in the art and science to which we have a common devotion."

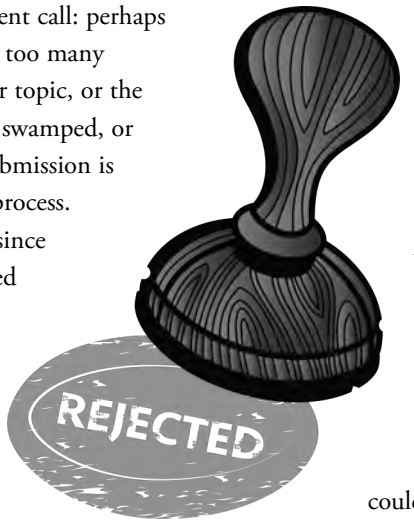
Written by Witten:

To Err, and to Edit-Err, is Human (part 2 of 2)

Our contributing editor **Daniela Witten** concludes her two-part column about her experience as a journal editor. Part 1 (which you can read at https://imstat.org/2025/07/16/written-by-witten-to-err-and-to-edit-err-is-human-part-1-of-2/) in the August 2025 issue, contains her thoughts about editors, associate editors (AEs), and reviewers. In this part, Daniela focuses on advice to authors.

Sometimes papers are (desk) rejected: don't take it personally

At the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B (JRSSB)*, a substantial portion of papers are desk rejected (i.e., rejected without being sent out for review). Occasionally, this is because *JRSSB* is clearly not a good fit (for instance, a paper that presents a routine data analysis for some scientific problem, but does not propose new statistical methodology). More often, though, desk rejections are a judgment call: perhaps the editor feels that there have been too many recent submissions on this particular topic, or the AE with relevant expertise is totally swamped, or it just subjectively seems that the submission is unlikely to survive the peer review process. The latter is particularly important since there simply are not enough qualified reviewers to review all of the papers that get submitted: the system would break if there were no desk rejections.



Before I became Joint Editor at *JRSSB*, when one of my papers was (occasionally) desk rejected, I thought that this was an unspeakably terrible outcome that certainly had never happened to even a single one of my colleagues in the history of time. Now I know the truth: desk rejections happen to everyone, for a variety of reasons.

If your paper has been desk rejected, then you should see whether the editor gave you constructive feedback that you can use to improve your submission. If so, then incorporate it into your paper… and then move on to another journal.

(What might constructive feedback look like for a desk rejection? It might not be detailed or technical, since the paper has not been reviewed by experts in the subject area. But if the editor says, for instance, that your paper lacks novelty, or that the contribution is unclear, or that you seem to have missed key references, then that could be a sign that you should edit your paper—exposition and/or content—before submitting it elsewhere.)

And a desk rejection can even be a small mercy. It's better to receive a desk rejection after two weeks than a (non-desk) rejection nine months later. I speak from experience!

Finally, remember that a rejection (either a desk rejection or a rejection after review) typically does not mean that your paper is technically unsound or fatally flawed. More often than not, it just means that it is not a match for this journal at this time. For instance, at *JRSSB,* one of the primary publication criteria is methodological novelty, so technically sound papers that are just not that novel (in the very subjective eyes of an editor, AE, and reviewers) are rejected.

Most papers get in "by the skin of their teeth"

At *JRSSB*, I have never seen a paper that was uniformly beloved by all readers (editor, associate editor, and reviewers) in the first round of review. More often than not, papers go through at least two rounds of review, and only after painstaking revisions by the authors are all readers (the editor, AE, and reviewers) eventually satisfied—or at least, *satisfied enough*—that the paper can be accepted. ("Satisfied enough" is important here: perfection is both unnecessary and unachievable.)

So, any published paper is imperfect: it almost certainly could have been further improved by another round of review (or six). And actually, a particular paper might be far from perfect: it might have just barely been accepted by the journal.

Furthermore, any published paper may have benefited from an element of luck in the review process (e.g. a reviewer ran out of time to prepare a review, and so signed off on the paper without careful scrutiny). What does this mean for you? Hoping for good luck is not a viable statistical strategy, and therefore, you should expect that in order to publish in a given journal, your paper will have to be *better than the majority of papers published in that journal.*

But hey… I am certainly rooting for your paper to be a lucky one!

It's party time

In Figure 1 on the next page, four of the editorial decisions (Accept, Rejection with option to resubmit, Major revision, Minor

Written by Witten: continued from previous page

revision) are marked by confetti poppers (🎉). These are the editorial decisions for which you should throw a party. **Your paper was not rejected!!! Hooray!!!!!** Please honor this fantastic news. If your paper goes through several rounds of review before eventual publication, then you can have several parties! The number of confetti poppers (e.g., 🎉 vs. 🎉🎉🎉🎉) associated with the editorial decision provides a shorthand for how hard you should celebrate. (It is up to you how to determine the units, i.e., the extent of celebration associated with each confetti popper.)

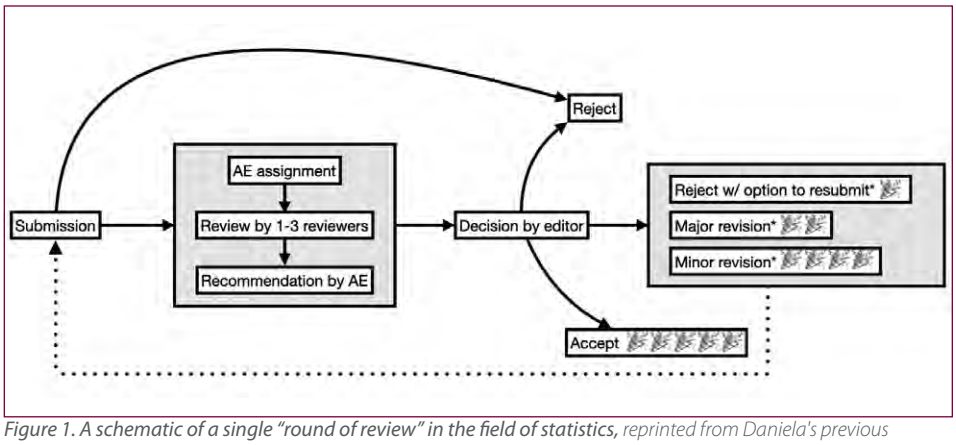


Figure 1. A schematic of a single "round of review" in the field of statistics, reprinted from Daniela's previous column. Confetti poppers (🎉) indicate editorial decisions for which you should throw a party.

