Message from the President

Dear ISBIS Colleagues and Friends:

Spring is finale here in CT! I have a few things to share with you.

First, I would like to thank Irena Ograjenšek for her service to ISBIS and wish her the best as she steps down from the ISBIS Executive Committee as VP for Scientific Programs. We are very sorry to lose her services, but understand her decision to step down for family reasons and wish her well. Martina Vandebroek is no stranger to ISBIS, having served on the ISBIS Exec previously. Martina has very graciously agreed to serve as VP for Scientific Programs until 2019 and we welcome her aboard.

ISBIS 2018 (July 4-6 in Athens) preparations are in full swing, please see http://conf.stat.unipi.gr/ for up to date details. We are extremely grateful to the LPC and the SPC for developing what is promising to be an excellent conference. Particular thanks to Sotiris Bersimis and Athanasios Sachlas on the LPC and to Irena Ograjenšek, Daniel Jeske and Sotiris on the SPC for their tireless efforts to pull everything together. I would like to add that thanks to World Bank and ISBIS funds, we are again able to support participants from developing countries. Do make plans to join us for the excursion on July 7 - you need to inform the organizers if you wish to go, and get details on how to pay for this. So, to all the ISBIS 2018 participants, thank you, please make sure you complete the registration and abstract submission, and I look forward to seeing you all in Athens on July 4! It promises to be a vibrant and very well attended conference. Imagination Travel is a wonderful resource, with very helpful staff, so please use them to help you plan your visit and stay.
We are also looking ahead to the ISI -WSC 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, please see [http://www.isi2019.org/](http://www.isi2019.org/) for details. Beatriz (Stefa) Etchegaray Garcia (our ISBIS representative) has confirmed that six ISBIS IPS proposals were submitted this time, about on par with submissions from other associations. This is excellent, thanks to all of you who submitted proposals, and fingers crossed for their acceptance to the program. The call for STS proposals is now out, and I encourage you to send in proposals for these as well. It will be great to have a very strong ISBIS presence in Kuala Lumpur next year.

Our ISBIS satellite meeting in 2019 will be also be in Kuala Lumpur at Bank Negara Malaysia just preceding the ISI-WSC. We expect to post details very soon on our website. I encourage your participation at the satellite meeting and at the ISI-WSC.

We continue to be active with ISBIS co-sponsored workshops and conferences. Upcoming in 2018 is a workshop at Anchor University in Nigeria, spearheaded by ISBIS Council member Olawale Awe. In December 2018, the fourth Statistical Methods in Finance conference and workshop will be held at the Chennai Mathematical Institute, please see [http://statfin.cmi.ac.in/2018/](http://statfin.cmi.ac.in/2018/) for details. If you have any ideas for workshops in 2018 or 2019, please feel free to approach me or any ISBIS Executive or Council members.

Our Blog Corner has been going tremendously well with many interesting contributions to date. Please do visit, enjoy these posts, and continue to send your feedback and suggestions to the authors and to us.

Finally, please do remember to renew your ISI and ISBIS/y-BIS membership for 2018, if you have not done so already. You can contact Dan Jeske or me if you have questions. We need your continued support!

Nalini Ravishanker, ISBIS President
Dear ISBIS members,

This time I would like to mention how ASMBI is contributing to the mission of ISBIS, well beyond the primary goal of publishing papers that present innovative methodologies, “good” mathematics and sound applications. ASMBI is hosting a number of special issues (always prepared according to its tough standards!) which connect with other communities, either based on established, first rate series of conferences or people working on very hot topics. You will see in the near future papers from the following conferences:

- **2017 Workshop on Stochastic Models, Statistics and Their Applications**, Berlin, Germany
- **The 17th Conference of the Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis International Society**, London, United Kingdom
- **ISBIS 2017**, Yorktown Heights, United States
- **Fifth Symposium on Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk (GDRR)**, Madrid, Spain
- **QPRC 2017: The 34th Quality and Productivity Research Conference**, Storrs, United States
- **HDDA - VII International Workshop on Perspectives on High-dimensional Data Analysis**, Guanajuato, Mexico
- **10th International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability (MMR 2017)**, Grenoble, France
- **S&DS 2018: Statistics and Data Science**, Torino, Italy
- **2018 Joint Research Conference on Statistics in Quality, Industry, and Technology**, Santa Fe, United States
- **Modelling Smart Grids 2018**, Prague, Czech Republic
- **ISBIS 2018**, Piraeus, Greece

I would like to point out the open calls for papers you will find in this issue of *ISBIS News*. Sometimes, such as in these cases, we opt for calls open to everyone and not only to participants at a conference. The first one is about S&DS 2018 to be held in May in Torino (Italy). From the title of the conference, it is clear that the focus of the special issue will be on Data Science in Business and Industry. Another special issue, stemming from
the Modelling Smart Grids conference in Prague (Czech Republic), will be specialised on Energy Networks and Stochastic Optimization. I invite you to contribute to those special issues, without forgetting that everyone presenting a paper at ISBIS 2018 is entitled to submit it for the ASMBI special issue devoted to “our” own conference. By the way, I would be glad to chat about ASMBI at ISBIS 2018! If you have ideas, suggestions, even criticisms, ..., please get in touch with me.

I remind you that you can access (ask for password if you lost it) ASMBI for free at http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1526-4025.

See you in Piraeus, hopefully!

Fabrizio Ruggeri, ASMBI Editor-in-Chief (fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it)

The y-BIS Report

Dear colleagues and friends,

I hope you all are enjoying the first days of spring. My y-BIS report includes a few updates about the activities in upcoming conferences.

First, a y-BIS session has been accepted for presentation in ISBIS 2018:

**Young Statisticians y-BIS Session**  
Organizer: Tahir Ekin

- Speaker 1: Ezgi Ozer
- Speaker 2: Ayfer Ezgi Yilmaz
- Speaker 3: Damla Ilter

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Athens. In addition, we have submitted an Invited Paper Session for the ISI World Congress. The proposed session focuses on recent developments in statistical learning and data mining in hospitality, energy, medical fraud assessment and clinical studies. We are in the process of preparing a proposal for an ISBIS y-BIS Workshop to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in 2019.

