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ISBIS-News
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Editor: N. Balakrishna
Cochin University of Science and Technology,
Cochin, Kerala, India

E-mail:
balajicusat@yahoo.com

Contributing Editors:
Paulo Canas
Fabrizio Ruggeri

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ISBIS News — Newsletter of the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics

An Association of the International Statistical Institute

President's Message



Dear ISBIS Colleagues:

I hope your holidays were enjoyable and that you are off to a great start in the New Year! Time seems to fly by ever more quickly as you get older – looking back, I wonder where 2012 went. I hope it was a happy and eventful year for you.

ISBIS organized several activities over the past year. Our biennial ISBIS (the first 'S' in this case stands for symposium) in Bangkok in June, and the y-BIS conference in Lisboa in July were both very successful. AS-MBI, our journal, is doing well. The editors are proactively soliciting good articles to make it a high-quality journal. They have planned a number of special issues based on papers presented at conferences and workshops. ASMBI is very interested in getting your best papers. Planning is underway for a satellite ISBIS meeting that will be held jointly with the ISI Committee on Risk Analysis before the ISI WSC in August 2013. A y-BIS meeting is being planned, in association with ENBIS and its annual 2013 meeting, in Turkey in September 2013. Our next biennial symposium will be held in Durham, North Carolina in the US in July 2014. (Information about these upcoming meetings can be found in subsequent pages of this newsletter.) Our member volunteers have invested a lot of effort in these activities, and I am very grateful to all of them.

Despite these successes, in my personal view, ISBIS could (and should) be doing more to improve statistical practice in business and industry. Ours is largely a society of, and for, academics. When we were preparing to launch ISBIS as a society, one of my friends in industry said, "Look, I'm happy to support this, but I'm highly skeptical of a bunch of academics starting a society for business and industrial statistics". To some extent, this skepticism is still valid. Don't get me wrong – past and current leaders have been working hard to make an impact. For example, organizing ISBIS-2012 in Bangkok was a lot of work for the organizing and program committees and even more so for the local organizers. I recall sitting at the hotel in Bangkok after ISBIS-2012, feeling rather pleased – our first ISBIS in a developing country turned out to be much better than I had imagined, we had a strong technical program, the local organization was splendid, there were a large number of local participants and students, etc.

But a few weeks later, after I got back home, I wondered if all the effort by so many people really made a difference. After all, there are so many technical conferences these days, including in places like Bangkok, Cochin, Cairo, and other cities. Looking at our technical program, there were quite a few talks directly related to BIS, but there were also many that could have been presented at any statistics conference. Sure, one of the main reasons societies run conferences is to provide members an opportunity to meet and network. We have done that quite well. But a large number of the participants at ISBIS conferences are not members and do not get involved with the society.

You might be thinking that I'm rather naive in my assessment of how things work. After all, a society is supposed to serve its current members, and we are doing a reasonable job of it. Non-research statisticians don't get involved in professional societies as they have no incentives; professional contributions are rarely recognized. Further, it is difficult to get travel funding for conferences. These problems are not unique to us, and they get magnified for international societies.

Whatever the causes are, I'm sure most of us would agree that ISBIS should be doing more to foster good statistical practice and build capacity in developing countries. But what can and should we do, given that the challenges are plenty and our time and resources are limited? I have some ideas here, but we really need **your** input.

(contd. on next page)

President’s Message (contd. from Page 1)

The term “statistical capacity building” is getting a lot of currency these days, but what are the main areas of need in BIS? (The ISI is asking similar questions at a broader level, and there are tentative plans to conduct a workshop in Africa to bring together different stakeholders to get some answers.) My own understanding of the environment in developing countries is limited as I left Malaysia in 1974!

Can I ask that our members who live in developing countries and have links in business and industry in these regions (and also government) provide us with information? Some of you may also have collaborations or consulting activities, and you could also be a source of valuable information. Please write to me at vnn@umich.edu.

In terms of what we can offer, workshops and short courses are obvious activities. Many of you have good material already, so the overhead is small. We can also piggy-back on webinars being developed and offered by sister societies. IT will reduce limitations posed by lack of travel funding. We also have to “train the trainers”, so capacity of academics also needs to be developed in some regions. I’m sure you can come up with a lot more ideas here than I can. A final question is: how we can tap into all of that expertise that is residing in our ‘emeritus members’ – those with years of experience and with time and interested in contributing to these activities?