Some people ask whether it is really appropriate to throw a party (🎉) for a rejection with the option to resubmit ("R&R"). The answer to this question is an unequivocal YES. Anything that is not a full rejection deserves a party. (Life is short, etc.) Also, in most cases an editor will only invite a resubmission if they see a path forward for the paper in that journal.

After the party is complete, it is time to get to work addressing any comments from the editor, AE, and reviewers (unless your paper was accepted, in which case you should still be celebrating). I suggest that you prioritize the revision above all other tasks: if you can get your paper back to the journal while it is still fresh in everybody's mind, then the remainder of the review process is more likely to run smoothly. Also, this is not a time to argue: this is a time to do what you were asked to do if it is possible, and if not possible, then to clearly explain the reasons why. By doing what is asked, you make it easy for the editor to accept your paper.

Rejections happen

What if your paper was rejected? You will likely feel sad, and that is okay: it is important to feel your feelings. However, don't let it wreck you. We all get papers rejected at times. If one of the reviews is factually wrong then you could consider contacting the editor (although this is almost never met with success). Generalized complaints to the editor are equally unlikely to be fruitful. Instead, read the reviews and decision letter, and think about whether you can use them to improve your work. If you can, then do so; and if not, then pick yourself up and try again.

Occasionally people get mad about rejections, and blame the editor or AE or reviewers for not understanding the paper, or not being sufficiently knowledgeable about the topic, etc. To this I say: *it is your job, as an author, to write a paper in a way that enables the editor, AE, and reviewer to appreciate your work*. Can you re-write your paper so that it fares better next time?

Edit, edit and edit again

And that brings me to my last suggestion for authors: **edit your manuscript**. Almost never is the first set of words you put on a page the best way to communicate an idea. In fact, for me personally, the 189th set of words is usually also not the best way to communicate the idea.

I could write a whole column about this, but instead I will point you to an editorial in the March 2025 issue of *Nature Biotechnology* that expresses this beautifully: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41587-025-02584-1 .

Once you have found the most effective way to communicate your ideas, here is a helpful pre-submission checklist by Jacob Bien: https://faculty.marshall.usc.edu/Jacob-Bien/papers/manuscript-checklist.pdf.

I believe that the most highly-cited papers in statistics are not necessarily the most technically challenging or even (dare I say it?!) the most innovative. The most highly-cited papers are the best-written papers, because when a paper is well-written, people understand what it's about and why it's useful. Write your paper well, and it will pay off not just in a smoother publication process, but also in future recognition.

Lines from Layla: **Friends for Life**

Our contributing editor **Layla Parast** recalls how tough she found graduate school—until she found her people, a "pod" of friends…for life:

As the new academic year begins, one of my favorite traditions is meeting one-on-one with each of our incoming PhD students. This year, that tradition is a big undertaking: we have 19 new students, our largest cohort yet, due in part to the fact that our graduate students are not dependent on NIH funding. This is more than double our cohort just five years ago.

I love putting faces to names, hearing about their hobbies, what drew them to statistics, and why they chose UT. After each meeting, I write down notes about each person because, let's be honest, I won't remember everything otherwise. But I want to. I like knowing our students.

When I was a first-year PhD student, I had a really hard time. There's no other way to say it. I wanted to quit almost every day—not because there was anything wrong with the program, but because I constantly felt stupid, like I didn't belong. I was certain they had meant to admit someone else—Kayla Darast, maybe—not Layla Parast. I was far from family, in a cold and unfamiliar place, and I felt deeply alone.

The only reason I didn't quit? Quitting seemed harder than staying. It would have meant talking to the graduate advisor, breaking my lease, finding a job, moving, switching health insurance, finding a new doctor, a new dentist... The logistical barrier to quitting was *just* high enough to keep me in the program.

And then, slowly, it got better. It was still cold, and I still missed home, but I found something that made it bearable: friends. My cohort stuck together. We were all struggling in different ways, but we understood each other. We studied together, made snow angels together, explored Boston together. I started working with an advisor who was brilliant, kind, inspiring—and, crucially, patient. Eventually, I saw the light at the end of the tunnel. Looking back, I realize now how good those days were. I had one thing to focus on: my thesis. At the time, I couldn't see it. But I see it now.

(A quick note: My PhD at Harvard Biostatistics was funded entirely by NIH training grants—grants that no longer exist. Without them, I wouldn't be where I am today.)

Let me tell you about three of these friends in particular. The four of us formed our own little pod, still holding strong almost 20 years since beginning our PhD together. Every year (minus COVID year), we take a girls trip together. Unlike perhaps more traditional "girls trips", ours usually consists of a very long hike with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich picnic lunch, exploring a small town, and then board games, cooking dinner in our Airbnb, and soaking in a hot tub each day. The only rule is that the location has to be a direct flight for everyone, which isn't easy with two of us in Austin, one in Portland, and one in Albuquerque. Over the years, we've adapted. When one of us was pregnant or had a newborn, we picked a destination close to her. We've planned around pumping breaks and made sure our Airbnbs had refrigerators. Somehow, we've never had two people pregnant at the same time. Now, with seven babies between us, we're cautiously considering longer trips. Occasionally, we wonder: Should we do a big family trip with partners and kids? The answer so far has been, "Hmm... not yet."

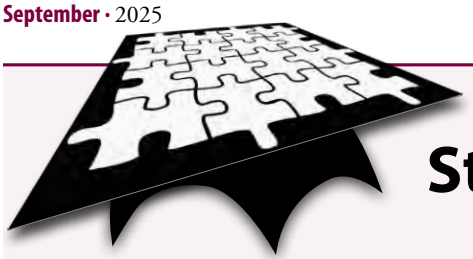
On these trips, we talk about life, marriage, kids—and yes, still statistics. Sometimes we admit we're not even sure we like statistics all that much anymore. One of us left academia, went to law school, and is now a practicing lawyer. Who could've predicted that?

