



IMS

Bulletin

September 2026

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imstat.org/news



IMS Salzburg meeting

Arne Bathke writes: Our 2026 IMS Annual Meeting took place from 6 to 9 July in beautiful Salzburg, the picturesque Austrian city known as the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadé (Amadeus) Mozart and Christian Doppler, and as the setting of the “*Sound of Music*” story, as well as home of the renowned Salzburg Music Festival.

The 400 participants gathered at Salzburg Congress enjoyed excellent keynotes by Tilmann Gneiting (IMS Wald Lectures), Cun-Hui Zhang (Blackwell Lecture), Ian McKeague, Bodhisattva Sen, and Jelle Goeman (Medallion Award Lectures), as well as almost 300 other invited and contributed presentations. [See photos on page 4–5.]

This conference also marked the IMS presidential transition from Kavita Ramanan to Richard Samworth. In her presidential address [*in a Bulletin soon*], Kavita highlighted the many ways IMS can help its members, but also pointed out how IMS relies on members' input in order to best serve the scientific community. Kavita invited responses to a **short IMS member survey: scan this QR code to take part!**



IMS 2026 was organized by Kavita Ramanan (President), program committee members Genevera Allen (Statistics) and Remco Van der Hofstad (Probability), as well as local host Arne Bathke, with engaged on-site support by several team members from IMS and from Salzburg's Lab for Intelligent Data Analytics (IDA) and the University of Salzburg's graduate program in Data Science. Support was received from the City of Salzburg and the Federal State of Salzburg who jointly invited participants to a concert reception (with music by W. A. Mozart and his contemporary R. Hoffstetter) on the first evening, along with welcome remarks by representatives from city and state, as well as the Dean of the Faculty of Digital and Analytical Sciences.

Highlighting Salzburg's reputation as a city of music, the local hosts organized some musical treats for conference participants. Keynote lectures were opened by a live string quartet, consisting of musicians of the internationally acclaimed Camerata Salzburg orchestra. Many conference attendees said how much they enjoyed this part of the program, and how it helped create a highly focused atmosphere for the subsequent scientific lectures. You can listen to the set list: see the box, inset right.

The organizers are grateful for all the very kind feedback received during and after the conference!

Upcoming IMS Annual meetings will take place in Chicago (at the JSM, 8–12 August, 2027) and Singapore (Bernoulli–IMS World Congress, 24–28 July, 2028).

Musical interludes at the IMS 2026 meeting

Johann Sebastian Bach: BWV 1080 Contrapunctus 1

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart: KV 80 Rondeau

Giacomo Puccini: SC 65 Crisantemi and SC 61

Minuetto No.2

Max Reger after Johann Sebastian Bach BWV 622:

Chorale Transcription “O Mensch, bewein Dein Sünde...”

Franz Schubert: D.89, 5 deutsche Tänze, Tanz No.1

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart: KV 546 Adagio und Fuge
 And songs from “*The Sound of Music*” also featured!

Listen on Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/imstat2026>

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IMS Members' News

2026 C.R. Rao Birthday Lecture given by Soumendra Lahiri

Soumendra Lahiri, the Stanley A. Swayer Professor in Mathematics & Statistics at Washington University in Saint Louis, USA, will deliver an online talk in honor of the late C.R. Rao's birthday on September 10, 2026 (at noon, Eastern US time). This online Zoom event is the third 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 Peter X. Song, Pharmacia Research Professor of Biostatistics, University of Michigan, USA. The Zoom link is bit.ly/4btkNGC. If you are reading this after the event you'll find a recording on the Information Geometry Analysis YouTube channel.

Noel Cressie receives 2026 NISS Jerome Sacks Award

Distinguished Professor **Noel Cressie** at the University of Wollongong (UOW), Australia, has been awarded the 2026 Jerome Sacks Award from the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) in the USA. The Sacks Award recognizes sustained, high-quality cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences.

Noel is Director of UOW's Centre for Environmental Informatics in the National Institute for Applied Statistics Research Australia (NIASRA) and Distinguished Professor in the School of Mathematics and Physics at the University of Wollongong, Australia. He is also an Affiliate at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Missouri in the Department of Statistics and Data Science. His cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences, includes global CO₂ flux, regional climate, sea surface temperature, air pollution, disease mapping, ocean biogeochemical cycles, soil carbon dynamics, glacier movement, and river pollution.

Noether awards at JSM

The American Statistical Association's 2026 Gottfried E. Noether Awards were presented at JSM to **Runze Li** (Noether Distinguished Scholar Award) and to **Pragya Sur** and **Arun Kuchibhotla** (Noether Early Career Scholar Awards)



L–R: Pragya Sur, Runze Li, Arun Kuchibhotla

David R. Cox Foundations of Statistics award

This ASA award honors the contributions of David R. Cox to the foundations of statistical inference, experimental design, and data analysis. Award winner **Peter McCullagh** presented a lecture on *What is a regression model?* at JSM Boston.



Peter McCullagh [right] with Ron Wasserstein

IMS Members' News

Candès awarded Shaw Prize

The Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences 2026 is awarded in equal shares to

Emmanuel Candès, the Barnum–Simons Chair in Mathematics and Statistics, Stanford University, USA and Camillo De Lellis, the IBM von Neumann Professor, School of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced Study, USA for their breakthrough contributions to the use of deep techniques from mathematical analysis to rigorously understand applied problems in information theory, signal processing and statistics on the one hand, and to the study of singularities in geometric measure theory and fluid dynamics on the other.

Emmanuel Candès has made seminal contributions at the intersection of pure and applied mathematics, using mathematical analysis to provide clear, rigorous and useful mathematical frameworks to everyday practical problems in information processing.

A major contribution of Candès (with Justin Romberg, Terence Tao, and David Donoho) is the development of compressed sensing, a new mathematical framework for reconstructing signals from incomplete measurements. The work has proven enormously impactful in signal processing, medical imaging, and statistics. The key insight was that one can massively undersample, and despite so much missing data, still reconstruct. A non-commutative analogue of compressed sensing (developed with Benjamin Recht and Tao) allowed Candès to reconstruct low-rank matrices from partial entries. This work had significant impact in machine learning and data science. Candès (with his student Carlos Fernandez-Granda) developed a mathematical theory of superresolution, allowing one to reconstruct high-resolution signals from low-resolution measurements. The approach used by Candès connected this problem with classical work in mathematical analysis by Beurling in his theory of minimal extrapolation.

Candès (with his postdoc Rina Foygel Barber) introduced a new filter that can reduce the false recovery rate in statistics, which has the potential to have the same impact in statistics as compressed sensing has had in recent years in image processing. Compressed sensing transformed signal processing by reconstructing from small amounts of data.

Emmanuel Candès was born in 1970 in Paris, France and is currently the Barnum–Simons Chair in Mathematics and Statistics, Stanford University, USA. He received his Bachelor's degree from the École Polytechnique, France in 1993, and a PhD in Statistics from Stanford University in 1998. After serving as Assistant Professor of Statistics at Stanford (1998–2000), he joined the California Institute of Technology in 2000, where he was successively appointed as Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor from 2000 to 2006, as well as Ronald and Maxine Linde Professor of Applied and Computational Mathematics (2006–11). He returned to Stanford in 2009 as Professor of Mathematics and Statistics. He was chair of the Department of Statistics (2016–18) and has been the Barnum–Simons Chair in Mathematics and Statistics since 2012. He is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Emmanuel Candès was one of the winners of the 2026 Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences

🔗 = 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/aopap>

Statistical Science: Lutz Dümbgen
<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

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: Victor Rivero
 🔗 <http://alea.impa.br/english/index.htm>

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/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, Andrew Spieker
 🔗 <https://obs.pennpress.org/>

Probability and Mathematical Statistics:
 Krzysztof Bogdan, Krzysztof Debicki
 🔗 <http://www.math.uni.wroc.pl/~pms/>

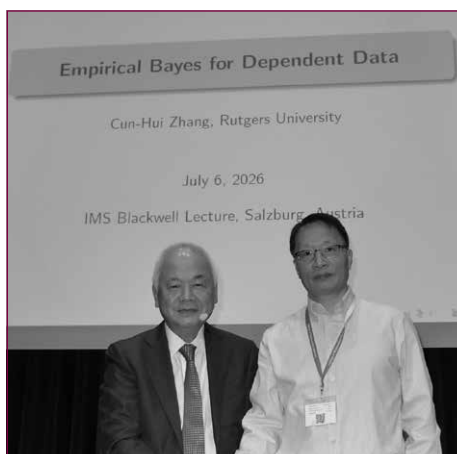
Stochastic Systems: Rami Atar
 🔗 <https://pubsonline.informs.org/journal/stsy>

IMS Salzburg meeting in pictures

On these pages you can see a few photo highlights from the 2026 IMS annual meeting in Salzburg, Austria, as mentioned in local organizer Arne Bathke's report on the cover. The IMS meeting was immediately followed by the BFF meeting; see page 7.



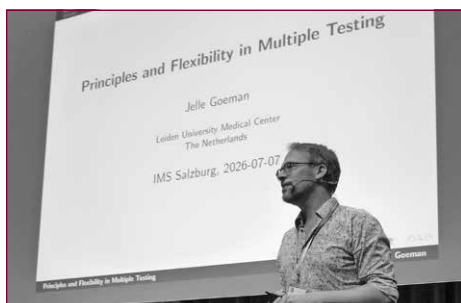
Wald lecturer Tilmann Gneiting receiving his plaque from Kavita Ramanan



Blackwell lecturer Cun-Hui Zhang with Tony Cai



Kavita Ramanan encouraged everyone at the meeting (and you too!) to fill in a short survey about IMS activities. You can access it via this QR code or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IMSQ>



Medallion lecturer Jelle Goeman



Medallion lecturer Ian McKeague [right] with Richard Samworth



Medallion lecturer Bodhisattva (Bodhi) Sen [right] with Richard Samworth



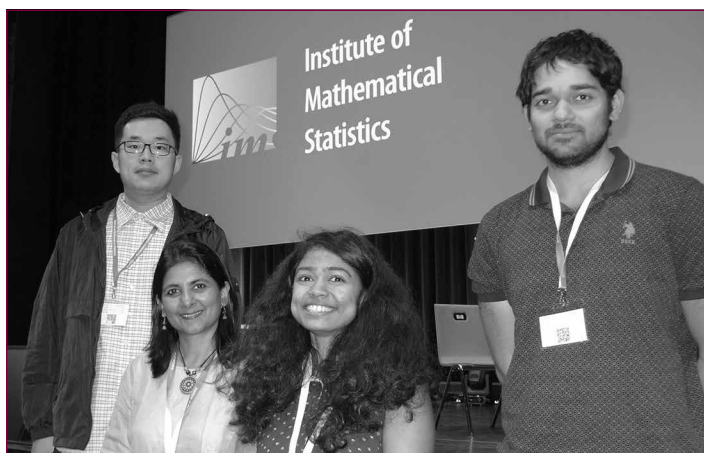
Yuting Wei, the 2026 Peter Hall Early Career Prize winner, with Kavita Ramanan and Annie Qu



Five new Fellows, with IMS President: Jian Kang, Kim-Anh Do, Bharath Sriperumbudur, Kavita Ramanan, Gabor Lugosi, Mia Hubert



Conference attendees were treated to a recital featuring a medley of songs from *The Sound of Music*, and some more traditional Austrian music, during the banquet



Three of the IMS Travel Award winners were at the meeting: Qilong Lu, (Kavita), Shubhangi Ghosh, Rajdeep Brahma



The Camerata Salzburg string quartet opened the keynote sessions



Coffee break conversations at the Salzburg Congress



The IMS Executive Committee for 2026–27, left–right: Executive Secretary Peter Hoff, Past President Kavita Ramanan, President Richard Samworth, President-elect Xihong Lin, Program Secretary Annie Qu, and Treasurer Jiashun Jin [inset]

Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston



Wahba lecturer Jane-Ling Wang [left] with Xihong Lin

IMS photo highlights from JSM Boston, August 1–6, 2026. The program included the IMS Grace Wahba lecture by **Jane-Ling Wang** [left, with Xihong Lin], and three IMS Medallion lectures, by **David Blei** [right, with Aaron Schein], **Lester Mackey** [below left], and **Genevera Allen** [below right]. There was also a luncheon for the **Zelen Award winners** [below center].



Medallion lecturer David Blei [left] with Aaron Schein



Medallion lecturer Lester Mackey



Zelen Award luncheon [l–r]: Pragma Sur, Jingshen Wang, Richard Samworth [behind], Thelma Zelen, Yang Chen, Tianxi Cai



Medallion lecturer Genevera Allen

COPSS Awards ceremony at JSM

The Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) presented its annual awards at JSM Boston. **Weijie Su** received the COPSS Presidents' Award; **Larry Wasserman** gave the Distinguished Achievement Award and Lectureship; and **Amy Herring** received the 2026

Elizabeth L. Scott Award. The Emerging Leaders awards went to **Gwendolyn Eadie**, **Nhat Ho**, **Fan Li**, **Alex Luedtke**, **Xu Shi**, **Briana Stephenson**, **Linda Valeri**, and **Dootika Vats**. More in the next issue.