Lastly, what would you think about an informal y-BIS social gathering in Athens just before ISBIS 2018? Please email me at t_e18@txstate.edu if you would be interested and have any ideas.

Thank you,

Tahir Ekin, y-BIS Vice-President (t_e18@txstate.edu)
ISBIS 2018: International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics
University of Piraeus, Greece
4-6 July 2018
http://conf.sta.unipi.gr

Program

Plenary Speakers

Subha Chakraborti, Professor, Department of Information Systems, Statistics and Management Science, University of Alabama, USA
Ron S. Kenett, Chairman of the KPA Group and Professor, Mathematics Department, University of Turin, Italy
Evdokia Xekalaki, Professor, Department of Statistics, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece
Invited Sessions

1. **Statistics in Operations**  
   Organizer: Refik Soyer  
   - Speaker 1: Vadim Sokolov  
   - Speaker 2: Ehsan Soofi  
   - Speaker 3: Christopher Glynn

2. **Data Science in Industry**  
   Organizer: Ioanna Manolopoulou  
   - Speaker 1: David Hoyle  
   - Speaker 2: Gavin Whittaker  
   - Speaker 3: Christoforos Anagnostopoulos

3. **Statistical Modelling for Inhomogeneous and Structured Data**  
   Organizer: Ioanna Manolopoulou  
   - Speaker 1: Simon Lunagomez  
   - Speaker 2: TBA  
   - Speaker 3: Isadora Antoniano-Villalobos

4. **Advances in SPC**  
   Organizer: Daniel Jeske  
   - Speaker 1: Sven Knoth  
   - Speaker 2: Daniel Jeske  
   - Speaker 3: Karel Kupka

5. **Network Modelling**  
   Organizer: James Wilson  
   - Speaker 1: James Wilson  
   - Speaker 2: Nathaniel Stevens  
   - Speaker 3: Siraj Sengupta

6. **Count Time Series**  
   Organizer: Robert Lund  
   - Speaker 1: Robert Lund  
   - Speaker 2: James Livsey  
   - Speaker 3: Stefanos Kechiagias
7. Computationally Efficient Bayesian Modeling of Non-Gaussian Processes
Organizer: Nalini Ravishanker
- Speaker 1: Scott Nolan
- Speaker 2: Refik Soyer
- Speaker 3: Kathy Ensor

8. Reliability
Organizer: Asha Gopalakrisnan
- Speaker 1: Maxim Finkelstein
- Speaker 2: Jose Maria Sarabia
- Speaker 3: Asha Gopalakrisnan

9. Models for Monitoring Non-Industrial Processes and Applications in Health
Organizer: Sotiris Bersimis
- Speaker 1: Kostas Triantafyllopoulos
- Speaker 2: Polychronis Economou
- Speaker 3: Sotiris Bersimis

10. Special issues of Statistical Process Monitoring
Organizer: Stelios Psarakis
- Speaker 1: Athanasios Sachlas
- Speaker 2: Javier M. Moguerza
- Speaker 3: Theodoros Perdikis

11. New findings in the Health State of Populations and Implications in the Health Systems
Organizer: Christos H Skiadas
- Speaker 1: Christos H Skiadas
- Speaker 2: Konstantinos Zafeiris
- Speaker 3: Fragiskos Bersimis
- Speaker 4: Yiannis Dimotikalis
12. **Advanced Methods in Statistical Process Control I**  
Organizers: Athanasios Rakitzis & Sotiris Bersimis

- Speaker 1: Amita Baranwal
- Speaker 2: Konstantinos Bourazas
- Speaker 3: Marien Graham
- Speaker 4: Athanasios Rakitzis

13. **Advanced Methods in Statistical Process Control II**  
Organizer: Athanasios Rakitzis & Sotiris Bersimis

- Speaker 1: Nirpeksh Kumar
- Speaker 2: Konstantinos Tasias
- Speaker 3: Kim Phuc Tran

14. **Topics on Applied Statistical Inference**  
Organizer: Markos Koutras

- Speaker 1: Serkan Eryilmaz
- Speaker 2: S. Rao Jammalamadaka
- Speaker 3: Marianthi Markatou
- Speaker 4: Ioannis S. Triantafyllou

15. **Design of Experiments I**  
Organizer: Haralambos Evangelaras & Kalliopi Mylona

- Speaker 1: Stelios Georgiou
- Speaker 2: Stella Stylianou
- Speaker 3: Kalliopi Mylona

16. **Design of Experiments II**  
Organizer: Kalliopi Mylona & Haralambos Evangelaras

- Speaker 1: Peter Goos
- Speaker 2: Antony Overstall
- Speaker 3: Vassiliki Koutra
17  **ISBA-IS**  Organizer: Refik Soyer & Fabrizio Ruggeri
   - Speaker 1: Sanjib Basu
   - Speaker 2: Joshua Landon
   - Speaker 3: Fabrizio Ruggeri

18  **Young Statisticians y-BIS Session**  Organizer: Tahir Ekin
   - Speaker 1: Ezgi Ozer
   - Speaker 2: Ayfer Ezgi Yilmaz
   - Speaker 3: Damla Ilter

19  **Statistical Issues and Methods in Big Data**  Organizer: Marianthi Markatou
   - Speaker 1: David Banks
   - Speaker 2: Foteini Panagou
   - Speaker 3: Panagiotis Tsiamyrtzis

20  **Topics in Industrial Statistics**  Organizer: Marianthi Markatou
   - Speaker 1: Elisavet M. Sofikitou
   - Speaker 2: Lindsay Berry
   - Speaker 3: Nikolaos Demiris

21  **Functional Time Series**  Organizer: Rituparna Sen
   - Speaker 1: Beatriz Bueno
   - Speaker 2: Pramita Baschi
   - Speaker 3: Rituparna Sen