Here's a confession: I don't have a lot of friends. I'm not particularly good at making them. Unless you want to talk about statistics, CrossFit, or kids, I probably won't be that interesting to you. I don't want to go to brunch. I don't want to get drinks. I'm just not that kind of gal.

However, sometimes, at statistics conferences, I feel like a social butterfly. I see so many familiar faces. Conversation flows. I feel cool. I think, "Maybe I am a social butterfly?" And then I come home and go to [insert any non-statistics social event] and immediately remember: nope. I'm not. Please take me back to my quiet house where I can roll out on my foam roller and go to bed at 8:45. And honestly, I'm fine with that.

Because I have my people. They may not live nearby, and we may only see each other once a year, but they are mine—and I cherish them.

So, to the students starting this fall: Welcome to graduate school. It will probably be hard. You may wonder whether you belong. You do. And if you feel like quitting, maybe just don't do it today. Meet someone for coffee. Ask a classmate how they're doing. Start building your pod. Maybe you'll come out the other side with a PhD, sure (and if you don't, that's also OK), but also, maybe, with friends for life.



Student Puzzle 58

Deadline: November 1

Student Puzzle editor Anirban DasGupta returns with three problems, over diverse topics. He says, "You can send a solution to just one, but we would be delighted if you send more! We hope you will enjoy thinking about the different things in these problems."

Puzzle 58.1 Let **Y** be a two-dimensional multivariate normal with the mean vector equal to (0, 0) and covariance matrix given by $\sigma_{ij} = (2 - |i-j|)^2$.

a) Find explicitly the set of all constants a,b such that $aY_1^2 + bY_2^2$ has a chi-square distribution.

b) Find explicitly the set of all constants a,b such that $aY_1^2 + bY_2^2$ and $Y_1^2 + Y_2^2$ are independent.

Puzzle 58.2 A fair coin is tossed n times. Suppose X heads are obtained. Given $X = x$, let Y be generated according to the Poisson distribution with mean x. Find the unconditional variance of Y, and then find the limit of the probability $P(|Y - \frac{n}{2}| > n^{3/4})$, as $n \to \infty$.

Puzzle 58.3 Consider an Erdős–Rényi random graph $G(n, p)$ with parameters n and p. For every given n, let $p = \frac{c}{n}$, where $c > 0$ is a fixed constant.

a) Find the limit as $n \to \infty$ of the expected number of triangles in $G(n, p)$.

b) Find the limit as $n \to \infty$ of the variance of the number of triangles in $G(n, p)$.

c) Does the number of triangles in $G(n, p)$ have a nondegenerate limiting distribution? If it does, identify that limiting distribution.

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 57

Our guest puzzlers Stanislav Volkov and Magnus Wiktorsson explain their solution to the previous puzzle, but first, a reminder of the puzzle itself:

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?

An easy calculation shows that

$$E_{n,p} = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \mathbb{P}(\text{Player 1 wins with Player 2 at } j)\cdot(n-j) - \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \mathbb{P}(\text{Player 2 wins with Player 1 at } i)\cdot(n-i)$$

To reach n wins for one player before the other, the game must last $n+k-1$ rounds, and the winner must win the last round. The probability that the winning player whose probability of winning is θ reaches n wins while the other Player 2 has exactly k wins is:

$$h(\theta,k) = \binom{n+k-1}{k} \cdot \theta^n \cdot (1-\theta)^k,$$

where $\theta = p, 1-p$. Then the expected net profit is:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{n,p} &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (n-k)\,h(p,k) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (n-k)\,h(q,k) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n+k-1}{k} (p^n q^k - q^n p^k)\,(n-k) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n+k-1}{k} (pq)^k (p^{n-k} - q^{n-k})\,(n-k) \\ &= (p-q) \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n+k-1}{k} (n-k)(pq)^n A_{n-k} \end{aligned}$$

where $A_m = (p^m - q^m)/(p-q)$. Then for $m = 1, 2, \ldots$, noting that $p+q=1$,

$$A_m = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m-1}{2} \rfloor} \binom{m-1-i}{i} (-z)^i,\ z = pq.$$

(This can be shown by induction as $A_{m+2} = A_{m+1} - zA_m$, and $A_1 = A_2 = 1$). Hence, with $z = pq$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{E_{n,p}}{p-q} &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n+k-1}{k} (n-k) z^k \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n-k-1}{2} \rfloor} \binom{n-k-1-i}{i} (-z)^i \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1+k}{k} (n-k) \sum_{j=k}^{\lfloor \frac{n+k-1}{2} \rfloor} z^j \binom{n-1-k}{j-k} (-1)^{j-k} \end{aligned}$$

Solution to Puzzle 57

Continued from previous page

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (-1)^j z^j \sum_{k=0}^{j} \binom{n-1+k}{k}\binom{n-1-j}{j-k}(-1)^k (n-k)$$

using the change of order of summation. Now,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{j} \binom{n-1+k}{k}\binom{n-1-j}{j-k}(-1)^k (n-k) = \frac{(-1)^j n}{j+1}\binom{2j}{j} = (-1)^j\, n\, C_j \qquad \textbf{(1)}$$

where C_j are ***Catalan numbers*** with the generator function

$$c(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} C_j z^j = \frac{1-\sqrt{1-4z}}{2z} = 1 + z + 2z^2 + 5z^3 + 14z^4 + 42z^5 + 132z^6 + \dots$$

Hence,

$E_{n,p} = n(p-q)\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} C_j z^j$ where $z = pq$.