Larry Wasserman gave the DAAL lecture



Weijie Su received the Presidents' Award



Amy Herring [right] with Elizabeth Stuart



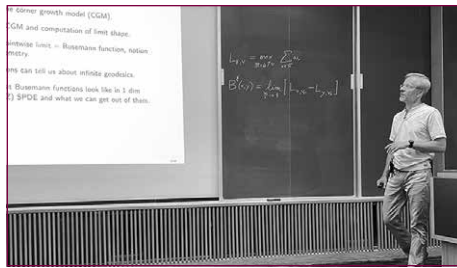
Emerging Leaders Nhat Ho, Fan Li, Alex Luedtke, Xu Shi, Briana Stephenson, Linda Valeri, and Dootika Vats

45th Conference on Stochastic Processes & their Applications

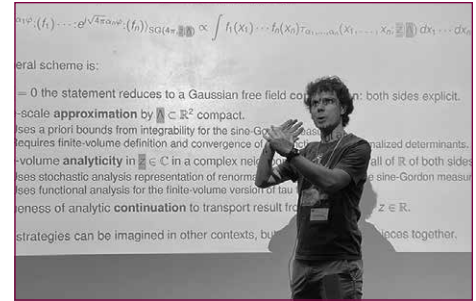
The 45th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications was held in Ithaca, New York, June 14–20. The program featured a Medallion lecture by **Philip Ernst**, the Schramm lecture by **Roland Bauerschmidt**, and the Doob lecture by **Timo Seppäläinen**. **Ofer Zeitouni**, professor at the Weizmann Institute of Science and NYU Courant Institute, was awarded the 2026 Paul Lévy Prize in Probability Theory during the conference. For more on the Lévy Prize see <https://www.polytechnique.edu/en/press-room/press-releases/mathematician-of-er-zeitouni-professor-weizmann-institute-science-and-nyu-courant-institute-awarded>.



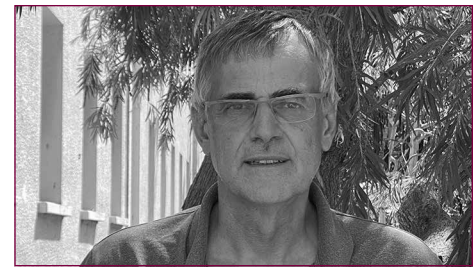
Laurent Saloff-Coste (left) congratulates Philip Ernst



Doob lecturer Timo Seppäläinen



Roland Bauerschmidt gave the Schramm lecture



Lévy Prize winner Ofer Zeitouni

Bayesian, Fiducial and Frequentist 10th meeting

BFF community meets in Salzburg for 10th Anniversary Conference

Arne Bathke and Minge Xie report: Directly following the 2026 IMS Annual Meeting in Salzburg's Congress House, the 10th edition of the BFF conference series on Bayesian, Fiducial, and Frequentist Statistics took place at the University of Salzburg on 10 and 11 July 2026 (<https://bffconference.github.io/bff-salzburg-2026/index.html>). Chaired by Arne Bathke (Department of Artificial Intelligence and Human Interfaces, Salzburg) and Minge Xie (Department of Statistics, Rutgers), the conference brought together around 70 established statisticians, as well as aspiring young researchers from around the world.

BFF10 started on Thursday evening with a pre-conference aperitif overlooking Salzburg's old town from Mönchsberg Hill, setting the stage for two days of lively academic exchange. The scientific program began on Friday morning and featured nine invited sessions, as well as two keynote lectures by Peter Grünwald and Richard Samworth. Peter Grünwald from CWI and Leiden University opened the conference with “E-Values and BFF: they should be BFF!”, and Richard Samworth from the University of Cambridge (and new IMS President) gave the second keynote on “Outrigger Local Polynomial Regression”.

In his insightful and entertaining presentation, “Celebrating the 10th BFF Conference”, Xiao-Li Meng from Harvard

University also highlighted the historical development and the ongoing relevance of the BFF series. The dinner speech by Peter Bühlmann emphasized that statisticians should not just “play in the backyard” (based on Tukey's famous quote); rather, he argued, it would be highly appropriate for statisticians to be actively visible in the front yard.

Several young researchers were not only presenting their research at BFF10, but also competing for a poster award. The BFF10 poster jury, consisting of Thorsten Dickhaus (Bremen), Robin Gong (Rutgers), and Solomon Harrar (Kentucky), had the very difficult task of selecting three winners from among the excellent entries. Ultimately, the three outstanding contributions by Kai Schärer (Salzburg), Adriana Gonzalez Sanchez (Cincinnati), and Dennis Christensen (Oslo) were each awarded a BFF10 poster prize that came with a generous cash award thanks to our gold sponsor NGL (nvgl.ai). Additionally, every poster presenter could pick a statistics book, kindly donated by Springer and Cambridge University Press.

The organizers are grateful to all speakers, participants, and supporters who contributed to the 10th anniversary BFF meeting in Salzburg, and we hope that Bayesian, Fiducial, and Frequentist statisticians will remain BFFs for many more years to come. BFF11 will be hosted by the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.



New Researchers Group news

Armeen Taeb reports on some recent IMS New Researchers Group activities.

New Researchers Conference in Asia: Following the success of the 1st European New Researchers Conference, the 1st Asian New Researchers Conference was held in Hong Kong on June 17–18, 2026, immediately after the IMS-APRM 2026 meeting, and in conjunction with the HKU 2026 Summer Workshop on Statistics and Data Analytics. The first day featured talks by invited senior researchers; the second included a talk by Professor Tony Cai [*above right*], and short presentations, posters, networking, and panels on publishing, grants, collaboration, and mentoring for early-career researchers. The panelists included Jiguo Cao, Aurore Delaigle, Jian Huang, Linglong Kong, Hongtu Zhu, Xi Chen, and Rongfeng Sun. The event attracted approximately 60 junior researchers [*see group picture, right*]. More on the meeting at <https://sites.google.com/uw.edu/inrc-asia/>.



Tony Cai's talk



Attendees at the first Asian New Researchers Conference



Conversations between new researchers and mentors

Bernoulli–IMS New Researchers Mixer at the IMS Annual Meeting:

Together with the Bernoulli Young Researchers' Committee, we organized a joint reception for students and early-career researchers at the IMS Annual Meeting. We had nine senior mentors who led “mentoring tables” labeled with specific conversation topics to help guide casual discussions with junior faculty, postdocs, and students. The seniors who kindly served as mentors were Peter Bühlmann, Mathias Drton, Zijian Guo, Liza Levina, Gabor Lugosi, Kavita Ramanan, Nancy Reid, Cindy Rush, and Richard Samworth. This event engaged in total 40 young researchers.

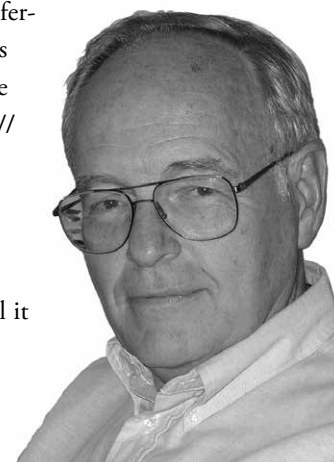
Tom Kurtz award lecture

We are pleased to announce a new award and lecture in memory of Thomas G. Kurtz. The winner of the biennial award will deliver the **Tom Kurtz invited plenary lecture** at the co-sponsored **Stochastic Networks** conference, which Kurtz co-founded to bring together mathematicians and applied researchers. Honoring this vision, the awardee will be an active researcher whose work explores emerging directions at the interface of mathematical theory and real-world applications for stochastic networks. Tom's obituary is at: <https://imstat.org/2025/07/16/obituary-thomas-g-kurtz-1941-2025/>.

Donate to the award fund

We welcome your donations to this new fund. **Contributions by credit card** can be made via <https://imstat.org/shop/donation/>. If you wish to **donate by check**, please print out the form, and mail it together with payment to: IMS, 9760 Smith Road, Waite Hill OH 44094, USA.

Per USA Internal Revenue Code Section 170, a contribution to the IMS is considered a charitable contribution and is tax deductible under US tax laws.



Wendell Fleming Probability PhD Thesis award

The Wendell H. Fleming Probability PhD Thesis Award is given for an outstanding dissertation in any area of probability, including foundational mathematical work and applications, including interdisciplinary applications of probability in other fields. This prize has been established to encourage creative and impactful research and high-quality exposition by junior members of the community, and to highlight their contributions.

The Award consists of a certificate or plaque with citation, and a cash honorarium. Recipients will be recognized at the IMS Awards ceremony. The student winner may be given an opportunity to present their work at an invited session at an IMS sponsored or co-sponsored meeting, if they choose to attend these (the IMS will not cover registration or travel to that conference).

To be eligible for the 2027 award:

1. The applicant must have completed their PhD in 2026 or 2027.
2. This work must not have been selected as a finalist in a previous IMS PhD thesis or other IMS research paper competition, excluding travel awards.
3. The applicant must be an IMS member.

For details of the **submission process**, please see <https://imstat.org/ims-awards/wendell-h-fleming-probability-phd-thesis-award/>

The submission deadline is July 1, 2027, with decisions made by October 1.

Wendell H. Fleming (1928–2023) was the University Professor of Applied Mathematics and Mathematics at Brown University. He was an eminent probabilist and mathematician who made fundamental contributions to multiple fields, including stochastic processes, stochastic control, differential games, the calculus of variations and geometric measure theory.



His *IMS Bulletin* obituary appears at <https://imstat.org/2026/06/28/obituary-wendell-fleming-1928-2023/>

Contributions to the fund are welcome!

To donate, please visit <https://imstat.org/contribute-to-the-ims/>

IMS Fund Supporting International Meetings in Probability, Statistics and Allied Areas (SIMPSAA)



The Institute of Mathematical Statistics is committed to supporting the probability, statistics, and data science communities worldwide. This initiative seeks to establish an IMS fund that provides funding support for workshops, meetings, and schools in these subjects in under-resourced regions of the world.

The IMS will set aside funds up to USD 30k per year, initially. Funds may be used to support a series of workshops over 2–3 years or a one-off workshop. Funding will be allocated only to compelling programs that demonstrate the funds will be put to good use.

The IMS is particularly interested in supporting individuals. IMS funds can be used for a person's travel and accommodation only if the person is an IMS member, unless under exceptional circumstances. IMS membership is free for students, and reduced for recent graduates and those living in developing countries.

Organizers should prominently advertise the IMS in their meeting, and encourage participants to become IMS members; an explanation of how they will do so will be an important part of the application and factored into the decision-making, in addition to scientific criteria. Organizers who receive funding for an event will be required to send a brief post-activity report within a month of the conference's completion, outlining precisely how the funds were used, how the IMS was advertised at the conference, and including any quotes from students and speakers about how they benefited from the conference. If funding is granted for a conference series, subsequent funding may be predicated on the proper use of funds from the previous meeting and the timely submission of a report. Organizers may be invited to share their activities by writing an article in the *IMS Bulletin*.

To apply for this fund you need to complete the application form linked from <https://imstat.org/ims-awards/simpsaa/> providing sufficient information for the committee to assess its impact. There will be two application deadlines (**February 28 and August 31**) per year for workshops, meetings, and schools to be held within 6–15 months. Decisions will be made within 1–2 months of the application deadline for that cycle.

Contributions to the SIMPSAA fund are welcome! To make a donation, please visit <https://imstat.org/contribute-to-the-ims/>

Takis Tackles On Teaching, Research, and the Curious Rise of the All-Administrative University

Takis Konstantopoulos, University of Liverpool, contributes a short meditation on how we became data points:

Over the years I have written in these pages about teaching, learning, and the curious ways in which mathematics and statistics evolve inside universities. I would like to return to that theme, because something rather disturbing has been happening—in many countries—and it has been accelerating noticeably over the last ten to 15 years.

I have spent my life wandering through probability and mathematics, meeting the same familiar characters everywhere: curious, stubborn, mathematically honest people who simply want to understand something. But everywhere I look now, I find the same apparatus: dashboards, metrics, alignment rituals—an administrative ecosystem that appears to reproduce without external input. The late David Graeber would have had a field day with the contemporary university. His book *Bullshit Jobs* (2018) describes bureaucracies that expand for their own sake; the resemblance to academic life is uncanny.

But the machinery does more than expand; it influences and often distorts the way we work. It behaves in the classic McLuhan manner [see McLuhan, M., 1964. *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*. McGraw-Hill]: the medium shapes the message (content is decorative), usually without announcing its intentions. This applies beautifully to education. When teaching is mediated through administratively designed, content-vacuous pedagogy, learning-management systems, regulations, and reports, the content becomes optional; what truly matters is that the boxes are ticked and the dashboard turns green. Mathematics, which thrives on thinking, understanding, conceptual leaps, and the

occasional productive confusion, is squeezed into learning outcomes, rubrics, and aligned assessments. The medium rewards neatness and penalizes depth. A proof does not fit easily into a rubric—although one suspects someone, somewhere, is working on it.

This is not a uniquely British phenomenon. Colleagues in the US, Australia, and Europe report the same pressures: recruitment targets, student-satisfaction scores, “value for money,” and the general idea that education should be smooth, predictable, and measurable. Mathematics, unfortunately, is none of these things. It’s lumpy, uneven, surprising, and occasionally difficult. It requires time and, above all, maturity.

Terence Tao recently spoke about AI and mathematical maturity (<https://teorth.github.io/tao-web/ai-views.html> [Part IV]). I agree with him. AI can be a useful tool—but only if the user already has a sense of what is true, what is plausible, and what is nonsense. Without that maturity, AI becomes a shortcut to nowhere. In many universities, students never quite reach the point of maturity we hope for, because the curriculum has been thinned to the point of vocational training. Courses with depth are quietly retired in favor of courses with “throughput.” In certain universities, faculty are even required to certify—before the exam is sat—that the average will lie between 55% and 68%. It is a curious inversion of probability: the distribution is fixed, and the teaching must adjust itself accordingly.

Many of us have observed the following structural issues. These are not complaints; they are simply features of the landscape.