22  **Innovative Applications of Statistical Methods in Industry**  Organizer: Balaji Raman
   - Speaker 1: Balaji Raman
   - Speaker 2: Pradeep Sridharan
   - Speaker 3: Wee-Yeap Lau
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Time Series</strong></td>
<td>Bovas Abraham</td>
<td>Speaker 1: Nalini Ravishanker</td>
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<td>Speaker 2: Aera Thavaneswaran</td>
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<td>Speaker 3: Bovas Abraham</td>
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<td><strong>Recent Advances in Data Mining Applications</strong></td>
<td>Tahir Ekin</td>
<td>Speaker 1: Tahir Ekin</td>
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<td>Speaker 2: Ozan Kocadagli</td>
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<td>Speaker 3: Rahim Mahmoudvand</td>
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<td><strong>Statistical Applications in Health Care Services Management</strong></td>
<td>Vassilis Plagiannakos</td>
<td>Speaker 1: Sotiris Tasoulis</td>
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<td>Speaker 2: Theodoros Paschalis</td>
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<td>Speaker 3: Christina Georgakopoulou</td>
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<td>Speaker 4: Spiros Goulas</td>
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<td><strong>Evaluation and Performance of Decision Making Units</strong></td>
<td>Polychronis Economou</td>
<td>Speaker 1: Eugenio Epprecht</td>
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<td>Speaker 2: Sonia Malefaki</td>
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<td>Speaker 3: Kostas Kounetas</td>
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<td><strong>Recent Developments in Statistical Process Monitoring</strong></td>
<td>Ronald Does</td>
<td>Speaker 1: Mandla D. Diko</td>
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<td>Speaker 2: Leo C.E. Huberts</td>
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<td>Speaker 3: George Nenes</td>
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<td><strong>ASMBI Session</strong></td>
<td>Fabrizio Ruggeri</td>
<td>Speaker 1: Stergios Fotopoulos</td>
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<td>Speaker 2: Discussant — Rituparna Sen</td>
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<td>Speaker 3: Discussant — Vadim Sokolov</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
29 **Combinatorial Testing** Organizer: Raghu Kacker
- Speaker 1: Raghu Kacker
- Speaker 2: Jeff Yu Lei
- Speaker 3: Dimitris Simos

30 **Recent Advances in Time Series Analysis Methods and Applications** Organizer: Ta-Hsin Li
- Speaker 1: Ioannis Kamarianakis
- Speaker 2: Beatriz (Stefa) Etchegaray Garcia
- Speaker 3: Bei Chen

31 **Novel Bayesian Tools for Analyzing Complex Socio-Economic Data** Organizer: Xinyi Xu & Bo Lu
- Speaker 1: Mario Peruggia
- Speaker 2: Xiaojing Wang
- Speaker 3: Alessandra Mattei

32 **IASC Session - Statistical Tools for Health, Business and Industry** Organizer: Christos P. Kitsos
- Speaker 1: Vilelmine Carayanni
- Speaker 2: Miltiadis Chalikias
- Speaker 3: Thomas Toulias

33 **Market Surveys - Business and Statistical Perspectives** Organizers: Nalini Ravishanker & Daniel Jeske
- Speaker 1: Nicholas Fisher
- Speaker 2: Kamal Sen
- Speaker 3: Kostas Kotopoulos

The program also includes a substantial number of **Contributed Paper Sessions** and **Poster Presentations**. These are in the process of completion and will appear soon in the program section of the conference website: http://conf.sta.unipi/gr. Please visit frequently this page for the most up-to-date information on all aspects of the conference.

We look forward to welcoming you in Piraeus!

Bersimis Sotiris, on behalf of the Organizing Committee
A Message About ISBIS/ISI Membership

Table 1 below shows the number of new members to ISBIS over the last couple of years, and also shows if and how they became members of ISI. As you might know, it is possible to join ISBIS without joining ISI and the data shows that many of our new members are doing that. We strongly encourage dual membership in ISBIS and ISI. The networking opportunities offered by the larger ISI umbrella are valuable. The biannual World Statistics Congresses are a wonderful way to mix with other ISI Associations’ members, and possibly develop collaborations across your areas of interest. In addition, the value of becoming an ISI Elected Member is substantial, as it offers global certification of the impact you are making to your discipline. So, if you are a new member to ISBIS, please consider joining ISI and if you are an Elected ISI member, please consider nominating some colleagues to achieve that same status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>New ISBIS Members</th>
<th>ISI Membership Status</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Regular</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>2018 (thru Feb.)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

Table 1. New ISBIS Membership

For some perspective on the number of new ISBIS members shown in Table 1, the total ISBIS membership is around 300. Both 2016 and 2017 showed on the order of 8% growth. So far in 2018 we are off to a good start to top that, and we hope to exceed 10% growth and also recruit more new ISBIS members that come in as ISI Elected Members. We call on all ISBIS members to extol the benefits that being an ISBIS mem-
ber offers which include: 1) free online access to our journal, *Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry*, 2) an interest group (y-BIS) for young researchers and professionals involved with statistical research and applications relating to business and industry, 3) an open invitation to engage with the ISBIS blog corner, 4) participation and networking opportunities at the bi-annual International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics (our next one is at the University of Piraeus, Greece, July 4th-6th, 2018), and 5) the opportunity to join many ISBIS colleagues at the next World Statistics Congress (2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) which includes the opportunity to submit a proposal for either a Special Topics Session (STS) or a Contributed Paper Session (CPS) for the congress.

I am indebted to Margaret A. De Ruiter-Molloy (ISI Membership Officer) for her help in putting together this article.

Daniel R. Jeske, ISBIS Vice-President of Membership

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*Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry*, a special issue on Statistics and Data Science: New Developments for Business and Industrial Applications

**Call for Papers**

The official journal of the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics, *Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI)*, invites manuscript submissions for a special issue on *Statistics and Data Science: New Developments for Business and Industrial Applications*. Nicola Torelli (Università di Trieste, Italy) and Grazia Vicario (Politecnico di Torino, Italy) will edit the issue. Presenters at the meeting organized jointly by the SIS SDS Group and itENBIS on *Statistics and Data Science: New Developments for Business and Industrial Applications*, Torino (Italy), 24-25 May 2018, [http://www.sds2018.polito.it/](http://www.sds2018.polito.it/), are encouraged to submit their manuscripts for consideration for publication. This invitation is extended to other researchers who may not have attended the Torino conference but who work in this area. If you wish your paper to be considered for publication, please follow the journal’s *Author Guidelines* (available on the journal’s website [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15264025](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15264025)). The deadline for submissions is **late September 2018**.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Guest Editors directly at grazia.vicario@polito.it and nic.torelli@deams.units.it. Note that Nicola Torelli and Grazia Vicario are also Co-chairs of the Torino meeting.
Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry, a special issue on Energy Networks and Stochastic Optimization

Call for Abstracts

The official journal of the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics, Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI), is inviting contributions to a special issue on Energy Networks and Stochastic Optimization. Papers should present either innovative methodologies or forceful applications of existing methods. All submissions will go through the standard, selective review process of ASMBI. The guest editors of this issue are Ron Kenett (ron@kpa-group.com), Jaromir Antoch (antoch@karlin.mff.cuni.cz) and Gejza Dohnal (dohnal@nipax.cz).