Proof of (1)

Note that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{j}(-1)^k k\binom{n-1+k}{k}\binom{n-1-j}{j-k} = -n\sum_{k=0}^{j-1}(-1)^k\binom{n+k}{k}\binom{n-1-j}{j-1-k}.$$

We will use the identity

$$(*) = \sum_{k=0}^{m}(-1)^k\binom{a+k}{k}\binom{b}{m-k} = (-1)^m\binom{a-b+m}{m}. \qquad \textbf{(2)}$$

Setting $a = n-1$, $m = j$ ($a = n$, $m = j-1$ respectively) and $b = n-1-j$ in **(2)** gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^{j}(-1)^k\binom{n-1+k}{k}\binom{n-1-j}{j-k} = (-1)^j\binom{2j}{j};$$
$$\sum_{k=0}^{j-1}(-1)^k\binom{n+k}{k}\binom{n-1-j}{j-1-k} = (-1)^j\binom{2j}{j-1}$$

which yields **(1)** as $C_j = \binom{2j}{j} - \binom{2j}{j-1}$.

Proof of (2)

Assume $a \ge b + m$, $m \ge 0$. Then the LHS of $(*)$ is the coefficient on x^{a+m} in

$$\sum_{u=0}^{b}\sum_{\ell=a}^{\infty}\binom{\ell}{a}\binom{b}{u}(-1)^{l-a}x^{u+\ell} = \left[\sum_{u=0}^{b}\binom{b}{u}x^u\right]\times\left[\sum_{\ell=a}^{\infty}\binom{\ell}{a}(-1)^{l-a}x^{\ell}\right]$$

$$= (1+x)^b \times \frac{x^a}{(1+x)^{a+1}} = x^a(1+x)^{-(a-b+1)} = x^a\sum_{m=0}^{\infty}(-1)^m\binom{a-b+m}{m}x^m.$$

Obituary: Sayan Mukherjee

1971–2025

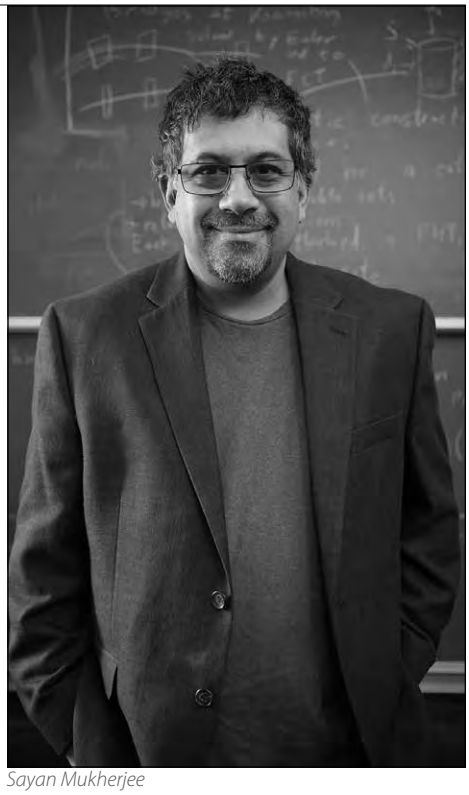


Photo: Humboldt Foundation/elbmotion

Sayan Mukherjee

On March 31st of this year, our community lost the energetic and creative force that was Sayan Mukherjee. Sayan passed away unexpectedly at the age of 54 in Leipzig, Germany, where he was a Humboldt Professor at the University of Leipzig and a Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences after spending 18 years at Duke University.

Sayan loved translating between ideas from different fields and working on a wide range of topics, including Machine Learning, Bayesian models, computational biology, cancer genomics, human evolution, statistical modeling of shapes, inverse problems for chaotic dynamics, topological data analysis, foundations of probabilistic inference, and the application of homology and sheaf theory to statistics and Markov chains.

Some of his well-known works include the paper that established Gene Set Enrichment Analysis, works on the statistics of persistence diagrams, which are central to Topological Data Analysis, papers on statistical models of shape space, papers on stability in learning theory, works on the use and theory of support vector machines, works using statistical models to analyze the microbiome, and a paper using fast PCA methods to study the co-evolution of genes.

Born March 8, 1971, in Kolkata, India, Sayan lived in France, England and Canada before moving to the United States in grade school, where he stayed until he moved to Leipzig in 2022. His academic trajectory mirrored his diverse interests. He obtained an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University in 1992, a Master's in Applied Physics and Mathematics from Columbia University in 1996, and a PhD in Brain and Cognitive Sciences from MIT, under the direction of Tomaso Poggio, in 2001. Between Princeton and MIT, he worked at Los Alamos National Labs. After MIT, he was a Sloan Postdoctoral Fellow in Computational Molecular Biology at the Broad Institute. In 2002, he joined the Computational Biology and Biostatistics Department in the Duke Medical School as an assistant professor. Over time, his appointment evolved to one in the Duke Statistical Science Department and then jointly between Statistics and Mathematics, all while maintaining numerous affiliations across the university and its medical school, including the Computational Biology and Bioinformatics programs and Computer Science. He received the Young Researcher Award from the International Indian Statistical Association and was a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. He was promoted to Full Professor at Duke in 2015.

Sayan loved listening to and playing music. He loved eating and cooking, and talking about eating and cooking. He loved cooking for others and hosted many dinner parties featuring his latest culinary experiments. He loved to think about the philosophical aspects of the topics he studied. He was a dedicated and empathetic mentor, working with students and post-docs from across the university and around the world. He loved exposing his students to new ideas and watching them find their way in science and life. He always tried to be there for individuals going through a rough patch. But above all, he loved being a father to his son, Kiran.

His infectious spark and love and support for those around him will be missed, as will all of his t-shirts, some of which were in good taste.

To leave and read remembrances, visit https://sayan-mukherjee-memorial.github.io/

Additional information can be found in the following articles:

https://math.duke.edu/news/duke-mourns-death-statistician-and-mathematician-sayan-mukherjee

https://cbmm.mit.edu/news-events/news/memory-sayan-mukherjee

and

https://idw-online.de/en/news850088.

*Written by **Jonathan Mattingly**, Kimberly J. Jenkins Distinguished University Professor of New Technologies, Duke University, USA*

Obituary: Simos Meintanis

1959–2025

Simos Meintanis with his life companion Myrto Tselou

Simos Meintanis, who passed away on February 14, 2025, was a Professor of Statistics & Econometrics in the Department of Economic Sciences of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.