I’ve rambled on enough. I wish I could make these points more eloquently than I’ve done here. Please drop me an e-mail if you are at all interested and have ideas, so that we can have further discussions off-line. The ISI is also engaged in planning activities, and there are opportunities to get involved there as well.

Until next time Vijay

Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry — Update



Have you ever thought of submitting a very good paper on applications of sound statistical methods in business and industry to a very distinguished journal? Well, if you look for such journal, it is not very far: Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry, the official ISBIS journal. In past articles, I stressed the discussion papers we have been publishing, this time I would like to show you the variety of applications covered by the papers which will be published in the next issues (you have just to access ASMBI for free through the ISBIS website, if you are an ISBIS member; if you are not a member, this is another reason to become!). We are going to publish papers on:

- Statistical inference in massive data sets
- A new control chart in contaminated data of t-Student distribution for individual
- Intensity-based estimation of extreme loss event probability and value at risk
- Bayesian Analysis of Abandonment in Call Center Operations
- Diagnostics in Birnbaum–Saunders accelerated life models with an application to fatigue data
- Analysis of housing prices by GEE and GLMM methodologies: a longitudinal study
- A multiblock PLS-based algorithm applied to a causal model in marketing
- On generalized shock models for deteriorating systems
- A semiparametric Bayesian generalized linear mixed model for the reliability of Kevlar fibers
- T-optimality and neural networks: a comparison of approaches for building experimental designs
- A parsimonious stochastic model for forecasting gamers' revenues in casinos
- Estimating intermediate price transitions in online auctions
- Bayesian hierarchical models to analyze customer satisfaction data for quality improvement: a case study
- Estimating production test properties from test measurement data
- Analysing markets within the latent class approach: an application to the pharma sector
- Multivariate option pricing using copulae

and many others are available in the section Early View of the ASMBI website.

I would like also to inform you that we decided to postpone the deadline for the special issue on Uncertainty Quantification to May, 31st, 2013.

Fabrizio Ruggeri (fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it)

ASMBI Editor-in-Chief



ISBIS Satellite Meeting of the World Statistics Congress

August 23, 2014 Hong Kong

Call for Proposals and Registration

ISBIS and the ISI Committee on Risk Analysis are jointly holding a satellite meeting before the World Statistics Conference on August 24, 2013 (the day before the WSC starts). The City University of Hong Kong has graciously agreed to host the conference. If there is sufficient demand, the conference may be extended to two days.

The website for the meeting is <http://stat.duke.edu/~banks/icra-isbis/>. If you are interesting in giving presentations or organizing sessions, please submit your proposals. If you will be in Hong Kong for the WSC and are interested in our theme — Statistics in Business, Industry, and Risk Management — please consider giving a presentation and also participating in the meeting. The registration cost is very nominal.

For more information, contact David Banks, Chair of Organizing Committee at banks@stat.duke.edu.

ISBIS 2014

Durham, North Carolina, USA

June 9-11, 2014

Mark your calendars! The next ISBIS biennial symposium will be held in Durham, North Carolina, USA. The event is being co-sponsored by the American Statistical Association's Section on Statistical Learning and Data Mining. A theme of the meeting will be modern business analytics. Additional details will be available on the ISBIS website closer to the date. For more information, contact David Banks at banks@stat.duke.edu.

Workshop on

Statistical Analysis of Time Series data with Applications



The Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) has joined the leading Institutions and Statistical Societies to celebrate "Statistics2013". As part of this celebration, CUSAT conducted a Workshop on Statistical Analysis of Time Series Data and Application during January 14 – 16, 2013. The workshop was co-sponsored by ISBIS as one of its Statistics-2013 activities. The resource persons for the Workshop were:

- Prof. Bovas Abraham, University of Waterloo, Canada.
- Prof. Nalini Ravishanker, University of Connecticut, USA.
- Prof. Fabrizio Ruggeri, Istituto di Matematica Applicata e Tecnologie Informatiche, Italy.
- Prof. Tata Subba Rao, University of Manchester, England.
- Prof. K. Suresh Chandra, University of Madras, India.
- Dr. K. Jayakumar, University of Calicut, India.
- Dr. K. K. Jose, St. Thomas College, Pala, India.
- Dr. T. V. Ramanathan, University of Pune, India.