First, **metric-driven teaching**. Departments are evaluated on **satisfaction**, **progression**, **recruitment**, and **value for**

money. These incentives naturally push toward trivial vocational courses, without surprises, and with assessments that are simply performative. The solution for many—perfectly acceptable to administrators—is that they end up *teaching about mathematics* rather than teaching mathematics itself. A few years ago, while teaching calculus, I was asked—by a mathematician with an administrative title—to justify the course in terms of its **employability benefits**. It is a remarkable way to think about a subject that has shaped the entire scientific world.

Second, **divide and conquer**. Instead of cultivating a mathematical community—colloquia, reading groups, informal discussions, the occasional argument over coffee—the institution creates a steady stream of meetings between the head administrator and a rotating subset of subordinates. Everyone is kept separately busy, absorbed in **reporting cycles**, **compliance tasks**, and the endless preparation of documents that no-one will ever read. Interaction is encouraged only in meetings whose purpose is to determine the **metrics of research output**, usually without any understanding of the research itself. The communal life of mathematics becomes thinner; people teach, mark, and go home. Yet once a year a university might invite a Nobel laureate or a Fields Medalist, as if to demonstrate its commitment to scholarship.

Third, **underprepared students**. This is a global issue. Students arrive in “advanced” courses without solid foundations in analysis, combinatorics, algebra, probability, or statistics. Many are bright and capable, but the pipeline has changed. When we maintain appropriate standards, we are sometimes told we are expecting too much. But mathematics—pure, applied, computational, statistical—has its own internal

logic; it does not bend easily. The subject is unforgiving in the best possible way: it demands clarity, structure, and genuine understanding, none of which can be supplied by policy.

Fourth, **administrative dominance**. Curriculum, assessment, and even the “tone” of feedback are increasingly dictated by people with no disciplinary background—a pattern of administrative control rather than academic judgment. This is not malice; it is simply the structure of the modern university. But it creates tension, because mathematics and statistics require **disciplinary judgment**. Uniformity across departments—mathematics and theology treated as pedagogical twins—is a charming idea, but a very silly one. It denies the intellectual structure of the disciplines themselves.

Fifth, **manufactured outcomes**. Universities increasingly expect exam results to fall within predetermined bands—a form of **pre-certified performance** that treats assessment as an exercise in **quality assurance** rather than a test of understanding.

In some institutions, staff are even asked to certify in advance the “expected average,” as though learning were a controlled industrial process. This pressure produces grade inflation, softened exams, and a quiet insistence that failure is a sign of poor teaching rather than a natural part of intellectual life. It is an approach rooted in managerial metrics rather than the realities of mathematical reasoning.

Finally, **erosion of research time**. Mathematicians need long, uninterrupted stretches of thought. Yet the modern university demands constant engagement: meetings, training modules, and endless forms. Research becomes something done in the margins.

What, then, should younger mathematicians and statisticians do? My advice is simple.

Understand that things have not always been this way. Maintain your integrity. Protect your research time. Resist the temptation to compromise standards. Seek out real intellectual community—inside or outside your institution. And remember

that mathematics is larger than any system that houses it.

I am not pessimistic. Mathematics and statistics have survived far worse than dashboards. They survive because people care about them, because they are beautiful, and because they are useful in ways that no metric can capture. The administrative university will continue to evolve, but the discipline will endure. As always, I welcome your thoughts. Our community is broad, international, and full of people who care deeply about teaching, research, and how each informs the other. If we keep talking to each other—honestly, without jargon or fear—then mathematics will be just fine. And perhaps we should also look upwards, not downwards: toward excellence rather than throughput. University leaders sometimes say that the problems are “political” and beyond their control. But part of their job, surely, is to explain to politicians why theoretical science matters. Abraham Flexner made this case beautifully in *The Usefulness of Useless Knowledge* (1939). It is a message worth repeating.

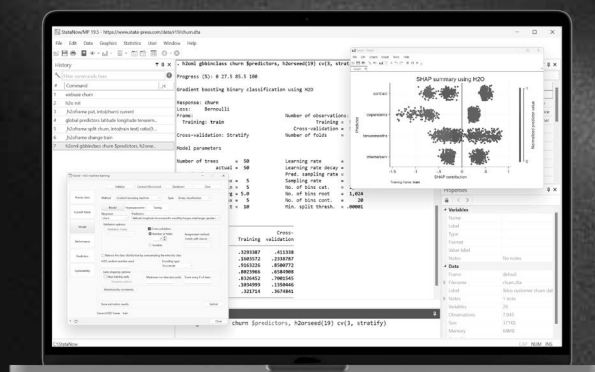
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Po-Ling Loh AI: From Competition to Collaboration

Our guest column is a call to action in this age of LLMs, from **Po-Ling Loh**, Professor at the University of Cambridge Statistical Laboratory. She explores the urgent threat that AI poses to mathematical statistics... and proposes a solution that *could* lead us from competition to collaboration.

AI has driven a dagger through our scientific profession. This is now irrefutable: Three months ago, debates were still taking place about whether ChatGPT was good enough to solve research-level math problems. Maybe it was just combinatorics or number theory on the chopping block, while mathematical statistics would remain relatively safe due to an enlightened combination of human-inspired, science-driven insight. Could AI actually be utilized effectively to check proofs, while the process of mathematical formalization lags behind? We now see examples announced every week showing that state-of-the-art LLMs can indeed be harnessed to make substantial progress on theoretical problems in all areas of mathematics. And if you are still a skeptic, I encourage you to find a friend with a GPT Pro account and ask it a question you are pretty sure AI can't answer, and be astounded by the response.

I chanced upon the power of AI tools for math research in mid-April, soon after GPT-5.5 was released. I had previously spent at most two hours using GPT, despite starting a \$20/month subscription last summer: When I used GPT-5.3 to assist me with proving a lemma in February, I found it helpful in rapidly reducing my search space and impressive in its knowledge of what I felt were esoteric topics in my field. However, GPT made silly mistakes, declaring that a convex function was concave, and proceeding to “prove” the opposite inequality that I wanted. Nonetheless, after several iterations, GPT helped me craft a proof that might have otherwise taken a week. When I realized that GPT-5.5 was so much better, compounded with the public announcement of GPT's solution to an Erdős problem in mid-May¹, I was initially alarmed. However, my alarm quickly transitioned to reassurance: Although my path to becoming a professor was motivated by the thrill of doing math research, if research were phased out of my profession, I would still derive a fair amount of satisfaction from teaching—and there will always be a need to educate the next generation of students, even if the form of that education may be overhauled by LLMs.

Nonetheless, my complacency soon yielded to deep unease. Something I take as seriously as my personal engagement in research is mentoring students and postdocs. Junior researchers who have worked with me can attest that I go to great lengths to explore all the paths a mentee might take and carefully discuss the

options with them, before accompanying them down the path they ultimately choose. What goals should a student or postdoc be setting in this new era? In May, GPT-5.5 made it incredibly easy to generate new, complex, rigorous, mathematically sophisticated papers in a matter of days. By July, GPT-5.6 was accelerating the process to a matter of hours or even minutes. In the academic world, where evaluation metrics are defined by publication speed and volume (subject to appropriate quality standards), would we soon be seeing the bar for paper acceptance rise infinitely high? And would the need to compete on such massively accelerated timescales necessitate reliance on premium AI tools, creating a sense of despair and futility as we attempt to compete with machines? The fact that I could not envision a future path for my mentees in academic research gnawed at me in a way that even an unsolved math problem could not.

I began to talk to more people—at Cambridge, outside Cambridge, in statistics, in pure math, and applied math. I tried to ascertain what plans were taking shape within the IMS, first regarding AI policies in publications (since the conversation in the Cambridge math community, perhaps heavily influenced by the Leiden Declaration², centered around the fact that we need to save the ethics of our field)—and then more broadly, about long-term plans that could help us survive in light of AI. I met sympathy, concern, and despair, but a disappointing lack of zeal for action. My original suggestion was to have an open, distinctly multigenerational discussion about the effect of AI on our field in the statistics community³, in which young researchers could play a critical role in shaping whatever new policies we might develop. Even if it takes time to develop sound policies, I think we do our junior researchers a disservice by pretending that the status quo is possible and everything is under control. Instead, should we not create a space for the exceptionally creative individuals in our community to exchange ideas about how to save our field?

In late July, I co-organized a small statistics workshop in the Black Forest, where I led a discussion on AI. How much has AI been affecting people's workflows, and where do we think we are

¹ See the announcement here: <https://openai.com/index/model-disproves-discrete-geometry-conjecture/>

² The Leiden Declaration (<https://leidendeclaration.ai>) was released on June 2, 2026.

³ Perhaps like this Town Hall discussion: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2601.17510> which is now somewhat outdated.

headed? I was surprised by two things: nearly everyone used AI frequently, and, despite this, most people classified themselves as optimists. However, during the discussion, it became evident that nobody, even the optimists, had a plan. Many people assumed it was just a matter of time before the journals or statistics societies adopted new guidelines about ethics and evaluation. When I told them that there were scant plans in the works, the response was that “someone higher up” should take action. I pointed out that our group of discussants included influential statisticians—if not us, then who?

“Hope is not a plan, and nostalgia is not mentorship”—Ken Ono

As I broadened my search of what other mathematical communities are doing about AI (the SIAM community had a discussion about the impact of AI at their main conference in July⁴), I came across the opening lines of an address by Ken Ono, a prominent number theorist and mathematical influencer, to the National Academy of Sciences⁵. He was recently appointed to head a committee to plan the future of math in light of advances in AI. In the address, he talks about how our PhD students entered one profession and are graduating in another, and we have a responsibility to the next generation to help plan and shape the field. This greatly resonated with me, and I reached out to Ken (I knew him from when I was in high school and he was an assistant professor at UW-Madison, but I had not spoken to him in at least 12 years).

I was hoping the conversation with Ken would generate some actionable solutions. However, Ken told me that in his opinion, the best way to train current math PhD students would be to encourage them to explore other fields and expose them to non-academic careers. He predicted that in the next three to five years, theoretical math research would be reduced to a small fraction, and the remaining academics would function more like humanities researchers, expositing the beauty and truth of mathematical arguments rather than working actively on proof generation. He assured me, however, that there are other areas of the applied sciences which cannot be “solved” by AI, hence there are other academic fields one could certainly pivot toward where real human-led research would continue to happen.

I agree that other areas of science exist for which AI serves as an increasingly powerful, incredibly helpful tool rather than an existential threat. Perhaps changing the direction of one’s profession toward these areas is the easiest, cleanest solution. However, my



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own previous attempts to engage in more applied areas of statistics have always led to me gravitating back toward theory. If I were to pivot away from my current profession in mathematics, there are several non-academic professions I would more eagerly embark on than remaking myself as an applied scientist. Many of my current and former group members, and others in my direct collaboration network, are similarly passionate about their research due to the abstract, problem-solving aspects. So where does one go from here?

In light of these countless conversations, and in the absence of having found any solutions, I would like to propose a radical one of my own. It is a proposal that gives me a glimmer of hope for a future where the problem-solvers among us have not been forced to jump from a rapidly sinking ship, but have been steered into a safer harbor.

A new publication model

What if we were to create a new publication model that *proactively incentivizes human collaboration*? While LLMs have a dizzying ability to solve math problems and improve upon existing work, many mathematicians left alone with an LLM—without the external pressure of publication or competition—actually find the process of making rapid advances on a research problem exciting and exhilarating. The issue is when one must package these investigations into a paper, knowing that someone else could “one-shot” and strictly improve the paper within a few hours, with the help of an LLM. However, an integral part of one’s experience as a mathematician comes in communicating, discussing, and unpacking the ideas underlying a proof⁶. An interesting idea that one researcher may have generated (possibly with the help of an LLM) would be received enthusiastically by other researchers in the same sub-community, and subsequent discourse would serve to refine the result. Rather than accepting a new reality where researchers are disincentivized to share their work publicly through an arXiv posting or research talk prior to publication, we could **purposely excise speed and competition from the research pipeline**, thereby stemming the cutthroat competition that threatens to engulf our field. In such an alternative reality, I believe mathematical joy, depth, and beauty

⁴ See the article here: <https://www.mathopt.org/events-and-discussions/1>

⁵ The opening paragraphs of Ken Ono’s address may be found here: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ken-ono-a972191a5_hope-is-not-a-plan-and-nostalgia-is-not-share-7485287590632271872-c6xu/

⁶ See Terry Tao’s ICM treatise here: <https://arxiv.org/html/2608.16753v1>

could continue to flourish.

We should not overlook the fact that the sharpening and improvement of research ideas by other human beings is entirely in peril⁷. Conventional peer review provides an avenue for other researchers to offer feedback on a paper. However, LLM usage is becoming increasingly prevalent in the revision process—a particularly alarming use of LLM vs. LLM has played out in the recent author rebuttal period for NeurIPS 2026. AI models tend to over-indulge a user's ego, and if we continue with the current publication models, it is becoming increasingly unlikely that an author would ever receive actual human feedback on a paper as part of the review process. Looking ahead, even if the mathematical abilities of an LLM may soon surpass those of an individual mathematician, we can hold onto hope that the collective skills of a *community* of mathematicians, collaborating together and assisted by LLMs, might achieve mathematical advances beyond what one human-directed AI system could discover.