Simos was born on January 1, 1959, in Athens, Greece. He studied Mathematics and Statistics in Greece (Athens University of Economics & Business) and Canada (Concordia University). He earned his PhD in Statistics from Patras University in Greece, where he started his academic career in 1996. He was elected as a tenured Associate Professor at the Department of Economic Sciences of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, in 2003. He also held visiting professorships at Northwest University, South Africa, Department of Statistics (Visiting Extraordinary Professor of Statistics, since 2012) and University of California Santa Barbara, USA, Department of Statistics and Applied Probability (Visiting Professor, summer 2017). Simos held memberships in 12 scientific associations, including the International Statistical Institute, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the American Statistical Association. He was an elected member of the ISI, and a Fellow of the South African Statistical Association; he also received three international awards from South Africa. He reviewed for more than 20 scientific journals and he was an editorial board member of eight journals. He successfully supervised five PhD students.

Simos was distinguished by his dedication to science (he has more than 145 publications in international peer-reviewed scientific journals). He also had more than 20 research collaborations and invitations from universities around the world, including Australia, China, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, and USA.

I remember him buried in tons of paper (he enjoyed writing by hand!), in his office. Our discussions mainly revolved around statistical problems, but also around current social and political issues. Even though immersed in Statistical research, the social problems in our country and the world were also part of his interests. His favorite pastime was reading, mainly statistics books.

His contribution to the Department was also significant. He collaborated and helped the younger faculty members in their career development. He was approachable, humble and cooperative. In his courses, he offered advanced knowledge of statistical methods to aspiring Economists.

For the last 22 years, Simos had built a loving family with his life companion, Myrto, her children (Lilian, Sofia, Anastasis) and their grandson (Panagiotis-Georgios). Simos was a lifetime sports lover, often going for runs, swimming and playing soccer. He enjoyed spending his summers in their summerhouse in Rafina, teaching soccer to little Panagiotis. One of his greatest joys was listening to rock music, being particularly fond of The Doors.

The sense of loss, for all of us who knew him and worked with him, is profound.

*Written by **Yiannis Bassiakos**, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, with extra notes from **Olga-Myrto P. Tselou***

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.*

Obituary: Eugene M. Laska

1938–2024

Eugene (Gene) Laska

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Eugene M. Laska, PhD. Gene Laska was Research Professor of Psychiatry and Population Health, Division of Biostatistics, at New York University. Before moving full time to NYU in 2015 he served as Research Scientist and Director at the Nathan Klein Institute Collaborating WHO Center for Mental Health Research.

Dr. Laska was an internationally renowned applied mathematician and statistician, a leading consultant to the FDA on the design and analysis of psychopharmacology trials, and a pioneer in the application of artificial intelligence and machine learning to advance precision medicine in psychiatric disorders. Above all he was a wonderful friend and beloved mentor, profoundly shaping the careers of several generations of clinical researchers.

Dr. Laska received his PhD in Mathematics from the Courant Institute at NYU and completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Statistics at Stanford University. Early in his career, he worked as a Systems Engineer at IBM before directing the Information Sciences Division at the NYU affiliate Nathan Klein Institute. Next, he served as Director of the Statistical Sciences and Epidemiology Division at Nathan Klein. Dr. Laska joined the NYU Langone faculty as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Mathematics in 1961, and was promoted to Research Professor in 1979.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Laska has made extraordinary contributions to statistical analysis and computational modeling in our field. In the 1970s he developed one of the world's first electronic medical record systems. He was a pioneer in early machine learning and decision support systems for the selection of psychiatric medications. He lobbied for better funding for homeless people, creating a method for counting the unknown number of persons living homeless in the New York City area in the 1990s. He led the analytic work on a large international study conducted by the WHO comparing the incidence and course of schizophrenia worldwide. More recently his work focused on artificial intelligence and machine learning to advance precision medicine by diagnostic subtyping and biomarker prediction of treatments for alcohol use disorder and PTSD.

Dr. Laska had the character and vibrancy of a renaissance man. As a remarkable testament to his energy, vitality, and creativity, at the age of 85, Dr. Laska was awarded a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism R01 research grant as principal investigator, to identify likely responders to treatments for alcohol use disorder.

His hobbies included boating, painting, and building guitars. His mind was a mile wide and a mile deep. Many of us had hours of pleasure discussing art, culture, history, politics, sports, the beauty of mathematics, and especially, the joys of family.

Dr. Laska was first and foremost family man and a humanist. As a mentor, he understood that learning is not transactional, it takes place in the context of a relationship. His extraordinary career did not get in the way of his love for his family and his caring and warmth for his friends, mentees and colleagues. We acknowledge and share our deepest condolences with the Laska family.

*Written by **Charles R. Marmar**, MD (Peter H. Schub Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry, NYU Langone, and Director of the Center for Precision Medicine in Alcohol Use Disorder and PTSD); **Lorna E. Thorpe**, MPH, PhD (Anita and Joseph Steckler Professor and Chair, Department of Population Health, NYU Langone); and **Donald C. Goff**, MD (Marvin Stern Professor and Vice Chair for Research, Department of Psychiatry, NYU Langone, and Director of the Nathan Kline Institute).*

If you hear news of the passing of an IMS Fellow or member, or a prominent member of our community, please **get in touch with the editor: bulletin@imstat.org**. You are welcome to send an obituary, or suggest someone to write one.

Recent papers: two IMS journals

Annals of Probability

The *Annals of Probability* publishes research papers in modern probability theory, its relations to other areas of mathematics, and its applications in the physical and biological sciences. Emphasis is on importance, interest, and originality—novelty and correctness are not sufficient for publication. The Co-editors are Paul Bourgade and Julien Dubedat.
Access papers at: **https://projecteuclid.org/aop**

Volume 53, number 4, July 2025

Annals of Applied Probability

The *Annals of Applied Probability* aims to publish research of the highest quality reflecting the varied facets of contemporary Applied Probability. Primary emphasis is placed on importance and originality. The Co-editors are Jian Ding and Claudio Landim.
Access papers at: **https://projecteuclid.org/aoap**

Volume 35, number 4, August 2025

IMS meetings around the world

Joint Statistical Meetings

2026 Joint Statistical Meetings
August 1–6, 2026, Boston, USA
w https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2026/

Join in with the Joint Statistical Meetings, the largest gathering of statisticians and data scientists from all corners of the globe. 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. 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.