Interested authors are invited to first submit a tentative title and draft abstract of what they intend to write about. The abstracts will undergo a fast turnaround review and, following that, authors will be invited to submit full-length papers. Energy networks and stochastic optimization will be considered in a wide sense and include not only probabilistic and statistical modeling, but also corresponding optimization aspects. Questions about this special issue can be addressed to anyone of the editors. Abstracts should be submitted by email, with subject stating ASMBI, to: antoch@karlin.mff.cuni.cz. A template for the abstract is available on: http://www.karlin.mff.cuni.cz/~antoch/energy18/template.zip

Timetable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submission of abstract:</td>
<td>June 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of abstract review cycle:</td>
<td>July 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission of paper:</td>
<td>October 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of review cycle:</td>
<td>December 31, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission of final versions:</td>
<td>June 1, 2019</td>
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</table>

Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI) was first published in 1985, and has since been publishing contributions in the interface between stochastic modeling, data analysis and their application in business, finance, insurance, management and production. The journal’s main objective is to publish application-focused papers, both technical and practical, presenting new results that solve real-life problems or have great potential for doing so. Domains of such problems include reliability, quality control, forecasting, managerial decision-making, database management, and more. A second objective is to present new methods for solving such problems, including optimization, database management, knowledge acquisition, expert systems, decision support systems and neural computing, managerial processes, reliability, quality control, data analysis and data mining. A third objective is to present new methodologies for solving real-life problems, including new methods in optimization, simulation, probability models, statistical analysis, visualization, and data mining. The journal website is: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291526-4025

Fabrizio Ruggeri, ASMBI Editor-in-Chief (fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it)
Anchor University Lagos, in collaboration with the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS), is organizing a workshop on BASIC AND ADVANCED TIME SERIES ANALYSIS: THEORY, PRACTICE AND PROGRAMMING in September 2018. The main aim of this workshop is to train participants to reach a higher level of scientific activity, both in terms of their teaching, research and publications. It also aims at bringing together academics and people working in business and industry to strengthen the links between these communities in Nigeria and abroad. This workshop will be partially supported by ISBIS/ISI, and World Bank.

**Justification of the Workshop.** This workshop on the latest developments in time series analysis will improve the capacity building of African postgraduate students, research fellows and junior academic staff members. It will help them to elevate their research to a level that enables quality publication in international, peer-reviewed journals, and teach the recent developments in time series to the next generation of researchers in Africa, thereby enhancing their overall capacity. It will also cater for the need of professionals in Business and Industry who may have graduate degrees in statistics or related disciplines but need advanced knowledge to be productive in a competitive global workplace. This is a step towards building the capacity of researchers in line with the goals of the International Statistical Institute.

**Meet the Instructors**

**Luis Alberiko Gil-Alana**
Professor Luis Alberiko Gil-Alana is a Faculty Fellow with the Navarra Center for International Development and Professor of Econometrics and Quantitative Methods in the School of Economics and Business Administration at the University of Navarra, in Pamplona, Spain. He completed his PhD at the London School of Economics, LSE, in 1997, in the area of Econometrics and Quantitative Methods. A recipient of the Ely Devons
prize in Econometrics at the LSE in 1993, Profesor Gil-Alana has received many other prizes all over the world. He has also been a researcher at the European University Institute, the London Business School and the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. Professor Gil-Alana is the author/co-author of over four hundred research publications.

Professor Robert Mudida is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Strathmore Business School in Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya. He has considerable lecturing and practical experience in the areas of economics, applied econometrics, public policy and international finance. He is also the Director of the Strathmore Institute for Public Policy and Governance. He has been a visiting professor at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, the University of Navarra in Spain and the African School of Economics in Benin. Professor Mudida holds a doctorate in International Studies from the University of Nairobi. He also holds an MSc in Financial Economics from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies and an MA in International Studies from the University of Nairobi. He has also attended courses at the London School of Economics in the UK, Harvard Business School and IESE Business School in Spain. Professor Mudida has published widely in his areas of application of time series techniques to macroeconomic data, institutional economics, international finance, and the philosophy of economics.

Our Sponsors

Olawale Awe, Workshop Organizer
The International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS) will hold its 2019 satellite conference August 14-16, 2019 in Bank Negara Malaysia. We expect to have a short course on August 13. Please mark your calendar and stay tuned for calls for invited and contributed sessions.

DSSV 2018:
Data Science, Statistics & Visualization
9-11 July 2018
TU Wien – Austria
http://iasc-isı.org/dsv2018/

This meeting shall create a forum to discuss recent progress and emerging ideas in these different disciplines and encourage informal contacts and discussions among all the participants. The conference welcomes contributions to practical aspects of data science, statistics and visualization, and in particular those linking and integrating these subject areas. Presentations should thus be oriented towards a very wide scientific audience, and can cover topics such as machine learning and statistical learning, the visualization and verbalization of data, big data infrastructures and analytics, interactive learning, advanced computing, and other important themes.
Statistics and Data Science:
New Developments for Business and Industrial Applications

Collegio Carlo Alberto, Torino
24-25 May 2018
http://www.sds2018.polito.it

After the success of the SIS Conference in Florence on Statistics and Data Science, the new SIS group SDS (Statistica e Data Science) and itENBIS (http://www.enbis.org/about/ln/itenbis/index) proposed this joint Conference. Highlights of the meeting include invited speakers, organized and free contributed sessions concerning the main topics of Data Science. Attention will be particularly focused on innovative techniques in business and industrial statistics.

Instructions on when and how to upload the abstracts, as well as practical details on registration, travel and accommodation, are posted along with the instructions on when and how to upload the abstracts, on the conference website http://www.sds2018.polito.it/.