There are elements of my idea already present in the community. From time to time, groups of researchers convene for topical workshops at institutes such as Oberwolfach, Dagstuhl, Bellairs, or the Simons Institute and collectively write papers that are a result of a productive week spent together. What if this became the norm? The Polymath Project, an experiment which was initiated in the pure math community almost 20 years ago, led to several breakthroughs in mathematics⁸—perhaps the arrival of LLMs will finally provide the impetus to revisit the idea in earnest. This model would eliminate the competition that has crept insidiously into our field over the past few months and indeed enhance the importance of proper mathematical communication and the development of deeper understanding, which everyone agrees is the human aspect of mathematics that LLMs are less likely to replace.

Practically speaking, the new publication model I am proposing would only consider papers that are a collaboration of enough experts in a sub-area. The papers would be lightly reviewed by researchers in another area, simply to evaluate the significance of the development to the wider statistics community. An individual area would only submit a paper after agreeing that it contained a truly new, important result, thus also stemming the overabundance of papers that is threatening to overrun our field. In addition to in-person collaboration at targeted workshops, researchers could

post individual investigations on a platform such as arXiv, contact others to further develop ideas, and then only submit to these journals when there is enough collective agreement that a new idea is ready for “canonization.” A newcomer could break in by posting their work on the public platform, thus drawing attention from established researchers and announcing their presence.

With the cost of writing solid research papers rapidly plummeting toward zero, methods for evaluating job applicants and early-career researchers will require major changes. One viewpoint held at present is that strong reference letters from experts are more meaningful than publication counts. Notably, strong evaluation letters could naturally arise for researchers engaging in my proposed publication paradigm. An additional important role of senior researchers who help support this model would be to advocate for junior researchers participating in these collaborations when making hiring or evaluation decisions at their institutions. We might also consider adopting requirements for authors to explicitly specify their roles in developing the work, as is common in the life sciences⁹.

What I have laid out may not be a perfect solution, but I have not found another tenable proposal, despite my best efforts. Echoing the thesis of this article, I believe the best solutions are the result of collaborative efforts, and **welcome comments, amendments, and suggestions**. I hope that this article begins a broader community-wide conversation that I think is absolutely crucial, and also largely overdue.

Acknowledgments

The author is extremely grateful for feedback from Renan Gross, Varun Jog, Laurentiu Marchis, Ankit Pensia, Garvesh Raskutti, Johannes Schmidt-Hieber, Andre Wibisono, and Shuheng Zhou for critical comments on this article, which have led to a more polished and coherent strategy.

Share your thoughts and ideas

What do you think of Po-Ling's idea? Would it work? Do you have your own ideas to share? Get in touch with Po-Ling (pll28@cam.ac.uk) and/or with us (bulletin@imstat.org) to continue the conversation.



⁷ See the (non-academic) New York Times article on human interactions being replaced with chatbots: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/14/magazine/ai-chatbots-internet-communication-loops.html>

⁸ <https://www.nature.com/articles/461879a.pdf> and <https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/1978942.1979213> contain interesting insights about the practicality of large-scale collaborative models

⁹ See the Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT) guidelines at <https://credit.niso.org>

Radu's Rides **The Vise of Urgency**

Radu Craiu writes:

Time is a strange instrument capable of doing many things to us, but if I had to choose its material impersonation, I would probably choose the accordion for a number of reasons. We all learned at some point that time can make us sing with joy or howl in pain, just like the accordion is, in many parts of the world, the musical instrument used in both weddings and funerals. And so are many others, you will correctly say. But time has also the strange tendency to dilate or contract, just like an accordion, making minutes seem like hours—and vice versa—for all sorts of reasons. Its speed is not the only aspect of time one gets to experience in a rich life. Just like the linearity of time seems to be abandoned in high pressure moments, the movement of the treble and bass follows the non-linearity imposed by the movement of the bellows. Whether the equations of your time wasted reading the previous paragraph match those of the instrument is anyone's guess, but my point is approximately made.

When choosing a job in academia, I dare venture to say that many of us have put in balance the value of time spent thinking of things we want to think about, against the depreciation of time spent thinking of things others tell us to think about. All this thinking got me dizzy, partly because things are not that simple. For one, that initial calculation ran out of truth merely a few years into my academic job. Committees, supervision, editorship duties, and my own inadequacy made it so that I was constantly seeking a moment of peace and quiet to think about my "stuff". In a typical Darwinian twist, I became a bit more efficient, so time seemed to dilate and all of a sudden, I had some room to breathe and congratulate myself on choosing the right career. Alas, a couple of ideas later I could recruit some students who filled

my spare time with the diligence one expects from young hungry minds whose lives depend on it. Again, pushed against the inexorable floating of the planets or the decay of my tired atoms (how do we decide what time it is anyway?), I had to increase my efficiency, or to better hide my inefficiencies. This tug-of-war against time has continued and my ability to adapt to it carried me over parenthood, professional ups and downs, and whatever came in between waking up and collapsing at the end of a day. But just like that accordion, my strategy has been adaptive, non-linear and far from perfect.

At the beginning of time—by which I mean 2001 when I started in my job—I used to make long-range plans. Conferences and visits were planned as early as possible, time chunks devoted to various research projects were carefully scheduled months in advance. I was taking walks devoted to thinking. More importantly, any extemporaneous professional request or life complication triggered a minor mental breakdown. Having to carefully reassemble that house of time-cards because my gas pipe was leaking or my teeth were falling out was a calamity.

Fast forward 25 years and I barely recognize myself. Forget myself, I barely recognize my calendar. Not that it happens often, but I sometimes stop for a precious minute I don't have just to savour the disbelief. Like many readers of this column, I have stopped looking for a time of peace and quiet and learned to think on the go, usually as I walk into a meeting with collaborators or students. At some point I have been cured of the brain's short circuitry that used to happen when facing a large set of tasks that are temporally clustered. Now I watch in a somewhat detached manner the avalanche of things that need to be done by D-day (D stands for doom or deliverance, depending on how much coffee I've had)

and do what needs to be urgently done. Planning ahead happens rarely and only for things that usually concern other human beings still living in a paradisiac state where forethought is within reach.

Strangely enough, from time to time, the vise of urgency loosens, and I regain the optimism of yesteryear. And yet, instead of enjoying the smell of the roses, I recidivate. Perhaps it is that being busy is preferable to being idle; the latter may put ideas into my head, but they may not be statistical. Or maybe I know that if I wait long enough, someday I will look on today's crazy agenda as reasonable. Which I guess brings me to the last point, the most optimistic one in this Ride. Perhaps the metaphor of the accordion is about molding our abilities and expectations to fill and empty time as we see fit. It is our talents and coping mechanisms that make the hours sing victory songs or howl in defeat. And like an accordion that can never function with airless bellows, so we cannot let our days be without meaningful time, whatever that may mean.



Photo: Henri Manuel / Wikimedia Commons

OBITUARY: Fred Bookstein

1947–2026

Fred L. Bookstein, internationally renowned statistical scientist, morphometrician, and one of the most original quantitative thinkers of his generation, passed away on 20 June 2026. His death marks the loss of a scholar whose work reshaped the study of biological form and influenced disciplines ranging from anthropology and evolutionary biology to medical imaging and cognitive neuroscience.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1947, Fred's academic path was characteristically interdisciplinary. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from the University of Michigan in 1966, followed by a master's degree in sociology from Harvard University in 1971. He completed his PhD in statistics and zoology at the University of Michigan in 1977—a combination that foreshadowed the breadth and originality of his later work.

From 1977 to 1989, Fred served as a Research Scientist at Michigan's Center for Human Growth and Development, beginning a long period of pioneering research into craniofacial growth, biological shape variation, and quantitative anthropology. He later became Distinguished Research Scientist at Michigan, holding appointments across the Institute of Gerontology and the Biophysics Research Division. His landmark 1991 monograph, *Morphometric Tools for Landmark Data*, published by Cambridge University Press, remains foundational in the field he helped create.

Fred's contributions to morphometrics—the statistical analysis of biological form—were transformative. As his CV notes, “Fred L. Bookstein...is the principal creator of morphometrics, a new specialty that combines techniques of geometry, computer science, and mathematical biology with multivariate statistics in tools

for analysis of biological shape variation and shape difference.” His innovations shaped research across evolutionary and developmental biology, palaeontology, medical imaging, and neuroanatomy. He authored more than 300 publications, along with influential software systems such as Edgewarp and Edgewarp3D, developed with William D.K. Green. These tools played a central role in early work on brain mapping and the analysis of neuroimaging data. Even outside academia, Fred's originality was widely recognised; Douglas Martin's 1996 article in *The New York Times* on this brain-mapping work portrayed him as an unconventional mathematician whose ideas resonated far beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Fred's career was truly international. Beginning in 1999, he became a frequent visitor and later Professor of Morphometrics at the University of Vienna, where he influenced generations of anthropologists and quantitative biologists. From 2005 onward, he held appointments at the University of Washington as Professor of Statistics and Psychiatry and as Scientific Director of the Fetal Alcohol and Drug Unit, contributing major advances to the understanding of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

He also contributed to major interdisciplinary research, including work from 2003 to 2008 with Professor Brian Athey on the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Visible Human Project (UM-VHP), and later, on the DARPA “Virtual Soldier” Project, formally titled Core Development, Integration and Demonstration of the DARPA Virtual Soldier. This project, on which he collaborated with colleagues including myself, combined statistical modelling, biomedical imaging, and computational anatomy, reflecting Fred's ability



Fred Bookstein

to bring rigorous quantitative thinking to complex, large-scale scientific problems.

Fred was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1998, reflecting the global recognition of his scientific contributions. His intellectual interests were famously wide ranging, extending to the philosophy of quantitative inference (“Numbers and Reasons”), organismal systems biology, and the development of new visual languages for navigating large-scale biological imaging data.

Fred's long association with Leeds, and the Leeds Annual Statistical Research (LASR) Workshops, was deeply valued. I first met Fred in Leeds in 1987, having invited him following his seminal *Statistical Science* paper on Size and Shape. From that point onward, he became a regular speaker and an active participant at LASR for many years, contributing insight, humour, and intellectual energy—except in recent years when he was unable to attend. Our collaborations spanned several decades and covered topics including fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, shape analysis, bilateral symmetry, deformation methods, and a project to investigate the success of cleft palate surgery on the smile. Between 1996 and 2005, we visited him frequently at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where my wife Pavan and I came to know his wife Ede and enjoyed their warm hospitality. Fred, together with David Kendall, created the modern subject of statistical shape analysis, a field that continues to grow from their foundational ideas.

Continues on page 17

Fred Bookstein, 1947–2026:

Continued from previous page

In October 2024, Fred and his wife moved into assisted living as he began treatment for multiple myeloma. Even during this period, his intellectual curiosity remained undiminished. A close collaborator recalls that “he was probably working on many things even then, but one project we were pursuing together was exploring the usefulness of hyperbolic spaces for studying allometry, inspired by a theorem in Benz’s text.” In September 2025, at the workshop on Measuring Development and Evolution of Form at KLI Institute near Vienna, Fred contributed to what may have been his final public presentation. Although he could not attend in person, he joined remotely to help answer questions following a talk titled “A new approach to the analysis of allometry”. His colleague noted with admiration that, despite being confined to bed, “his voice and mind seemed as strong as ever.”

His final months reflected the same qualities that defined his entire career: intellectual generosity, curiosity without boundaries, and a mind that continued to illuminate new ideas even in the face of illness.

He is survived by his wife of more than fifty years, Ede, and by two daughters: Victoria (Torey) Bookstein of Berkeley and Amelia Kyazze of London. He also leaves three stepsons, Jan, Gregor and Peter Koso, together with nine grandchildren.

He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, students, and the international scientific community.

Selected references are listed at the online version.

*Written by Professor Kanti V. Mardia OBE,
University of Leeds*

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OBITUARY: Alexandr A. Borovkov

1931–2026

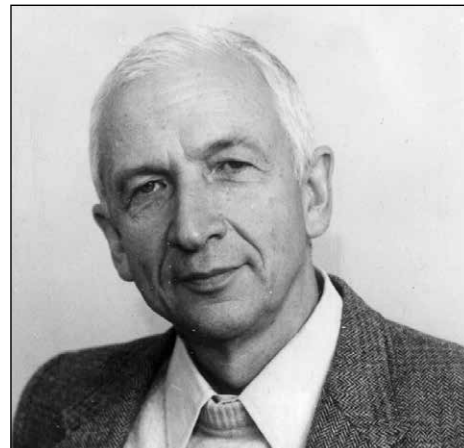
The probability community lost one of its foremost figures with the passing of Alexandr Alekseevich Borovkov on May 14, 2026. Over a scientific career spanning more than seven decades, Borovkov was one of the architects of modern asymptotic probability theory. His work transformed the study of random walks, large deviations, queueing theory, stochastic processes, and mathematical statistics. Through his research, influential books, and the internationally recognized school of probability that he established in Novosibirsk, he shaped the development of probability theory both in Russia and internationally.

Borovkov graduated from Moscow State University in 1954 and began his research under the guidance of A. N. Kolmogorov. His earliest work concerned boundary crossing problems for random walks, a subject that remained central throughout his career. In 1960 he joined the Institute of Mathematics in Novosibirsk (known as Sobolev IM since the early 1990s), where he spent the remainder of his professional life and played a central role in establishing Novosibirsk as one of the world’s leading centers for probability research.

Borovkov’s research transformed several central areas of probability. He developed powerful analytical methods for boundary crossing problems for random walks and stochastic processes, and established foundational results in the modern theory of large deviations—including the principle of moderate deviations—and made influential contributions to limit theorems, ergodicity, weak convergence, and mathematical statistics. His ideas continue to underpin much of modern asymptotic probability theory and its applications.