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	

UPDATED

2026 IMS Asia Pacific-Rim Meeting (IMS–APRM)
June 13–16, 2026
Hong Kong, China
w https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/

The seventh meeting of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics Asia Pacific-Rim Meeting (IMS–APRM) will take place in Hong Kong from June 13 to June 16, 2026, and will be hosted by The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

This event will serve as an exceptional global forum for scientific communication and collaboration among researchers from Asia and the Pacific Rim. It aims to foster connections and partnerships between researchers in this region and colleagues from around the world. Building upon the successes of previous meetings, the seventh meeting will enhance our ongoing efforts to fulfil our shared mission within the statistical profession.

Participants can look forward to a diverse program featuring keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops led by prominent experts in the field of statistics. The conference will cover a wide range of topics, including theoretical advancements, innovative methodologies, and practical applications in various domains. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations.

Plenary speakers: **Andrea Montanari**, Stanford University, and **Hans-Georg Müller**, University of California, Davis. A further 20 distinguished lecturers are listed at https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/program/plenary-speakers-and-distinguished-lecturers

The vibrant city of Hong Kong, known for its rich cultural heritage and modern infrastructure, will provide an inspiring backdrop for the event, offering numerous opportunities for networking and professional growth.

The conference is organized by (CUHK) in collaboration with IMS. By bringing together a diverse group of participants, the organizers aim to facilitate meaningful interactions and collaborations that will drive the advancement of statistical science in the Asia Pacific Rim and beyond.

At a glance:

forthcoming IMS Annual Meeting and JSM dates

2026

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

JSM: Boston, USA, **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**

2029

IMS Annual Meeting @ JSM: Seattle, USA, **August 4–9, 2029**

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

International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies

UPDATED

June 1–4, 2026
American University, Washington DC, USA

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

Now an IMS co-sponsored meeting.

The 9th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM) will bring together researchers and practitioners to explore advances in sequential statistics, related areas of statistics and applied probability, and their many applications. Technical program consists of theoretical and applied presentations in the areas of 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 features **plenary lectures** by leading experts in sequential statistics, including Moshe Pollak (Hebrew University), Alexander Tartakovsky (AGT StatConsult), Dong-Yun Kim (NIH), Jay Bartroff (University of Texas), and Peihua Qiu (University of Florida).

Invited session proposals are solicited. Please submit your session proposals from the conference web site or via link https://www.american.edu/cas/iwsm2026/invited-session-proposals.cfm. After submission, you will hear from conference organizers within two weeks. Priority will be given to session proposals submitted by December 1, 2025, while all invited speakers are asked to register and submit abstracts of their talks by February 1, 2026.

Travel grants for students and new researchers are offered by IMS for participating in the 9th IWSM. Typical awards range between $500 and $1500. The application deadline is February 1, 2026. See https://imstat.org/ims-awards/ims-new-researcher-travel-award/.

Registration opens on October 1, 2025, and includes access to all sessions, meals, banquet, and Washington DC tour activities. Early registration ends on April 1, 2026.

The conference **website** above is regularly updated with the most recent information.

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

ICAIF 2025 Workshop on AI and Data Science for Digital Finance

NEW

November 15, 2025
Sheraton Towers, Singapore

w https://sites.google.com/view/ai4df/

This workshop will be an in-person event at ICAIF 2025 (the 6th ACM International Conference on AI in Finance), on November 15, 2025 in Singapore. The session will cover invited keynote talks, paper presentation, and a panel discussion.

Advancements in AI and data science are fundamentally reshaping the digital finance landscape, offering unprecedented opportunities to enhance financial services, improve risk assessment, enable real-time fraud detection, and support regulatory compliance. The rapid growth of digital finance, including cryptocurrencies, DeFi, blockchain, and AI-driven financial services, has revolutionized the way individuals, companies, and societies interact with financial systems. In particular, machine learning, deep learning, and large language models have significant potential to transform how financial data is analyzed, processed, and utilized across domains such as blockchain analytics, decentralized finance, algorithmic trading, digital asset management, and financial risk modeling. This intersection of AI and digital finance enables powerful new capabilities such as real-time risk analytics and fraud prevention, personalized financial services at scale, enhanced regulatory compliance through RegTech and SupTech, improved market surveillance and anomaly detection, as well as greater financial inclusion and micro-lending opportunities. The workshop aims to bring together researchers, practitioners, industry experts, and policymakers interested in the development and application of AI and data science in digital finance. It will foster interdisciplinary dialogue on how these technologies are transforming traditional banking, payment systems, and investment management, and creating new paradigms in decentralized finance and digital currencies.

The workshop's theme is AI and Data Science for Digital Finance: Transforming Markets, Assets, and Inclusion. We invite contributions that explore the development and application of AI, machine learning (ML), deep learning, large language models (LLMs), network analysis, and advanced data science methods in digital finance and financial services. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

-Fraud Detection, Risk, and Compliance
-Market Analysis and Investment
-Blockchain and Digital Assets
-Multimodal Financial Data Analysis
-Financial Inclusion and Sustainability
-Emerging Technologies and Challenges

In addition to contributed paper presentations, we aim to have keynote speakers from academia, industries, government, and frontline workers, as well as a discussion panel on future directions.

Call for papers: submission deadline October 2, 2025. See https://sites.google.com/view/ai4df/call-for-papers.