We invite you to visit it regularly as the conference information will be updated regularly.

We kindly ask you to save the following dates:

- **18 March 2018** – submission of a title and an abstract (max 2 pages) including main references and keynotes
- **30 March 2018** – acceptance notification to the authors
- **13 April 2018** – early registration: standard € 100 / reduced for PhD students € 50 after this date the fees will be: standard € 125 / reduced for PhD students € 75
- **24-25 May 2018** - Conference
- **June 2018** – call for submission of paper to special issue of relevant scientific journals

Queries can be directed to the organizers (http://www.sds2018.polito.it/contact).

On behalf of the Italian Statistical Society’s Group Statistics and Data Science and itENBIS, we do hope to see you at the Conference this May!

Nicola Torelli, Rosanna Verde, and Grazia Vicario (Società Italiana di Statistica, P.zza Manfredo Fanti 30, 00185 Roma; tel. 06.6869845 fax. 06 68806742; Web: http://www.sis-statistica.it)
ENBIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Free ENBIS Webinar in April 2018

A free ENBIS Webinar with the title "The R software for statistical quality control and improvement". The webinar will be presented by Emilio L. Cano and moderated by Shirley Coleman. It will take place on April 17th from 12:30 to 13:30 CET.

In the webinar, an overview of selected R tools for statistical quality control and improvement will be provided using the RStudio environment. Examples on control charts, measurement systems analysis and capability analysis will be shown. Success stories and interesting feedback from users of the SixSigma R package will demonstrate the power of R in industry and business.

To register for the free webinar, go to the ENBIS Web at http://www.enbis.org, log in, select this webinar among the Upcoming Events and click on Registration. In case the quota of participants has been exceeded by the time you try to register, you will be waitlisted and notified per e-mail should your participation become possible because somebody else withdrew from the webinar.

2. ENBIS Spring Meeting 2018

The 2018 ENBIS Spring Meeting on Design of Experiments for Quality of Products and Sustainability in Agri-Food Systems will take place in Florence from 4th to 6th June 2018. If you haven't already done so, you are cordially invited to submit an abstract by April 20th, 2018, at the latest. To submit your abstract, go to www.enbis.org, log in and search for the 2018 ENBIS Spring Meeting under Upcoming Events. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out no later than 11 March 2018.

3. ENBIS-18 in Nancy

The ENBIS-18 conference will be hosted by the Laboratory of Mathematics “Institut Elie Cartan” of the Lorraine University (Université de Lorraine) in Nancy (France). It will take place at the »Ecole des Mines« from 2nd to 6th September 2018. The conference sessions are scheduled for September 3rd to 5th, with the pre- and post-conference administrative meetings, courses and workshops taking place on September 2nd and 6th.
We cordially invite you to submit an abstract (maximum of 250 words) by April 27th, 2018, at the latest. To submit your abstract go to www.enbis.org, log in and search for ENBIS-18 under Upcoming Events. If you are not already a member of ENBIS, please join first (note there is no membership fee for individual members of ENBIS).

Workshop on Times-to-Events and Time Series Data Analysis Using R
Department of Statistics
Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), India
15 - 18 December 2017

A POST-WORKSHOP REPORT

The Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) in collaboration with the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India held a Workshop on Times-to-Events and Time Series Data Analysis using R during 15-18 December 2017. The workshop received financial support from the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

The Workshop was formally inaugurated by Dr. J. Letha, the Vice-Chancellor of CUSAT, on 15th December at the Department of Statistics. There were 65 registered participants; 32 attended the Times-to-Events part, and 33 attended the Time Series part.

The modules on different aspects of Times-to-Events were run by Prof. Debasis Kundu (IIT Kanpur), Prof. Asha Gopalakrishnan (CUSAT) and Prof. P. G. Sankaran (CUSAT), in a large classroom. The Department’s Computer Lab was used for the data analysis portion using R. They covered topics such as modelling and analysis of reliability, survival analysis, and competing risks.

The hands-on Time Series Analysis modules were all held in the Department’s Computer Lab. The sessions on Time Series were engaged by Prof. Nalini Ravishanker (University of Connecticut) and Prof. N. Balakrishna (CUSAT). Topics such as classical decomposition models, Box-Jenkins approach, heteroskedastic models, state-space models, frequency domain analysis, and clustering of time series were covered.
The main focus of the workshop was on methodology, applications, and data analysis using R packages. The four-day event went on very well with very positive feedback from the participants. I take this opportunity to thank all the resource persons, the funding agencies, the sponsors, and the participants for helping me to organize this successful academic event.

N. Balakrishna, Convener of the Workshop, Department of Statistics, CUSAT
ISBIS-Co-sponsored Workshop on Time Series in Data Science
Postgraduate Institute of Science
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
20th – 22nd December 2017

A POST-WORKSHOP REPORT

Collaborators: The Department of Statistics & Computer Science, University of Peradeniya
International Research Center (InRC), University of Peradeniya

Resource Persons: Prof. Nalini Ravishanker, University of Connecticut, USA
Prof. N. Balakrishna, Cochin University of Science and Technology, India

The workshop on “Time Series Analysis in Data Sciences and Effective Scientific Writing” organized by the Department of Statistics & Computer Science, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the Board of Study in Statistics and Computer Science of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, was held on 20-22 December 2017 at the PGIS Computer Laboratory. Prof. Pushpa Wijekoon and Dr. Lakshika Nawarathna from Department of Statistics and Computer Science, University of Peradeniya and Prof. Nalini Ravishanker from Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, USA served as local coordinators and international coordinator, respectively. The workshop was partially funded by the International Statistical Institute (ISI) through the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS), and the International Research Centre, University of Peradeniya.

Time Series Analysis is one of the important branches of Statistics and is an integral part of Data Science, with numerous applications in business, industry and STEM disciplines (Biomedicine, Finance, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Marketing, Pharmaceuticals, etc.). This workshop was organized with the chief purpose of providing the knowledge on foundations and the latest developments of Time Series Analysis and to improve the capacity building of postgraduate students, research fellows and junior academic staff members in Sri Lanka.