His scientific output comprised nearly 300 publications, including a remarkable collection of research monographs and textbooks. His books *Probability Theory* and *Mathematical Statistics* became standard texts for generations of students, while his research monographs on random walks, queueing theory, stochastic processes, and large deviations remain indispensable references for specialists. Borovkov’s influence extended far beyond his own research. He founded the Section of Probability Theory and Mathematical Statistics at Novosibirsk State University and created the internationally renowned Novosibirsk School of Probability Theory. Through his students, his celebrated weekly seminar, and his unwavering commitment to mathematical scholarship, he established an intellectual tradition that continues to flourish.

His achievements were recognized by numerous scientific honours. He was elected a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in 1966 and a Full Member (Academician) in 1990. Among many distinctions, he received the USSR State Prize (1979), the Government Prize of the Russian Federation for his university textbooks, the A. A. Markov Prize (2003), and the A.N. Kolmogorov Prize (2015). He was also an invited speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Moscow (1966) and Helsinki (1978). Beyond his research, Borovkov made lasting contributions to the



Alexandr Alekseevich Borovkov

Alexandr Borovkov, 1931–2026: Continued from previous page

mathematical community through his editorial work, founding *Siberian Advances in Mathematics* and *Mathematical Proceedings* and serving for many years as editor-in-chief, while also contributing to the editorial boards of numerous mathematical journals.

I was fortunate to meet Alexandr on many occasions: in Novosibirsk, at Oberwolfach, in France, and at conferences elsewhere. Wherever we met, he was always approachable, eager to discuss mathematics, and generous with his ideas. He had a remarkable ability to listen carefully to a problem and suggest a new perspective or an unexpected line of attack. Conversations with him

invariably left one with fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm. I also remember, with a smile, that he once beat me in a game of tennis.

Alexandr Borovkov will be remembered not only for his profound mathematical achievements but also for his generosity, intellectual curiosity, and unwavering dedication to mathematics. Through his discoveries, his books, and the generations of mathematicians he inspired, he helped shape modern probability theory. His legacy will endure wherever probability is studied.

Written by Takis Konstantopoulos, University of Liverpool

OBITUARY: Agnes Herzberg

1938–2026

Agnes Herzberg died in Kingston, Ontario on June 2, 2026, at the age of 87. She made important and wide-ranging contributions as a researcher, a promoter of statistics in science and public policy, and in professional service. In 1991–92 she served as the Statistical Society of Canada's first female president.

Agnes Margaret Herzberg was born on December 12, 1938 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Her parents, Gerhard Herzberg and Luise Oettinger, emigrated to Canada from Germany in 1935 to escape Nazi persecution. Both were physicists with PhDs and Gerhard became a professor at University of Saskatchewan. He and Luise had two children; Agnes' brother Paul (1936–2015; his obituary is at <https://imstat.org/2016/05/25/obituary-paul-herzberg-1936-2015/>) became a professor at York University in Toronto. In 1948 the family moved to Ottawa when Gerhard was appointed to the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), where, in 1971, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work in spectroscopy.

Following high school in Ottawa, Agnes did undergraduate studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, graduating

with a major in mathematics and minors in economics and political science. This was followed by graduate work under Norman Sklov at University of Saskatchewan. She received her PhD in 1966, and several papers from her thesis on response surfaces and rotatable designs were published in *The Annals of Mathematical Statistics*. Experimental design remained a major area of research for her during her career.

In February 1966, Agnes, who had been awarded an NRC Overseas Fellowship, began postdoctoral studies under David Cox at Birkbeck, University of London. In September 1966, Cox moved to the Department of Mathematics at Imperial College London (ICL) as Professor of Statistics. Agnes accompanied him and then in March 1968, ICL offered her a lecturer position in the Department, where she remained until 1988. During that period statisticians from all over the world visited ICL, and Agnes forged collaborations with many of them, including David Andrews, Peter Bickel, Norman Draper and Valerii Fedorov. Beyond her experimental design work, a particularly notable achievement was her 1985 book with David Andrews, entitled *Data: A Collection of Problems from*



Agnes Herzberg

Many Fields for the Student and Research Worker. The book provided data sets and background on their source in the days when such data were not widely available. The data sets have been widely cited and used for teaching and for research on statistical methodology.

In 1988 Agnes returned to Canada as a Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Queen's University, retiring in 2004. While at Queen's she continued working in design but also found inspiration from mathematics colleagues. One of her notable publications was a 2007 paper with Ram Murty on the mathematics of Sudoku: "Sudoku squares and chromatic polynomials."

Agnes was passionate about the importance of statistics to science, society and public policy. In 1992, Queen's University acquired Herstmonceux Castle in southern England through a donation, and Agnes had the inspiration for a conference at the castle on Statistics, Science and Public Policy (SSPP). The first of what would

Continues on page 19

Agnes Herzberg, 1938–2026: Continued from previous page

become an annual series of three-day meetings at Herstmonceux was in April 1996. Over the years the meetings included statisticians, scientists of all types, historians, journalists, high-ranking public servants, diplomats, high court judges, and legislators (including the Speaker in Canada's House of Commons). Agnes was the driving force behind each meeting, dealing with everything from fundraising, the program, the editing and publishing of the proceedings, to conference logistics.

As a lover of classical music, Agnes decided to have one evening at the meetings with an intimate concert for attendees. Among her wide circle of friends were musicians and music teachers, who brought her into contact with prominent artists. A frequent performer was Angela Hewitt, the famous Canadian pianist, who became a close friend. Other performers included the Canadian opera star Gerald Finley and the Medici String Quartet. Agnes also commissioned a chamber opera, ultimately named *The Pencil Salesman*, for the Westben Arts Festival in Campbellford, Ontario. It was created by Westben's artistic director Brian Finley, a cousin of Gerald Finley, and had its world premiere on June 25, 2016, with

an international cast.

Agnes had a strong commitment to professional service. In addition to roles in the SSC, she served on the Royal Statistical Society's council. She was an associate editor for *Biometrika*, *The Annals of Statistics*, *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference* and *Canadian Journal of Statistics*. From 1980 to 2006 Agnes was Editor of the International Statistical Institute's *Short Book Reviews*; she was a tireless promoter of books on statistics and during this period around 2,500 books were reviewed. She and David Hand co-edited a collection of David Cox's papers.

Agnes received numerous honours, including fellowships in the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2008 she was made a Specially Elected Fellow of The Royal Society of Canada. She was awarded the International Statistical Institute's Henri Willem Methorst Medal for service and in 1999 received the SSC's Distinguished Service Award. In 2007 the SSC named her an Honorary Member. In 2014 she won the SSC's Lise Manchester Award "for bringing together statisticians,

scientists, politicians and public servants from Canada and around the world annually since 1996 to tackle problems at the intersection of statistics, science and public policy... creating a network of experts to discuss current and emerging issues of topical interest and improve public policy to deal with them".

Agnes had a special gift for staying in touch with friends. She struck up friendships in myriad ways, and her circle went far beyond statisticians and academic colleagues, from children of statisticians to taxi and bus drivers, hairdressers and shopkeepers. She was close friends with musicians and was generous in supporting their artistic endeavours. Once she had a sense of someone's interests, they could expect to receive occasional books from her. She loved donuts and was known to give them to favorite bus drivers.

Agnes Herzberg was a major contributor to the statistical sciences and to many other facets of scientific and cultural life in Canada and internationally. For this and for her friendship and loyalty to so many, she will be greatly missed.

Written by Jerry Lawless and Mary Thompson

OBITUARY: Ching-Shui Cheng

1950–2026

On June 7, 2026, IMS Fellow Ching-Shui Cheng passed away. Following his PhD under Jack Kiefer, Cheng joined the Berkeley faculty in 1977 until his early retirement in 2013, when he moved to the Institute of Statistical Science (ISS) at Academia Sinica in Taiwan, serving two terms as Director.

Cheng was widely recognized as a rigorous scholar and a preeminent leader in experimental design. His research has had a profound impact on various fields, including agriculture and numerous scientific and industrial applications. He served as Editor of *Statistica Sinica* and was elected an Academician of Academia Sinica. As Director of the ISS, he provided forward-looking leadership, notably establishing a joint data science program with

National Taiwan University and fostering international collaborations.

Ching-Shui was a kind and valued colleague who frequently welcomed international students and friends into his home.

You can read more at the Academia Sinica Memorial page: <https://www3.stat.sinica.edu.tw/memcheng/index.html>. A celebration of Ching-Shui's life was held on June 19, 2026 in Lafayette, CA. A video recording of the event, which includes remarks from Ker-Chau Li, Boxin Tang, and Hsin-Chou Yang, is online at https://www.viewlogies.net/oakmont/PZoC_tcZC?pin=709494.



OBITUARY: Mikhail Menshikov

1948–2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Mikhail Vasilyevich Menshikov, on May 1, 2026, in York, UK. A distinguished Russian-British mathematician who served for many years as a professor at Moscow State University and Durham University, Mikhail Menshikov was a prominent figure in probability theory, random walks, and percolation.

Born in Moscow on January 17, 1948, Mikhail grew up in Kharkiv, Ukraine. During his school years, he was a multiple-time winner of the All-Ukrainian Mathematics Olympiads. Finishing school with a medal, he went on to study at the prestigious Moscow State University, where he received both his candidate of sciences (PhD equivalent) degree in 1975 and his doctor of sciences degree in 1988. His early research, supervised by Vadim Alexandrovich Malyshev, focused on the ergodicity and analyticity of random walks.

Mikhail began his professional career at the Gromov Flight Research Institute in Zhukovsky in 1971, before returning to Moscow State University as an assistant professor. In 1995, he became a full professor.

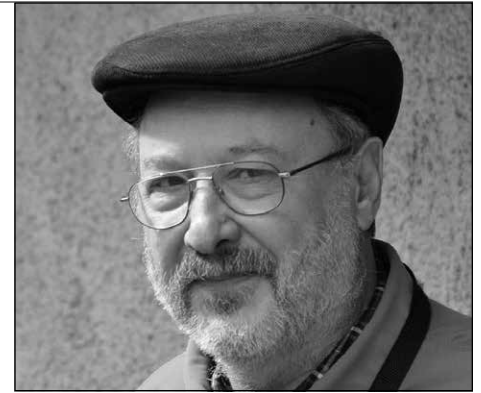
The difficult years in Russia in the 1990s led him to the University of São Paulo in Brazil, where he served as a visiting professor. During this period, he made significant contributions to mathematical research in the region and left behind a strong network of students and collaborators. In 2000, he was appointed Professor of Mathematics in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Durham University, UK. There Mikhail became one of the central figures in the probability research group, which today has more than a dozen members.

His work had a profound influence on percolation theory and the study of random walks. He authored around 100 research

papers in leading international journals, and co-authored three books: *Combinatorial Analysis* (1982, in Russian), *Topics in the Constructive Theory of Countable Markov Chains* (1995), and *Non-Homogeneous Random Walks: Lyapunov Function Methods for Near-Critical Stochastic Systems* (2016). Independently and around the same time as the work of Aizenman, Barsky and others in the West, he proved a number of fundamental results concerning near-critical percolation models in two dimensions. Michael Aizenman remembers: “When Misha and I finally met in person, at the [2023] Grimmett-fest in Cambridge, we instantaneously formed a friendship that extended beyond professional recognition and courtesy. He came across as not only a deeply insightful mathematician, but also a mensch, and an inspiring person to meet. His passing must be a deep loss for all who knew him.” Mikhail also made a significant contribution to the development of the Lyapunov function method. Many of us remember his saying: “Finding a suitable Lyapunov function is a great art,” and he indeed had a remarkable intuition for it.

It is also worth noting that, until his final years, he remained intellectually fearless, repeatedly returning to some of the most notoriously difficult open problems in percolation, always seeking new and original approaches despite the formidable obstacles they posed. Those who worked with him in this period remember not only the depth of his ideas but also his unwavering belief that even the hardest problems were worth pursuing.

Beyond his publications, Professor Menshikov was a dedicated mentor. He supervised more than ten doctoral students and left an academic lineage of nearly 40 descendants worldwide.



Mikhail Menshikov

Mikhail's life was marked not only by mathematical achievement but also by remarkable personal strength and devotion. Three years ago, his wife Vera, with whom he had shared more than fifty years of life, passed away after a prolonged illness. During the demanding years when he cared for her, Mikhail continued to work, collaborate, and publish mathematical papers. He remained mathematically active until his sudden and completely unexpected death.

Outside mathematics, Mikhail enjoyed walking in nature and was an enthusiastic mushroom picker. He knew the best places and took great pleasure in long walks through the forest. He was also a lifelong table tennis player; as a young man, he once even won the Moscow State University table tennis competition, and he continued to enjoy the game throughout his life.

Mikhail is survived by his daughter, who lives in England; his son, who lives in Ukraine; and his granddaughter and three great-grandchildren, who live in Russia.

Known to colleagues for his mathematical intuition and to students for his inspiration, support and kindness, Mikhail Menshikov leaves a lasting legacy in probability theory and in the lives of those who worked with him. He was generous with his ideas, open to collaboration, and a true friend and mentor to many former students and colleagues. He will be deeply missed and warmly remembered.

*Sergei Zuyev, Serguei Popov, Stanislav Volkov
and Vadim Shcherbakov*

OBITUARY: Boris Rozovsky

1945–2025

Boris L. Rozovsky, well-known for his work on stochastic partial differential equations, passed away on April 25, 2025, at the age of 79. Boris was born in Odessa on June 8, 1945. He received a PhD from Moscow State University in 1972 and a Doctor of Science (Habilitation) degree from Vilnius University in 1984. He was elected fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1997. His academic career spans six decades and three major academic hubs on two different continents: Moscow, Russia (1965–87), Los Angeles, CA (1990–2006), and Providence, RI (2006–25).