More IMS meetings

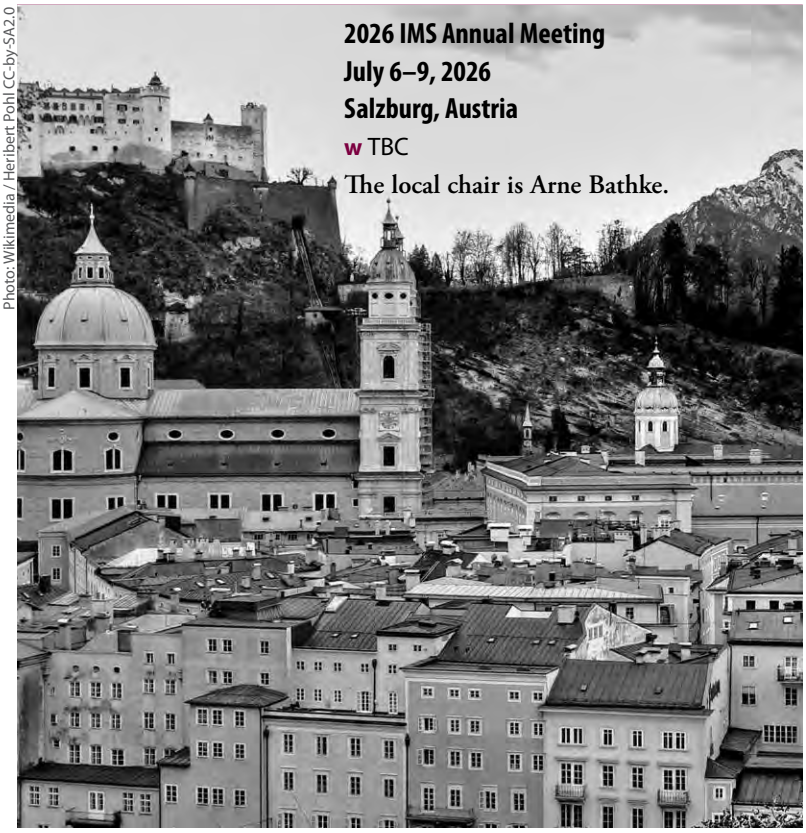


Photo: Wikimedia / Heribert Pohl CC-by-SA2.0

2026 IMS Annual Meeting
July 6–9, 2026
Salzburg, Austria
w TBC
The local chair is Arne Bathke.

Bernoulli–IMS 12th World Congress in Probability & Statistics
July 24–28, 2028
Singapore
w TBC

The 2028 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 in due course.

Please keep the date!

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

UPDATED

September 10, 2025
Online, via Zoom
w UPDATE: http://bit.ly/3Us9WUJ

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 is now available: see above.

To watch the video after the event, check out the "*InformationGeometryAnalysis*" (no spaces) YouTube channel: youtube.com/channel/UCgKIfS6paqYGf5CLqZ8iT5Q

Finger Lakes Probability Seminar 2026

NEW

April 17–18, 2026
Syracuse, NY, USA
w https://sites.google.com/g.syr.edu/fingerlakes2026

This is a regional conference intended to foster interactions between probability researchers in Upstate New York and nearby areas. Students and postdocs are very welcome.

Keynote speakers: Duncan Dauvergne (University of Toronto), Sumit Mukherjee (Columbia University), Evita Nestoridi (Stony Brook University)

Invited talks (partial list; full list to be announced): Graeme Baker (Columbia University), Ahmed Bou-Rabee (University of Pennsylvania), Han Gia Le (University of Waterloo), Jiaqi Liu (Lehigh University).

The Finger Lakes Probability Seminar is a yearly conference, with location alternating between Binghamton University, Cornell University, the University of Rochester, and Syracuse University.

2025 ISU–NISS Conference on AI and Statistics

UPDATED

September 12–14, 2025
Ames, USA
w https://www.regcytes.extension.iastate.edu/isu-niss-ai-stat/

The Department of Statistics at Iowa State University, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistical Sciences, will host the 2025 ISU–NISS Conference on AI and Statistics, from September 12 through September 14 on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. This three-day event, co-sponsored by TrAC, brings together researchers at the intersection of artificial intelligence and statistical science to explore the latest theoretical and applied advances in AI and statistics.

The program will feature invited plenary sessions and poster presentations covering a range of topics such as causal reasoning, online inference and streaming data, sequential decision-making, image and shape analysis, geospatial AI, and applications of machine learning and AI in forensic science and survey statistics.

In addition, conference attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a moderated conversation with **Nate Silver** on statistics, modeling, and AI. This in-person, moderated conversation with Nate Silver is free and open to the public and will take place in the Great Hall of the MU on the first evening of the conference.

Registration is open at a reduced rate through August 15. The final registration deadline is August 31.

Pre-Conference Workshop: Emerging Ideas and Applications in Reinforcement Learning

This workshop has been organized by NISS New Researchers Network. This is an additional registration to the conference. Sign up via the website. Date: September 12, 2025 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Instructor: Eric Laber, Duke, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

More meetings

IMA Induction Course for New Lecturers in the Mathematical Sciences 2025
September 15–16, 2025
Cambridge, UK

NEW

https://ima.org.uk/26309/induction-course-for-new-lecturers-in-the-mathematical-sciences-2025/

We are delighted to announce that in September 2025 the two-day Induction Course for lecturers new to teaching mathematics and statistics within Higher Education will once again take place. The Induction Course is delivered as an in-person only activity to maximise the opportunities for informal networking and discussion that have long formed a highly valued part of this meeting.

The Induction Course for New Lecturers in the Mathematical Sciences has been designed by the mathematics community so that it is ideally suited for anyone who is new to, or has limited experience, teaching mathematics or statistics within UK higher education. It will be delivered by individuals with significant experience of teaching in the mathematical sciences and will focus upon the specific details and issues that arise in mathematics and statistics teaching and learning within higher education.

Topics include:

- Lecturing.
- Supporting student learning.
- Making teaching interactive.
- Assessment, examinations and feedback.
- Linking teaching & research.
- Using technology to enhance teaching and learning.
- Using examples and mathematical problem solving.
- Teaching statistics and its applications.

Additionally, there will be significant opportunities for delegates to discuss their own ideas, challenges and experiences with the session facilitators so that individual queries can be answered.

Through attendance at the course, the IMA will provide CPD certificates relating to professional development.

Facilitators. Those leading the sessions at the Induction Course are all experienced teachers of mathematics within UK higher education. They include: Lara Alcock (Loughborough University), Sam Fearn (Durham University), Joel Haddley (University of Liverpool), Howard Haughton (King's College London), Ioanna Papatsouma (Imperial College London), Peter Rowlett (Sheffield Hallam University), Rose Wagstaffe (University of Manchester), and Louise Walker (University of Manchester).