The two experts in the field of Time Series Analysis, Prof. Nalini Ravishanker, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, USA and Prof. N. Balakrishna, Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, India contributed as resource persons of the workshop.
The workshop was divided into two units; Unit 1 which was held in the first two days (20-21 December 2017) focused on Time Series Analysis for Data Science while Unit 2 which was held on the third day (22 December 2017) focused on the basics of producing high-quality international level scientific publications. Topics covered under Unit 1 included, Descriptive and Predictive Analysis via Linear Models, State Space Modeling - Dynamic Linear Models, Nonlinear Time Series Modeling and Cluster Methods for Time Series. All sessions were conducted in an interactive manner and each topic was discussed in detail with hands-on experience by taking real life examples.

49 participants attended both Units 1 and 2, and 7 additional participants attended Unit 2 only. Some of the eminent persons from academia, industry, research institutes and government sector in Sri Lanka who are working in the area of Time Series Analysis were among the participants.

The workshop concluded with positive feedback from the participants regarding all arrangements. Overall, they found that the workshop was well-structured, comprehensive and highly beneficial for their respective careers. Moreover, the opportunity provided allowed to learn from the experts in the field of Time Series Analysis from other countries such as the United States and India. The hospitality and commitment of the PGIS staff were highly appreciated by all participants.

Some moments captured during the workshop are available at:
http://www.mediafire.com/folder/du7x5pr30bxy8/time-series_workshop_photos
Lakshika Nawarathna and Pushpa Wijekoon, Workshop Co-organizers
NII Shonan Workshop on Analysing Large Collections of Time Series
Shonan, Japan
Feb 12-15, 2018
http://shonan.nii.ac.jp/seminar/122/

A POST-WORKSHOP REPORT

The workshop brought together researchers in machine learning, statistics, econometrics and computer science along with industry practitioners to discuss the computational and conceptual challenges that we are facing in analysing very large collections of time series. NII Shonan Meetings are the first Dagstuhl-style seminar held in Asia, and based on a structure whereby participants live in close quarters for several days for intensive discussions on various topics under a specified theme. This workshop was organized by Prof. Anne Driemel, Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands), Prof. Rob J Hyndman, Monash University (Australia), and Prof. Galit Shmueli, National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan).

Galit Shmueli, on behalf of the Organizing Committee
Bioinformatics and Big Data Initiatives in Indonesia

POST-ACTIVITY REPORT

Big data studies in statistics have become popular in Indonesia in recent years. Much less attention has been paid to bioinformatics studies, in fact the subject is still relatively new. We felt it was important to introduce bioinformatics to students, lecturers and researchers in statistics-mathematics departments, along with students, lecturers and researchers from life sciences departments. For a single university, the cost to invite the expert(s) to Indonesia is rather expensive. Sharing costs between interested researchers in the host university, or even better among several host universities, were more promising options for us. We chose the second alternative and in October 2, 2016 we created a joint activities group between seven universities in Indonesia. The participant universities are Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Institute Sains dan Teknologi (IST) Akprind, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta (UNY), Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS), Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP), and Universitas Ahmad Dahlan (UAD). Our commitments include: providing the cost of economy ticket return, local accommodation, transportation and fee (the Indonesian standard) if needed because in some cases we do not have to provide fee for the expert(s).

The first joint activity took place in 2016 when we invited Dr. Paulo C. Rodriguez (CAST Director, University of Tampere, Finland) to give a workshop, teaching, and Studium General in Statistics and Big Data. He visited UII (for teaching and Studium General (SG)), UGM (SG), UNS (Workshop) and IST Akprind (SG). The teaching was under the International Collaborative Teaching Grant from Academic Development Board at Universitas Islam Indonesia.

The second one was in October 1-17, 2017. There were ten universities having two experts, Dr. Mario R. Guarracino from INAR-Italy and Dr. Kartick C. Mondal from Jadavpur University-India, to give a talk and discussion (Studium General and Workshop) about Bioinformatics and Big Data Analysis. Dr. Guarracino conducted activities at Universitas Jember (UNEJ), Institute Teknologi Sepuluh November (ITS), Universitas Islam Negeri Malang (UIN Malang), Universitas Brawijaya (UB), UGM, Institute Teknologi bandung (ITB), UNDIP and a brief visit to UII. On the other hand, Dr. Mondal visited UNS, ITS, UIM, UNY and UII.
We found a very positive response from lecturers, students and practitioners (industries and researchers). In addition, the Indonesian government has offered follow-up grant schemes to sponsor joint research work between experts from abroad and Indonesian academics and researchers. The new scheme is called as the World Class Professor.

Last but not least, we express our gratitude to Dr. Rodriguez, Dr. Guarracino and Dr. Mondal for their visits and for sharing their knowledge and experiences with us.

Joint Committee: Rohmatul Fajriyah, Herni Utami, Hasih Pratiwi, Budi Warsito, Retno Subekti, Ari Kusumastuti, Santi Wulan Purnami, Umu Saádah, M. Fatekurrohman, and Husna Nugrahapradja.

Submitted by Rohmatul Fajriyah on behalf of the Joint Committee
Predictive Analytics in Elections

One year ago I noted in this column the role of predictive analytics in election campaigns and pointed to the work done by Cambridge Analytica (CA) in support of the Trump campaign in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election. During the last month, the (mis)use of Facebook data by CA has been a major news item in the world press. We have learned that the personal psychological profiling done by CA – one of the hallmarks of their own promotional materials – took advantage of data made available by Facebook for academic research, but never intended for commercial or electoral benefit. An article in the Guardian on March 23 (as I write this column) summarizes the information that came to light by that time (https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/22/cambridge-analytica-scandal-the-biggest-revelations-so-far). The uproar against CA for abusing these data, and against Facebook for failing to protect the privacy of their users, is a valuable wake-up call to all of us. Data can be used in many ways. We all need to exercise a keen moral compass when we look at the data we use and what we do with it. Popular criticism has not been limited to CA’s abuse of the Facebook data; it clearly spills over into the use of data science as a marketing tool in the political arena, and in commerce. For example, another Guardian article on March 23 describing parts of CA’s strategy for using data science in the Trump campaign (https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/23/leaked-cambridge-analyticas-blueprint-for-trump-victory). I find that most of the ideas described there are now commonplace in digital marketing and are taught in leading data science programs around the world. The concern about companies failing to protect data that should be confidential is legitimate. I hope that the CA investigation does not signal the beginning of a campaign against data science in commerce and other fields. Interested readers might also want to consult the December 2017 issue of Big Data, a special issue devoted to “computational propaganda and political big data”.