Boris started his studies at the Odessa State University, but, within a year, received a special invitation to transfer to the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics (the famous MechMat) at the Moscow State University, where he immediately found himself at the center of the Soviet (and probably, the world) mathematics. The students at MechMat engage in serious research early on, and graduate with an analog of the master of science degree. Boris obtained some new results related to change detection in a Poisson process. The results were praised by A.N. Kolmogorov; for a young mathematician at that time, such praise was among the highest possible recognitions. A higher recognition came later: in 2003, Boris was one of the plenary speakers at the conference Kolmogorov and Contemporary Mathematics, and received a special medal commemorating Kolmogorov's 100th birthday.

Boris's PhD dissertation, "On Stochastic Equations Arising in Filtering of Markov Processes," supervised by A. N. Shiryaev and published in 1972, started modern theory of stochastic partial differential equations (SPDEs). Further work on the subject, both independently and with N.V. Krylov,

lead to a complete Hilbert space theory for linear equations and several key results for nonlinear equations, culminating in a research monograph *Stochastic Evolution Systems* (1983 in Russian; expanded English translation in 1990). The second edition of the English translation, with major corrections and further expansions, appeared in 2018.

Upon receiving his PhD, Boris became a junior researcher at the Moscow Institute of Advanced Studies for Engineers and Managers in Chemical Industry (MIASCME). The place had a strong statistics group, which Boris joined and quickly grew through the ranks, eventually becoming Head of the Laboratory of Informatics. Becoming the Director of the newly established Center for Applied Mathematical Sciences (CAMS) at the University of Southern California (USC), was a natural next step, after Boris, together with his family, emigrated to the United States in 1988 and spent two years at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Under his leadership (1990–2006), CAMS became the true center of Applied Mathematics at USC, with regular events and distinguished visitors. Boris always made sure that long math discussions were followed by a hike in the San Gabriel mountains, a trip to the beach, or a dinner at his Pasadena home. With all that, he was very active in research, developing two new directions in the study of SPDEs: statistical inference via separation of time and space variables and numerical analysis via Wiener Chaos expansions and Wick–Malliavin approximations. After moving to the Division of Applied Mathematics at Brown in 2006, Boris promoted interactions between the parts of the department focused on numerical approximation, stochastic processes, and



Boris Rozovsky

statistical methods. He worked on various problems related to computational fluid dynamics, finance, network security, and target recognition and tracking. He was appointed Ford Foundation Professor of Applied Mathematics in 2009, and became Ford Foundation Professor emeritus in 2018.

Boris was an effective and caring mentor, always generous with his time; this applied to the two dozen PhD students and postdocs he officially supervised throughout his career, and also to many other junior mathematicians who interacted with him.

Boris had serious and diverse interests outside mathematics. He was an avid lover of dogs; in fact, the first dog, Airedale Terrier named Holly, took the long trip from Moscow from Charlotte with the rest of the family. He was an expert art collector, with beautiful original masterpieces displayed both in his office and at home. He often used his artistic skills in class when explaining the other meaning of the word martingale. He had a deep appreciation of music, from violin concertos of Mozart to the Soviet bard Bulat Okudjawa. He enjoyed skiing and had working knowledge of various ski resorts all over the globe.

Family was always his top priority. He was a beloved father to Julie, and grandfather to her children. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Irina.

Written by Sergey Lototsky, University of Southern California, and Kavita Ramanan, Brown University

OBITUARY: Howard Taylor

1937–2025

Howard Milton Taylor III passed away at his home in Towson, MD, on September 5, 2025.

Howard was an inspirational professor whose teaching and mentoring at Cornell and the University of Delaware influenced a generation of graduate students in applied probability and statistics. He contributed to several areas of applied probability including control theory and optimal stopping, and essentially created a whole subfield of reliability theory concerned with load-sharing systems. His most enduring legacy, however, was a series of textbooks on stochastic processes written jointly with Samuel Karlin, that had a great influence on the way this subject was taught at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

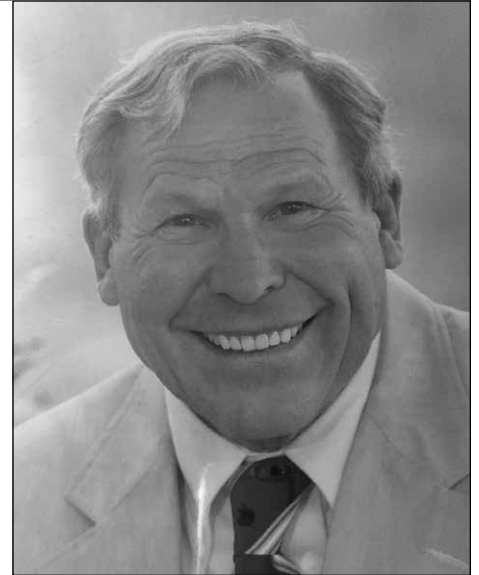
Born in Baltimore on May 9, 1937, Howard obtained bachelor's and master's degrees from Cornell and a PhD in mathematical statistics from Stanford, advised by Gerald Lieberman. He joined Cornell's Department of Operations Research and Industrial Engineering in 1965, becoming a full professor in 1975, in which year he also became a Fellow of IMS.

The first phase of Howard's research was on sequential probability problems including statistical control theory and option pricing in the financial markets; this was in the period before the Black–Scholes–Merton model became fundamental to mathematical finance. His contributions here included a paper in management science on the optimal timing strategy for call or put options, a paper with Benoit Mandelbrot showing how a stable distribution for stock price changes may result from a combination of Gaussian distributions at individual transactions with a random number of transactions, and several papers on optimal stopping. He was especially proud

of the paper “A Stopped Brownian Motion Formula” (*Annals of Probability*, 1975), motivated by the value of an option that is sold when it falls a predetermined amount below its maximum value. Howard's elegant closed-form expression motivated a paper by the British probabilist David Williams, who used it as an example to illustrate new methods based on local time and the Cameron–Martin formula (*Séminaire de Probabilités*, 1976). This phase of his work also included his first PhD student, Bruce Turnbull (later a professor at Cornell).

A second phase of his work was on the reliability of load-sharing systems, motivated by the emerging field of research on fibrous composite materials. His first paper on this topic, joint with the engineering student and subsequent professor Leigh Phoenix, applied Billingsley's methods of weak convergence to re-derive and extend a formula of H.E. Daniels for the strength of a fibrous material under equal load-sharing. Phoenix and Taylor and their students wrote many papers on corresponding problems for time to failure and under an alternative model known as local load-sharing, more realistic for modern composite materials. By the mid 1970s, Howard was the leader of a large group of probability students including Gary Harlow (subsequently an engineering professor at Lehigh), Wagner Borges (University of São Paulo), Richard Smith (University of North Carolina) and Luke Tierney (University of Iowa; recently co-winner of the Rousseeuw prize for his contributions to R).

Howard's collaboration with Sam Karlin started with a revision of Karlin's *First Course In Stochastic Processes*, followed by their *Second Course In Stochastic Processes* and a more elementary *Introduction to Stochastic Modeling*. These texts amply



Howard Milton Taylor III

demonstrated Howard's emphasis on concrete but rigorous formula derivation over abstract mathematical theory, culminating in a 240-page chapter on diffusion processes. Howard believed it was possible to develop all the major results of stochastic calculus without invoking the formalities of measure theory. Although the measure theoretic framework has become the standard foundation for modern stochastic calculus, Howard's approach to diffusion processes provides considerable intuition and motivation that can easily be obscured in more abstract treatments.

In addition to his major works on stochastic processes, Howard made numerous contributions to applied statistics, in areas such as epidemiology, ecology and even a paper on “school rezoning to achieve racial balance” (Heckman and Taylor, 1969). He was also a consultant to the PGA Tour.

Howard advocated for women students and professors at a time when women in engineering departments were few and far between. Two of his PhD students were women – Ellen Cherniavsky and Mary (Bauer) Stefano – and he was instrumental in bringing Christine Shoemaker to Cornell, the first woman to be hired into a tenure-track position in Cornell Engineering and a subsequent member of the National Academy of Engineering.

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Howard Taylor, 1937–2025: Continued from previous page

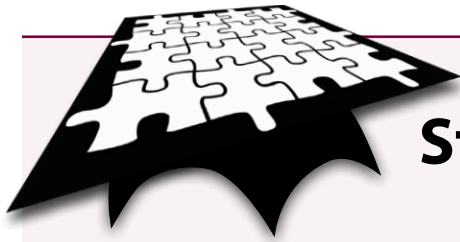
In 1986, Howard moved to the University of Delaware, where he continued research and had several more PhD students, retiring in 1996.

Howard was a talented athlete: as an undergraduate he was goalie on the Cornell hockey team, and at the age of 43 he ran a

local marathon race in Ithaca, winning the masters' division. In retirement he pursued his interests in hunting, fishing, cooking, and swing dancing. He is survived by his second wife, Florence Newman, who is professor emerita of English at Towson University.

I thank Florence, Bruce Turnbull and Amarjit Budhiraja for their input to this obituary.

Written by Richard Smith,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Student Puzzle 62

Deadline: September 21

Student Puzzle editor Anirban DasGupta poses these three puzzles, on three different topics. We encourage you to have a go at all of them! Send your solutions before September 21, 2026.

Puzzle 62.1 Suppose $\{X_t, t = 1, 2, \dots\}$ is a discrete time (weakly) stationary process and suppose that it has a bounded spectral density. Let $n \geq 2$. Prove that the eigenvalues of the autocovariance matrix of $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ are all bounded by some universal finite constant.

Puzzle 62.2 Suppose $X_1, X_2, \dots$ are i.i.d. real valued random variables with a common distribution P and that P is absolutely continuous and has a compact support C . Given x , denote by $X_{n,NN}(x)$ a nearest neighbor of x among $X_1, \dots, X_n$. Prove that $|x - X_{n,NN}(x)|$ converges uniformly to zero over C with probability one. Does this generalize to higher dimensions? Does it also hold without the compact support assumption?

Puzzle 62.3 $X_1, \dots, X_5$ are i.i.d. uniform on the set $\{-10, -9, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, 9, 10\}$. Find the conditional probability $P(\sum_{i=1}^{10} X_i^3 = 0 \mid \sum_{i=1}^{10} X_i = 0, \sum_{i \neq j=1}^{10} X_i X_j = 0)$.

Student IMS members 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) in the next issue. The Puzzle Editor is Anirban DasGupta. His decision is final.

Solution to Puzzle 61

Hearty congratulations to **Aniv Mazumder** (Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi), whose solution Anirban DasGupta described as "*a paragon of rigor and detail*"! These puzzles (originally from the June/July issue) are viewable online at <https://imstat.org/2026/05/16/student-puzzle-61/>. Anirban explains:



Aniv Mazumder

Puzzle 61.1

A straightforward calculation shows that the indicators of the events that the i^{th} observation is a record are independent Bernoullis with parameter $1/i$.

Therefore, $E(N_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n 1/i$ and $\text{Var}(N_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n (i-1)/i^2$. Note that they are both asymptotic to $\log n$. For large n , the distribution of N_n can be approximated by a Poisson with parameter $\log n$. Alternatively, the distribution of $(N_n - \log n)/(\sqrt{\log n})$ can be approximated by a standard normal. The conditions of the

Lindeberg CLT (also called the Lindeberg–Feller CLT) are verifiable without much difficulty. In particular, for $n = 10$, $E(N_n) = 7381/2520$, $\text{Var}(N_n) = 350339/254016$. Using the asymptotic approximations, for $n = 100$, $P(N_n > 8) \approx 0.0568295$.

Puzzle 61.2

The Schwarz inequality gives that $\sup_{c \in S} c'Z = \|Z\|_2$, and by direct calculation, $E(\|Z\|_2) = \sqrt{2} \Gamma(\frac{p+1}{2})/\Gamma(\frac{p}{2})$. Now use Stirling to find the desired limit to be 1.

Puzzle 61.3

This problem does require the loss function to be strictly convex in the second argument. For the given model, standard arguments show that a minimal sufficient statistic is $\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2$. The Rao–Blackwellizations of $\bar{X}$ and s^2 (both of which, by the way, are unbiased estimates of θ) strictly dominate them pointwise in risk. This makes both $\bar{X}$ and s^2 inadmissible.

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>

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p -Brownian motion and the p -Laplacian	VIOREL BARBU, MARCO REHMEIER AND MICHAEL RÖCKNER 1877
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On the Sobolev removability of the graph of one-dimensional Brownian motion	CILLIAN DOHERTY AND JASON MILLER 1975
Cutoff for the Glauber–exclusion process in the full high-temperature regime: An information percolation approach	HONG-QUAN TRAN 1997
Dimension of Bernoulli convolutions in $\mathbb{R}^d$	ARIEL RAPAPORT AND HAOJIE REN 2065
Heat kernel estimates for Dirichlet forms degenerate at the boundary	SOOBIN CHO, PANKI KIM, RENMING SONG AND ZORAN VONDRACEK * 2097
Uniqueness of generalized conformal restriction measures and Malliavin–Kontsevich–Suhov measures for $c \in (0, 1]$	GEFEI CAI AND YIFAN GAO 2149

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>

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UK Academy for Mathematical Sciences: call for Fellows

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

2026 Call for applications for Fellowship of the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences

Our second Call for Applications for Fellowship of the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences is currently open. We are seeking exceptional individuals who share our ambition to strengthen the mathematical sciences across the UK.