Statistics and Data Science Workshop
December 9–12, 2025
Bogotá, Colombia

UPDATED

https://stats-workshop.github.io/

The goal of this 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.

Keynote speakers:

- Mahdi Soltanolkotabi, University of Southern California (USA)
- Marina Meila, University of Washington (USA)
- Mauricio Velasco, Universidad de la República (Uruguay)
- Rebecca Willett, University of Chicago (USA)

Our program is designed to benefit participants at all career stages, from students to established researchers. Further, it will include:

- Minicourses (taught by Bodhisattva Sen, Columbia University, USA, and Gábor Lugosi, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain) to introduce new students to relevant topics,
- Social events for building academic connections, and
- 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.

The workshop will take place at Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia.

Bogotá, the bustling capital of Colombia, offers a dynamic and vibrant venue for events, gatherings, and tourism. Nestled high in the Andes Mountains at an altitude of 2,640 meters, the city is a blend of rich cultural heritage and modern urban life. Bogotá's historic center, La Candelaria, is a focal point for visitors, boasting colonial-era landmarks, museums, and cultural institutions. The city is also home to a thriving gastronomic scene, eclectic nightlife, and numerous parks and green spaces, making it an attractive destination for a wide range of activities. Among Bogotá's many attractions, the José Celestino Mutis Botanical Garden stands out as a serene oasis in the heart of the city. This expansive garden, named after the renowned Spanish botanist, is the largest in Colombia and showcases a diverse collection of native flora from various Colombian ecosystems. Visitors can wander through beautifully landscaped areas, greenhouses, and thematic gardens that highlight the country's rich biodiversity.

Join us in Bogotá for this enriching academic experience that promises to inspire and connect the next generation of statisticians!

Employment Opportunities

Singapore

National University of Singapore

Assistant, Associate and Full Professor positions in the Department of Statistics & Data Science

The Department of Statistics and Data Science at the National University of Singapore invites applications for tenure track and tenured positions in statistics, data science and related areas, at the Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor levels. The anticipated start date of these positions is July 2026. Applicants must possess doctorates in their respective fields by the time of appointment.

The National University of Singapore offers internationally competitive salaries, generous research funding, travel support, relocation assistance and other benefits. The Department has nearly 40 faculty members and provides a stimulating research environment.

At the Assistant Professor position, we are interested in applicants with strong research potential. At the Associate and Full Professor positions, we are interested in applicants with a good track record in research, teaching and leadership.

Please submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, research and teaching statements, and at least three letters of recommendation, uploaded by the letter writers, to mathjobs.org.

More information about the university and the department can be found at

https://www.nus.edu.sg

and

https://www.stat.nus.edu.sg/.

Switzerland: Lausanne

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Mathematics Dept.

Lecturer in Statistics

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//78983728

Taiwan: Taipei

National Taiwan University,Institute of Statistics and Data Science

Faculty Position Available

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//73682876

United States: Berkeley, CA

University of California, Berkeley

Lecturer - Department of Statistics - College of Computing, Data Science and Society

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79320541

United States: Los Angeles, CA

Loyola Marymount University, Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science

Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79661622

United States: Stanford, CA

Stanford University

Assistant Professor Department of Statistics

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79709155

United States: Menlo Park, CA

SLAC

Research Associate – Hard X-ray Spectroscopy (SSRL)

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79320239

United States: Lenexa, KS

Pharmaceutical Research Associates, Inc.

Senior Statistical Programmer II

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//78955893

United States: Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana State University

Assistant Professor of Experimental Statistics

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79724947

United States: Cambridge, MA

Harvard University, Department of Statistics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Senior Lecturer in Statistics, Harvard FAS

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79746020

United States: Ann Arbor, MI

University of Michigan Statistics Department

Advanced assistant professor or tenured associate or full professor

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79318570

United States: Minneapolis, MN

University of Minnesota, School of Statistics

Assistant Professor

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79811540

United States: Rolla, MO

Missouri University of Science and Technology

Gary Havener Endowed Department Chair of Mathematics and Statistics Department

United States: Ithaca, NY

Cornell University, Department of Statistics and Data Science

Assistant/Early Associate, Tenure-track

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79837425

United States: Columbia, SC

University of South Carolina

Assistant Professor

https://jobs.imstat.org/job//79759549

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

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 UPDATE:** http://bit.ly/3Us9WUJ [*Zoom link now confirmed*]

UPDATED September 12–14: Iowa State University, Ames, USA. **2025 ISU–NISS Conference on AI and Statistics**
w https://www.regcytes.extension.iastate.edu/isu-niss-ai-stat/

NEW September 15–16: Cambridge, UK. **IMA Induction Course for New Lecturers in the Mathematical Sciences 2025**
w https://ima.org.uk/26309/induction-course-for-new-lecturers-in-the-mathematical-sciences-2025/

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/

Meeting organizers: to get a FREE LISTING in this calendar, please submit the details (as early as possible) at https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/ Or you can email details to Elyse Gustafson at ims@imstat.org We'll list them in the Bulletin, and on the IMS website too, at imstat.org/meetings-calendar/

October 2025

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/

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/

NEW November 15: Singapore. **AI and Data Science for Digital Finance** [one-day workshop at the 6th ACM International Conference on AI in Finance] **w** https://sites.google.com/view/ai4df/

December 2025

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/

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

April 2026

NEW April 17–18: Syracuse, NY, USA. **Finger Lakes Probability Seminar 2026** **w** https://sites.google.com/g.syr.edu/fingerlakes2026

June 2026

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

Continues on **page 29**

International Calendar *continued*

June 2026 continued

UPDATED ims June 13–16: CUHK, Hong Kong, China. **IMS–APRM2026: 7th IMS Asia Pacific-Rim Meeting**
w https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/

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

July 2026

ims 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

ims 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

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

July 2028

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

August 2028

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

August 2029

ims 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/

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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.

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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

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September 15, then **November 1**

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