- “The National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP),”
  https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/acs-nsqip

Health care is one of the world’s biggest industries. Although there are special aspects to health care, it is, like other industries, composed of processes that can be assessed and improved. The National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) is one of the leading initiatives in quality health care. The program was developed by the American College of Surgeons and was initially applied to the Veterans’ Administration hospitals in the United States. Since then the program has expanded and now covers more than 600 hospitals in the U.S. The program focuses on 30-day survival rates as the most direct measure of surgical success. Survival rates depend importantly on the patient and procedure mix at each hospital and these are taken into account by making statistical risk adjustments to the rates for each hospital. It also emphasizes that the data used in assessing hospitals are taken from patient records to guarantee completeness and are reviewed for
accuracy. The web site includes much information about the program and its accomplishments, as well as references to a number of articles showing how it has worked in practice. If you are interested in more detail, you may want to check out the following articles:


• “Overview of Approximate Bayesian Computation,” S. A. Sisson, Y. Fan and M. A. Beaumont

Computational advances and algorithms have been prominent in advancing the use of Bayesian statistics for practical data analysis. Few problems have a nice textbook structure that leads directly to a functional form for a posterior distribution. It is more common to be faced with problems where computing the posterior is essentially intractable. Approximate Bayesian Computation (ABC) concerns settings where a major computational issue is to compute the likelihood. For example, consider a problem in which we have observations that are believed to follow a non-linear model, obtained from solving a complex system of differential equations, in which the parameters are unknown constants that appear in the equations; computing the vector of expected values for given values of the parameters may be a major computational task. Applications with very large data sets also pose such problems. The mode of attack in ABC is to approximate the likelihood, and then to base the posterior on a combination of the prior and the approximated likelihood. The paper presents a variety of methods for implementing this basic idea, with a comprehensive list of references. It is an excellent reference for anyone interested in ABC.

• “Classifying Online Dating Profiles on Tinder using FaceNet Facial Embeddings,” Charles F Jekel and Raphael T. Haftka
  Arxiv: https://arxiv.org/abs/1803.04347

This interesting article by Jekel and Haftka analyzes online dating profiles on Tinder, with the goal of achieving personalized classification models that reflect a user's historical preferences. The authors propose a method that exploits a FaceNet facial classification model to extract features which may be related to facial attractiveness. The resulting features are used to describe an individual's face. A user reviewed more than 8,000 online dating profiles. For each reviewed online dating profile, a feature set was constructed from the profile images which contained just one face. The authors explore procedures to move from a set of features for a collection of faces to a set of profile features. They used simple logistic regression trained on the features from just 20 profiles and obtained 65% validation accuracy. A point of diminishing marginal returns was identified after using data from about 80 profiles, with about 73% accuracy; adding more profiles led to just marginal improvements.
Farzaneh Safavimaneh
Shahid Beheshti University (SBU), Iran
http://facultymembers.sbu.ac.ir/f_safavimanesh

Dr. Farzaneh Safavimaneh is a faculty member at the Institute for Cognitive and Brain Sciences (ICBS) at Shahid Beheshti University (SBU), Tehran, Iran. She was born in August 1984 in Tehran. After completing her high school in mathematics and physics in Tehran, she started her undergraduate studies in Statistics at Shahid Beheshti University, one of the premier universities in Iran. A book on Fractals, which she found by accident at the library of the Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), in combination with a course she took on stochastic processes in the third year of her bachelor studies, made an initial opening to the exciting world of the statistical inference for stochastic processes. The more she studied, the more she got surprised with the power of statistics in explaining randomness and variation, two old friends since accidentally and luckily starting statistics as her bachelor field of study! Under the wise guidance of Professor M. Q. Vahid-Asl, she wrote her BSc final thesis on Fractals and chaotic signals. By the end of that one-year journey and after learning more about uncertainty and randomness, she was almost sure that statistics was what she had been looking for in the world of mathematics, sufficed to decide devoting the rest of her academic life to these areas. Swiftly she secured admission to continue her education by starting her MSc on Mathematical Statistics at the same university. She was very successful too, earning the top rank 8 spot among more than 3,000 participants in the national entrance exam for Statistics.

Dr. Safavimaneh wrote her master thesis under supervision of Professor Vahidi-Asl on the topic of Markov Point Processes. Although stochastic processes were mostly taught and considered as a pure field of study, she began her first serious applied experience by collaborating with Dr. Reza Akhavan at the Research Institute for Forest and Rangelands to implement the spatial statistics tools on some real data analyses. That became an opening window to the world of applied statistics persuading her to make a balance between theory and application. After defending her MSc thesis with the Excellent Degree designation, she was immediately employed as a statistician at the Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences (SBUMS) in Tehran. However, after about 6 months, in 2012, she left the institute to start a Ph.D. in Denmark with a full scholarship from Aalborg University and the Center for Stochastic Geometry and Advanced Bioimaging (CSGB) under the supervision
of Professor Jesper Møller, who is a big name on spatial point processes. During her Ph.D., Dr. Safavimanesh worked on developing a new class of stochastic point processes to investigate a hypothesis in Neuroscience. This work led to a paper that appeared in *Biometrika* and a second one in the *Journal of Microscopy*.

Working closely with neuroscientists during her Ph.D. studies was another fruitful experience in the multidisciplinary fields that elucidated plenty of unknowns about the power of statistics in the real problem solving. In addition, thanks to the scientific generosity of professor Claudia Redenbach, her three-month visit at The Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics ITWM, Germany, in 2013 was another fruitful experience providing other contexts for applied statistics.