The appointment of our first cohort of Fellows [pictured below] marked an important milestone for the Academy. This inaugural cohort is already playing a central role in shaping strategy,



delivering projects, and strengthening the Academy's position as an authoritative and persuasive voice for the mathematical sciences.

We are equally excited to launch this second call, seeking Fellows who develop, teach, research, communicate, and use the full breadth of the mathematical sciences. Please share this opportunity with your networks, including by encouraging and sponsoring potential candidates.

The Academy strongly encourages applications from a diverse range of candidates who have made significant contributions to, or through, the mathematical sciences, including individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, genders, ethnicities, regions and nations of the UK, and areas of the mathematical sciences.

Further information for applicants and sponsors, including details about the role of Fellows and the application process, can be found in our Fellowship Application Pack (download from <https://www.acadmathsci.org.uk/2026-call-for-fellowship-applications/>).

The closing date for applications is **Monday 14 September 2026**.



The inaugural cohort of AcadMathSci Fellows was selected in 2025

Call for Nominations: C.R. & Bhargavi Rao Prize

Members of the Rao Prize Committee are accepting nominations for the **2027 C.R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize for Outstanding Research in Statistics**. The prize, awarded by the Penn State Department of Statistics, was established to recognize outstanding and influential innovations in the theory and practice of mathematical statistics, international leadership in directing statistical research, and pioneering contributions by a recognized leader in the field of statistics.

The Rao Prize is awarded in odd-numbered years to an individual selected by the members of the Rao Prize Committee. The honoree receives a plaque and an invitation to visit Penn State to give a talk.

Nominations should include a letter describing the nominee's outstanding contributions to leadership and research in statistics, a current curriculum vita, and two supporting letters.

Submissions are due **January 15, 2027**, and should be emailed to Prof. Nicole Lazar, Head of the Department of Statistics, at nfl5182@psu.edu.

C.R. Rao held the Eberly Chair in Statistics at Penn State from 1988 to 2001 and then served as Holder Emeritus of the Eberly Chair in Statistics from 2001 until his passing in 2023. He won the International Prize in Statistics in 2023. A President's National Medal of Science Laureate, Rao is recognized worldwide as a pioneer of modern statistical theory and one of the world's top five statisticians, with multifaceted distinctions as a mathematician, researcher, scientist, and teacher. His contributions to mathematics and statistical theory and applications have become part of undergraduate and graduate courses in statistics, econometrics, and electrical engineering at universities throughout the world.



Past Rao Prize Honorees

2003: Bradley Efron, Stanford University	2015: Sir David Cox, University of Oxford
2005: Jayaram Sethuraman, Florida State University (emeritus)	2017: Donald Rubin, Harvard University
2007: Lawrence D. Brown, University of Pennsylvania	2019: Grace Wahba, University of Wisconsin, Madison
2009: Peter J. Bickel, University of California at Berkeley	2023: David Siegmund, Stanford University
2011: James O. Berger, Duke University	2025: Trevor Hastie, Stanford University
2013: Herman Chernoff, Harvard Univ. (emeritus) and MIT	

International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science

The IMS co-sponsored fifth annual International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science (IDWSDS) will take place virtually on **October 6, 2026**.

This free, 24-hour global conference showcases women's contributions to statistics and data science and brings together statisticians, data scientists, researchers, educators, professionals, and students from around the world.

This year's theme, "Creating Global Connections," highlights the relationships and international collaborations that strengthen the global statistics and data-science community. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Learn more and register at <https://www.idwsds.org>.

Free registration ends on September 28th.



IMS meetings around the world

Joint Statistical Meetings

2027 Joint Statistical Meetings

August 8–12, 2027, Chicago, USA

[w https://www2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2027/](https://www2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2027/)

The theme for JSM 2027 is “People Powered, Science Driven, Future Ready.” Participate in the program in the following ways:

Invited Session proposal submission: deadline September 23, 2026

Continuing Education course proposal submission: deadline September 30, 2026. Computer Technology Workshop proposal submission: deadline January 15, 2027

Topic-Contributed Session proposal submission: November 17 – December 10, 2026. Contributed Session Abstract Submission:

December 1, 2026 – February 1, 2027

Registration & housing reservations open April 29, 2027.

NEW



At a glance:

forthcoming
IMS Annual
Meeting and
JSM dates

2027

IMS Annual
Meeting @ JSM:
Chicago, USA
August 8–12, 2027

JSM dates for 2027–2030

IMS Annual Meeting
@ JSM 2027
August 8–12, 2027
Chicago, USA

JSM 2028
August 6–10, 2028
Philadelphia, USA

IMS Annual Meeting
@ JSM 2029
August 5–9, 2029
Seattle, USA

JSM 2030
August 4–8, 2030
Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, USA

IMS Annual Meeting
@ JSM 2031
Date and location
TBC

2028

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

JSM: Philadelphia,
USA, August
6–10, 2028

2029

IMS Annual
Meeting @ JSM:
Seattle, USA,
August 5–9, 2029

2030

IMS Annual
Meeting: date and
location TBC

JSM: Milwaukee,
USA, August 4–8,
2028

2026 International Conference on Statistics and Data Science December 15–18, 2026 Split, Croatia

[w https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2026/](https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2026/)

Early registration is open! Early registration ends October 15, regular registration ends November 10, late registration ends December 15.

Student Travel Awards: Deadline September 30, 2026.

ICSDS is pleased to provide travel awards to outstanding PhD students to participate in the conference. Each award includes 450 USD for all-inclusive registration and 400 USD for travel. Applicants for the awards must be members of IMS, for which joining at the time of application is allowed. (IMS membership is FREE for all students.) **Eligibility.** The student must be: enrolled in a degree-granting institution on December 1, 2026; the first author of the submitted paper; a member of the IMS; and willing to attend and present the paper in person at the 2026 ICSDS. The presentation will be in a special “Student Award Session”.

The lovely destination of Split is a stunning coastal city developed around the remarkably well-preserved 1,700-year-old Diocletian's Palace. Founded by the ancient Greeks, Split today is one of the most popular travel destinations in the Republic of Croatia. ICSDS participants will have the opportunity to walk by the crystal-clear Adriatic waters, take short ferry rides to the stunning islands of Hvar and Brač, and soak up the vibrant atmosphere of a lively waterfront promenade lined with charming cafes and restaurants.



More IMS meetings

International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science

October 6, 2026

Virtual

[w https://www.idwsds.org/](https://www.idwsds.org/)

Join the fifth annual International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science (IDWSDS), a free, 24-hour virtual conference connecting statisticians, data scientists, researchers, educators, professionals, and students around the world. The 2026 theme, “Creating Global Connections,” celebrates international collaboration and the contributions of women across statistics and data science. Free registration ends on September 28.



2027 ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting

March 14–17, 2027

Boston, USA



[w https://www.enar.org/meetings/](https://www.enar.org/meetings/)

Next year's ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting will be held at Boston Marriott Copley Place, in Boston, USA.

Distinguished Student Paper submissions between September 1 and October 1, 2026. **Contributed Session Proposal submissions** between September 1 and October 15, 2026

See the participation guidelines [linked from <https://www.enar.org/meetings/spring2027/save-the-date.cfm>]

One World Approximate Bayesian Inference (OWABI) Seminar (Ongoing, online)

[w https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/news/upcoming-seminars/abcworldseminar](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 are held on Zoom/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_wLsosMTjqTN8kmm6nNo7YtLV6-1Z

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

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/apsp/home](https://sites.google.com/view/apsp/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—see the list of Board members on the website, chaired by Ajay Jasra (Chinese University of Hong-Kong, Shenzhen)—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 would like to receive email announcements about the next speakers, send an email to any of the APSPS Board members, who are listed on the website above.

One World Probability Seminar (OWPS):

Ongoing and online

[w https://www.owprobability.org/one-world-probability-seminar/](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>

Frontiers in Statistical Machine Learning (FSML) 2026

NEW

December 14, 2026 (before ICSDS)

Split, Croatia

[w https://fsmf-ims-workshop.org/](https://fsmf-ims-workshop.org/)

The second annual IMS Frontiers in Statistical Machine Learning (FSML) workshop will take place on Monday, December 14, 2026, in Split, Croatia, co-located with ICSDS 2026. The 2026 themes are Generative and Foundation Models for Statistics and the Science of Deep Learning. The call for papers is open, with two non-archival tracks: a Workshop Track for short papers (travel awards available) and a new Fast Track for papers already accepted at major ML venues. Submission deadline: September 30, 2026 (AoE).

Statistics Beyond Euclid: Functional Data, Random Objects and AI

NEW

November 12–14, 2026. Davis, USA

[w https://anson.ucdavis.edu/statisticsbeyondeuclid/](https://anson.ucdavis.edu/statisticsbeyondeuclid/)

The “Statistics Beyond Euclid: Functional Data, Random Objects and AI” conference is happening from November 12–14, 2026 (Thursday–Saturday) at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) in Davis, California, USA. The conference will be in person only. Join us at UC Davis for this exciting event!

Call for poster proposals: We invite abstracts for poster presentations featuring original theoretical, methodological, or applied research related to the conference themes, broadly including functional data, random objects, geometric and metric statistics, machine learning and AI, and related areas. Each person may submit only one abstract.

Please use this form <https://forms.gle/axzfzLN9TVZqXxfV7> to submit your poster proposal. This form will ask you to upload an extended abstract of length at most 1 page with at least 1 inch margin on each side and your latest CV, both in pdf format. Please name your submitted files as Lastname_Firstname_abs.pdf and Lastname_Firstname_cv.pdf, respectively.

Submission deadline: September 15, 2026. Notification of acceptance: October 1, 2026

Please reach out to stats.beyond.euclid.conference@gmail.com for any questions.

Now an IMS co-sponsored meeting:

BAYST 2027: A workshop on BAYesian STructural learning

March 1–3, 2027

Karlsruhe, Germany

[w https://sites.google.com/view/bayst2027](https://sites.google.com/view/bayst2027)

Call for Posters: deadline for submission 30 September 2026.

It is our pleasure to announce the BAYST workshop 2027 at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Karlsruhe, Germany, from March 1–3, 2027. The workshop aims to bridge recent advances in Bayesian structural learning with applied sciences, fostering scientific discussion and collaboration between theoretical and applied researchers. BAYST will consist of 20 invited talks (with discussion) and two poster sessions (submissions are open at the website link above) over two and a half days.

Registration is free. Coffee breaks, a welcome reception, and lunches will be provided for presenters of either a poster or a talk.

Call for Posters. We warmly invite researchers at all career stages to submit a poster abstract and present their work at BAYST. Submit your poster abstract via <https://forms.gle/wNEvNgboAnY23SL78>.

Poster abstract submission deadline: 30 September 2026

Awards for Junior Researchers. Outstanding junior researchers (current PhD students and researchers within two years of completing their PhD): two Travel Awards for the best submitted abstracts; and two Best Poster Awards for the best posters presented during the workshop. (In addition, as IMS is a co-sponsor of BAYST, there are the IMS Hannan Graduate Student Travel Awards and IMS New Researcher Travel Award: deadline 1 February 2027).



2027 Joint Research Conference on

Statistics in Quality, Industry, and Technology (JRC 2027)

NEW

June 21–24, 2027

Storrs, USA

[w https://jointresearchconference.github.io/2027/](https://jointresearchconference.github.io/2027/)

The 2027 Joint Research Conference (JRC) is the joint meeting of the Quality and Productivity Research Conference (QPRC) and the Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology (SRC). Hosted by the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, JRC 2027 brings together researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government to foster interdisciplinary research and innovative solutions to practical problems.

Sessions will cover a broad range of topics including, but not limited to: Statistical quality control and process improvement; Design of experiments and response surface methods; Reliability and survival analysis; Spatial statistics and environmental applications; Machine learning and AI for quality and manufacturing; Big data analytics and high-dimensional methods; Statistical process monitoring; Computer experiments and emulation; Industrial statistics and engineering applications; and Bayesian methods in quality and reliability.

Researchers wishing to organize an invited session should contact the Program Chairs. Details on session proposal submission will be posted when the call is announced.

Conference co-chairs: HaiYing Wang haiying.wang@uconn.edu and Nalini Ravishanker nalini.ravishanker@uconn.edu.

Other meetings and events

Statistics in Pharmaceuticals (SIP) 2026

August 19–21, 2026

Storrs, United States

[w https://stat4pharma.org/index.html](https://stat4pharma.org/index.html)

The SIP Conference is designed to introduce students and early-career professionals in quantitative fields to drug development and careers in the pharmaceutical industry and regulatory agencies. It also offers a valuable opportunity for students to engage with the field of clinical statistics and connect with professionals and peers. Highlights: Short Courses (Aug 19): AI in Health: Foundations, Use Cases and Pitfalls; An Overview of Machine Learning Methods for Survival Data Keynotes & Plenaries: Speakers from FDA, industry, and academia Poster session: Great chance for students/interns to showcase their work Mentor/Mentee Program: Participants will have the opportunity to be paired with experienced professionals for mentorship, career guidance, and networking.

NEW

IMA Employers' Forum – The Mathematics of Sustainability

September 23, 2026

Birmingham, United Kingdom

[w https://ima.org.uk/29382/employers-forum/](https://ima.org.uk/29382/employers-forum/)

Across a wide field of industries, sustainability is no longer an option but an essential consideration. Under this heading we need to address, not just a drive towards more economical use of materials and energy, but also look at how the mathematical modelling used to provide such solutions can itself be made more sustainable. We invite you to join us at the University of Birmingham to share expertise, address the awkward questions that need to be asked and above all gain a fuller understanding of the role mathematics has to play in improving sustainability. This one-day forum will include keynote speakers, presentations, speed networking and a grand challenge event, all focussed on making discussing a difficult topic both interactive and enjoyable.