After successfully defending her Ph.D. thesis also with an Excellent Degree designation, Dr. Safavimanesh returned to her country in 2015 and was immediately employed as a post-doctoral researcher at The Institute for Cognitive and Brain Sciences (ICBS) at Shahid Beheshti University, granted by the Cognitive Science and Technologies Council of the Vice-presidency of Iran. After one year, she was employed at the Department of Statistics at the same university as an Assistant Professor. Simultaneously working at ICBS as an Adjunct Assistant Professor persuaded her to ask for moving fully to the Institute from the Department of Statistics and continue her research more focused on the applications of statistics in cognitive sciences. During the first two years after finishing her Ph.D. and getting back to Iran, she successfully established –to the best of her knowledge - the first Modern Neuro-stereology Laboratory of the region, under the full supports of the Deans of ICBS and SBU, where several projects on cognitive neuroscience are developed. The laboratory is a great place for collecting data sets required amenable to spatial data analyses in order to answer important questions in cognitive neuroscience.

She has been teaching advanced statistical methods to MSc and PhD students of cognitive science in several universities of Iran such as SBU, UT, and IUMS. Dr. Safavimanesh has also been active organizing more than 20 workshops and lecturing on the applications of statistical methods in cognitive science during the past three years, which she felt was the best way for her old passion and dream of serving as a teacher to come true. Learning the way people from other fields are thinking and what they want from statistics was the best achievement of teaching statistics to plenty of talented and top-ranked students with various backgrounds from electronics and computer engineering to medicine, psychology, linguistics, and basic sciences. Right now, Dr. Safavimanesh is supervising three MSc students, and co-supervising 13 PhD students in cognitive sciences jointly with great senior colleagues in cognitive science.

During the past six years, she has given more than 30 talks on the applications of statistics, especially spatial point processes, on cognitive science. In addition, she has received several awards, including the Hans Elias bursary grant for presenting a paper in the 11th European Congress of Stereology and Image Analysis in 2013, the SARMA Nordic Network grant for participating in the Pan-American Advanced Study in Spatio-temporal Statistics, Brazil, and a SBU grant for having a paper in the highly regarded journal *Biometrika*. In addition, she has contributed to the publication of several books on statistics as the translator or as scientific editor. Reviewing papers for several journals such the *Journal of Spatial Statistics* has been another activity of hers during the past years.
Hobbies!

In the way of hobbies, Dr. Safavimanesh is an avid reader. She also ventures into playing music, particularly the Setar, which is a traditional Iranian musical instrument. She explains that the Iranian Setar is totally different from the Indian Sitar! She has played the Setar for around 12 years. Professional weekly swimming and daily reading historical books round up her main hobbies. In addition, she used to blog on her personal weblog farznameh.blogfa.com in Persian. Professionally, she is an active member of The Iranian Society of Editors, contributing with editing and she has been a contributor/author for the Encyclopedia of Women in Iran and the World (in Persian) that appeared in 1600 pages in 2015. Solo-traveling around the world has been her dream which has been partly fulfilled by visiting around 100 cities of 28 countries in 5 continents.

An active member of the Iranian Statistical Society for the last 10 years, Dr. Safavimanesh has served as the Managing Editor of the international Journal of the Iranian Statistical Society (JIRSS) since 2015 and as member of the Editorial Board of the Society’s Newsletter for about two years. Recently, she has been nominated for the 14th Board of Directors of the Society.

Dr. Safavimanesh was a member of the Organizing Committee of ISBIS 2017: Modern Methods in Insurance Pricing and Industrial Statistics, Hamedan, Iran. She also presented a talk in the conference, titled “Spatial Point Processes in the Eye-tracking Data Analysis”.

ISBIS News — The Newsletter of the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics
Quality Engineering: Open Challenges in Industrial Statistics

Quality Engineering has a new column, entitled “Open Challenges in Industrial Statistics”, to encourage collaboration between academia and industry.

The idea is for industrial statisticians to submit a relatively short description of a statistical research problem that they have encountered. Subject to peer review, it is published without a paywall, and the industrial statistics community has the opportunity to submit solutions to the problem. These solutions, again subject to peer review, are published as citeable articles in the journal.

The first problem has been posted:


If you are interested in working on a solution to this problem, or submitting a problem of your own, please see the website:

http://explore.tandfonline.com/cfp/est/lqen-open-challenges-july-2017

If you have any questions or ideas that you'd like to discuss in more detail, please contact Willis Jensen (wjensen@wlgore.com) and/or Byran Smucker (smuckerb@miamioh.edu).
News and Other Announcements

NIGERIA

Dr. Olushina Olawale Awe was honored with an invitation to present a paper at the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Conference 2018 at the University of Oxford, England. Dr. Awe delivered a talk based on his paper *Time-Varying Predictors of Export Volatility in Africa's Largest Economy: Empirical Evidences and Critical Policy Implications*. The conference covered his travel, accommodation and registration expenses. The CSAE annual conference on ‘Economic Development in Africa’ was held on 18-20 March 2018. A member of ISBIS Council, Dr. Awe is a faculty member in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Anchor University, Lagos, Nigeria.

*Change & Chance Embraced: Achieving Agility with Smarter Forecasting in the Supply Chain* – Levenbach

In this book, author Hans Levenbach provides a unified and practical orientation to demand forecasting and demand management for supply chain professionals, students and practitioners. The book presents statistical forecasting as a process, rather than a series of disconnected techniques, incorporating graphical tools for looking at historical data, data cleaning, and exploratory data analysis. The approach complements traditional and modern methods for root-cause analysis and exception handling with ‘big data’ and predictive analytics.
Editor’s Notes

Dear ISBIS members,

It took longer than originally planned but I am happy that the April issue of our newsletter is finally out! By several accounts it is the largest issue we have produced. This is in part in view of the large number of events on business and industrial statistics that are taking place around the world these days. You may notice that ISBIS is involved in many of them. I am also happy that a good number of pictures were collected for the issue.

I am grateful to Sotiris Bersimis for preparing the plenary and invited paper programs for ISBIS 2018 included in this issue. There is great variety of topics and speakers from around the world who will converge in Piraeus. In addition, a good number of poster and contributed sessions will take place.

I would like to thank Dr. Farzaneh Safavimaneh from Shahid Beheshti University, Iran, for accepting to be profiled for this issue. My thanks also go to Rahim Mahmoudvand for coordinating and helping with many touch-ups on the written profile.

Thanks to Yili Hong and David Steinberg for their great help with ISBIS News. My thanks are also extended to the many individuals who contributed to this issue.

Román Viveros-Aguilera, Editor of ISBIS News

This newsletter was produced in Microsoft Publisher 2010; layout: Román Viveros-Aguilera.