NEW

AISC2026: Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics

October 30–November 1, 2026

Lafayette, USA

[w https://userweb.ucs.louisiana.edu/~C00253007/AISC2026/](https://userweb.ucs.louisiana.edu/~C00253007/AISC2026/)

The focus of AISC 2026 is on interdisciplinary applications of theory with connections to real-world problems and their solution. AISC 2026 will provide excellent opportunities to engage with researchers from across the U.S. and around the world. AISC 2026 will feature special sessions targeted for students and early-career researchers. Contributed Papers are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for contributed paper titles and abstracts is 15 September 2026. Invited speaker session proposals are also welcome. The deadline for invited speaker session proposals is 1 August 2026. Details are posted on the web page.

NEW

Workshop on Statistics and Applications

December 4–5, 2026. Lisbon, Portugal

[w https://wsa2026.iseg.ulisboa.pt/](https://wsa2026.iseg.ulisboa.pt/)

The workshop will take place at ISEG – Universidade de Lisboa, in Lisbon. Held on the occasion of the 70th birthday of Wenceslao González Manteiga, this international scientific meeting is organised by ISEG Research, in collaboration with the Centre of Mathematics of the University of Minho (CMAT), the Centre of Mathematics of the University of Porto (CMUP), the Centre for Mathematics of the University of Coimbra (CMUC), and the Galician Centre for Mathematical Research and Technology (CITMAga).

This event honours Professor Wenceslao González Manteiga (University of Santiago de Compostela) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to modern nonparametric statistics. His work has had a profound impact on areas such as kernel methods, functional data analysis, spatial statistics, and the analysis of complex data structures. Over the course of his distinguished career, he has authored numerous highly cited publications and supervised many doctoral students who now hold academic positions worldwide. He has also played a central role in fostering international collaboration within the statistical community, maintaining long-standing scientific links with many universities, including several institutions in Portugal. We warmly invite colleagues, collaborators, researchers and students to join us in Lisbon for this special scientific celebration.

NEW

20th IMA International Conference on Cryptography and Coding. December 15–16, 2026. Cirencester, United Kingdom

[w https://ima.org.uk/28271/20th-ima-international-conference-on-cryptography-and-coding/](https://ima.org.uk/28271/20th-ima-international-conference-on-cryptography-and-coding/)

The mathematical theory and practice of both cryptography and coding underpins the provision of effective security and reliability for data communication, processing, and storage. This 20th conference solicits original research papers on all technical aspects of cryptography and coding.

NEW

Workshop @ NeurIPS Sydney 2026: *Can We Trust AI Evaluation?*

December 11–12, 2026. Sydney, Australia

 <https://tai-eval.github.io/>

Can we trust AI evaluation? Modern AI systems are judged through benchmarks, aggregate scores, and public leaderboards, yet trust in these evaluations is often assumed rather than demonstrated. An evaluation can be precise but measure the wrong construct, stable on a familiar benchmark but brittle on newly collected data, or impressive on a leaderboard while poorly aligned with real-world decisions. Repeated benchmark use, small perturbations, underreported variance, leakage, and contamination can further weaken the evidence behind evaluation claims. The TAE (Trust-AI-Eval): Can We Trust AI Evaluation? workshop treats evaluation itself as an object of study: what is measured, which assumptions connect a protocol to a claim, how uncertainty and failure modes are reported, and when the resulting evidence is strong enough to guide deployment. By bringing together work on robustness, causal and measurement validity, auditing, judge reliability, and deployment risk, the workshop aims to clarify when AI evaluation results deserve trust and how evaluation practices can become more reliable, transparent, and decision-relevant.

International Conference on Advances in Applied Probability and Stochastic Processes, ICAAP&SP 2026

December 19–22, 2026
Manjeri, Malappuram, India

 <https://www.icaapsp2026.com/index.html>

ICAAP&SP 2026 provides a platform for researchers, academics, and practitioners to discuss recent developments and share their ideas and findings. The conference includes keynote addresses, plenary talks, and invited talks, allowing participants to exchange ideas and research findings, and creating opportunities for networking and collaboration between researchers and practitioners from different countries and backgrounds.

The conference aims to showcase the latest advancements in applied probability and stochastic processes and their applications in various fields, fostering innovation and promoting interdisciplinary research.

The Annual Deming Conference on Applied Statistics

December 7–11, 2026
Atlantic City, USA

 <https://deming-conference.org/>

The Annual Deming Conference on Applied Statistics will be held from Monday, December 7 to Wednesday, December 9, 2026, followed by two parallel two-day short courses on Thursday, December 10, and Friday, December 11, 2026, at the state-of-art Tropicana Atlantic City. The Deming Conference on Applied Statistics provides a learning experience on recent developments in statistical methodologies in biopharmaceutical applications. The conference is composed of twelve three-hour tutorials on current topics in applied biopharmaceutical statistics and FDA regulations, three one-hour distinguished keynotes on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The books, on which these sessions are based, are available for sale at an approximately 40% discount. Attendees will receive program proceedings of the presentations. The conference is sponsored by the International Chinese Statistical Association and the American Statistical Association Biopharmaceutical Section. In particular, we acknowledge the support of Biopharmaceutical Section for the Deming Scholar Student Awards. Poster Session We are **soliciting abstract proposals for posters** for the Deming Conference 2026. The Poster Presentation forum allows participants to submit their research concepts and issues of relevance for peer review in the area of biostatistics. Poster sessions, which will be held on all 3 days (Dec 7–9, 2026) of the conference, allow attendees to discuss the specifics of an abstract with the author in a small group setting. There will be **five poster awards**. Submissions will be accepted through Saturday, October 4, 2025. Poster abstracts can be emailed to sofia.paul@cellcentric.com and/or yuanyuan.guo1@lilly.com or submitted online for consideration. Student Scholars: Students pursuing a doctorate degree in Biostatistics/Statistics may apply to receive a Deming Student Scholar Award and present a poster on their doctoral thesis at the conference. This award will be offered to up to three students from US Universities which will include travel, accommodation and registration fee to the 3-day conference (Dec 7–9, 2026). Once an award is granted, the students must present a poster on their doctoral thesis at the conference. The deadline for poster submission is Saturday October 4, 2026. For further information, please contact the student scholar chair at sofia.paul@cellcentric.com and/or yuanyuan.guo1@lilly.com. Online registration for the conference will open soon. For more information about the conference, please contact Dr. Din Chen, Deming Publicity Chair, at dinchen@asu.edu. or visit <https://deming-conference.org/>

Employment Opportunities

Australia: Melbourne, Victoria

Monash University

Lecturer / Senior Lecturer - Business Analytics
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85404916>

Canada: Montreal, Quebec

McGill University

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track), Department of Medicine,
 Division of Clinical Epidemiology (L001645)
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85059229>

Singapore

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

The Department of Statistics and Data Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS) invites applications for tenure-track and tenured faculty positions in statistics, data science, computer science, and related areas at the Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor levels. The anticipated start date is July 2027. Applicants should hold a PhD in a relevant field by the time of appointment.

NUS offers internationally competitive salaries, generous research funding, travel support, relocation assistance, and comprehensive benefits. The Department currently has nearly 40 faculty members and provides a vibrant and collaborative research environment. Faculty members benefit from a research-friendly teaching load and strong institutional support for research activities.

The Department offers undergraduate programmes in Statistics, Data Science and Applied AI. We are committed to excellence in both research and education and welcome applicants from all areas of statistics, data science, machine learning, artificial intelligence, computer science, and related disciplines.

For Assistant Professor positions, we seek candidates with outstanding research potential and a strong commitment to teaching. For Associate Professor and Professor positions, we seek candidates with established records of excellence in research, teaching, and academic leadership.

Please submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, research and teaching statements, and at least three letters of recommendation through mathjobs.org. Recommendation letters should be directly uploaded by the referees.

Review of applications will begin immediately upon receipt and continue until the positions are filled.

More information about the university / the department can be found at <https://www.nus.edu.sg> & <https://www.stat.nus.edu.sg/>

Taiwan: Taipei

National Taiwan University, Institute of Statistics and Data Science

Faculty Positions at National Taiwan University, Institute of Statistics and Data Science
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85032896>

USA: Stanford, CA

Stanford University

Assistant Professor, Statistics
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85528405>

USA: Stanford, CA

Stanford University School of Medicine

Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor: Stanford - Surgery Policy Improvement Research & Education (S-SPIRE) Center
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85527710>

USA: New Haven, CT

Yale University

Lecturer, Statistics and Data Science
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85626730>

USA: Iowa City, IA

University of Iowa

Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Position(s) in Business Analytics
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85615265>

USA: Baltimore, MD

Johns Hopkins University

Nuclear Technology Applications and Impacts Postdoctoral Fellow
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85218578>

USA: Baltimore, MD

Johns Hopkins University

Nuclear Technology Effects Postdoctoral Fellow
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85218392>

USA: St Louis, MO

Washington University

Statistics & Data Science Faculty Search
<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85615431>

USA: Durham, NC**Duke University, The Fuqua School of Business**

Tenure-Track Faculty Position in Decision Sciences

<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85401659>**USA: Ada, OH****Ohio Northern University**

Visiting Assistant Professor/Instructor of Statistics

<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85342380>**USA: Haverford, PA****Haverford College**

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Statistics

<https://jobs.imstat.org/job/85195738>*Is your department or company hiring?*

For maximum reach, place your ad on the IMS jobs board at **<https://jobs.imstat.org>** and we will also include the basic information about your job ad (location, university or company name, job title/function and a link to the full ad) here at no extra charge. As long as your job is active on the web it will be included in the *Bulletin*. Packages start at just \$420 for a 60-day job posting.

<https://jobs.imstat.org/employer/pricing/>

International Calendar of Statistical Events

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

Online and Ongoing series

  **Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics**
w <https://sites.google.com/view/apsp/home>

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

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

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

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

September 2026

September 2–4: Rome, Italy. CIBB 2026: 21st International Conference on Computational Intelligence Methods for Bioinformatics and Biostatistics w <https://cibb2026.teralab.ai>

September 7–10: Bournemouth, UK. RSS International Conference 2026 w rss.org.uk/training-events/conference2026/

 **September 23:** Birmingham, UK. IMA Employers' Forum – The Mathematics of Sustainability w <https://ima.org.uk/29382/employers-forum/>

October 2026

October 1–2: London, United Kingdom. Data Science & AI Summit w <https://datascience.thepeopleevents.com/>

  **October 6:** Online. International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science w <https://www.idwsds.org/>

October 21–23: Leiden, The Netherlands. Bayesian Biostatistics Conference Bayes 2026 w <https://www.bayes-pharma.org/>

 **October 30–November 1:** Lafayette, USA. AISC2026: Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics w <https://userweb.ucs.louisiana.edu/~C00253007/AISC2026/>

November 2026

November 1–3: New York City, USA. SLDS 2026: Inference and Intelligence w <https://asa-slds.github.io/slds2026/index.html>

  **November 12–14:** Davis, USA. Statistics Beyond Euclid: Functional Data, Random Objects and AI w <https://anson.ucdavis.edu/statisticsbeyondeuclid/>

International Calendar *continued*

December 2026

NEW  December 4–5: Lisbon, Portugal. **Workshop on Statistics and Applications** **w** <https://wsa2026.iseg.ulisboa.pt/>

NEW  December 7–11: Atlantic City, USA. **Annual Deming Conference on Applied Statistics** **w** <https://deming-conference.org/>

NEW  December 11–12: Sydney, Australia. **Workshop @ NeurIPS Sydney 2026: Can We Trust AI Evaluation?** **w** <https://tai-eval.github.io/>

NEW  December 14: Split, Croatia (before ICSDS). **Frontiers in Statistical Machine Learning (FSML) 2026** **w** <https://fsml-ims-workshop.org/>

 December 15–18: Split, Croatia. **2026 IMS International Conference on Statistics and Data Science (ICSDS)** **w** <https://sites.google.com/view/ims-icsds2026/>

NEW  December 15–16: Cirencester, UK. **20th IMA International Conference on Cryptography and Coding** **w** <https://ima.org.uk/28271/20th-ima-international-conference-on-cryptography-and-coding/>

NEW  December 19–22: Manjeri, Malappuram, India. **International Conference on Advances in Applied Probability and Stochastic Processes, ICAAP&SP 2026** **w** <https://www.icaapsp2026.com/index.html>

March 2027

NEW  March 1–3: Karlsruhe, Germany. **BAYST 2027: A workshop on BAYesian STructural learning** **w** <https://sites.google.com/view/bayst2027>

 March 14–17: Boston, USA. **2027 ENAR/IMS Spring Meeting** **w** <https://www.enar.org/meetings/>

July 2027

July 5–9: Montreal, Canada. **Extreme Value Analysis conference 2027** **w** <https://hecsciencesdecision.github.io/eva2027/>

July 11–15: Lusaka, Zambia. **66th ISI World Statistics Congress** **w** <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/isi-wsc2027/>

 July 12–15: Durham, UK. **Informs Applied Probability Society Conference 2027** **w** <http://informs-aps.webspace.durham.ac.uk>

August 2027

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

December 2027

December 28–31: Kolkata, India. **Twelfth International Triennial Calcutta Symposium on Probability and Statistics** **w** <https://www.calcuttastatisticalassociation.in/>

July 2028

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

August 2028

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

August 2029

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

Are we missing something? If you know of any statistics or probability meetings which aren't listed here, please let us know.

You can email the details to Elyse Gustafson at ims@imstat.org, or you can submit the details yourself at <https://www.imstat.org/ims-meeting-form/>

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