The Convener was N. Balakrishna, Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin, India

The 8th International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability (MMR2013)

July, 1-4 2013

Venue: Stellenbosch Protea Hotel in Techno Park, Stellenbosch

<http://www.sastat.org.za/mmr2013>

The conference website is now updated with the latest information. Please visit the website for more detailed information.

Key dates:

1 December 2012: Deadline for invited sessions

1 December 2012: Registration opens

1 December 2012: Extended abstract submission opens

1 March 2013: Extended abstract submission closes

1 April 2013: Confirmation and acceptance of extended abstracts

1 April 2013: Early bird registration and payment close (for discounted fees)

15 June 2013: Normal registration closes (for normal fees)

1 July 2013: Welcome function at Neethlingshof wine estate

2 July 2013: Sightseeing tour organised by the conference tour operator (from 12:00 onwards)

3 July 2013: Gala dinner at Moyo restaurant on the Spier estate

For further details, contact Tertius de Wet, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch 7600, South Africa , E-mail: tdewet@sun.ac.za

Third Symposium on Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk

Actons Hotel, Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland

July 8th - 10th, 2013.

For details visit https://www.cs.tcd.ie/disciplines/statistics/statica/statica_web//GDRR13/GDRR13.html

Member News



Bill Woodall, Professor of Statistics, Virginia Tech, was the conference honoree at the 2012 Quality and Productivity Research Conference held June 4-7 in Long Beach, California.

<http://www.stat.vt.edu/facstaff/bwoodall.html>

Picture (from left to right)
Dan Jeske, **Bill Woodall** and **Geoff Vining**



Ron S. Kenett has been elected President of the Israel Statistical Association. He is currently the Chairman and CEO at the KPA Group as well as Research Professor at Department of Statistics and Applied Mathematics, University of Torino, Torino, Italy. He is a former President of European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS) and is an Adjunct Professor at Tel Aviv University (ron@kpa-group.com.)

Member News (continued)



Dr. Rasheed Kola Ojikutu was appointed as Professor of Statistics in the Department of Actuarial Science and Insurance, University of Lagos, Nigeria. He is a professionally qualified fellow (C.Stat) of the Royal Statistical Society and an Accredited Professional statistician of the Amer. Stat. Association.



Dr. Faisal G. Khamis of the Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan has received accredited professional statistician status from the American Statistical Association.

NEWS from ENBIS



In celebration of the International Year of Statistics (Statistics2013), the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS) decided to open the Greenfield Challenge, sponsored by Wiley, for competition from all over the world.

You might wonder what exactly is the Greenfield Challenge. The story of the Challenge began in 2009 when Tony Greenfield, in his Box Medal Address, challenged the members of ENBIS with the following words:

My challenge to you is that you will tell some audience about work you have done, and completed successfully because you used a statistical method. But that audience must be of people who are not statisticians. And you will have spoken to those people through publications that are for the wider public, through magazines or newspapers, or from a public platform. You might even write a short story or a play. ... That is my challenge: Tell the world, outside your circle, of work you have done, and done successfully because you used statistics.

For details on the submission process please visit http://www.enbis.org/activities/greenfield_challenge?ts=91594.

The Greenfield Challenge Committee shall review all submissions that will come in no later than May 31, 2013. The best submissions will be given the awards and presented as the best-practice examples at the 13th Annual Conference of ENBIS (ENBIS-13) in Ankara (Turkey).

Call for Book Chapter: Business Performance Management

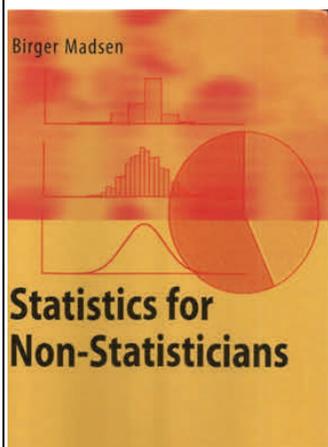
Editors: [Vincent Charles](mailto:vcharles@pucp.pe) and [Mukesh Kumar](mailto:mkumar@pucp.pe), CENTRUM Católica, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, Perú, vcharles@pucp.pe, mkumar@pucp.pe

Publisher: Cambridge Scholars Publishing (C-S-P), United Kingdom.

The International Conference on Business Performance Measurement and Management (ICBPMM) took place in Lima during September 11th to 13th, 2012. The book, entitled "*Business Performance Management*" is scheduled to be published in July 2013. However, the publication in this volume is not limited to the contributions presented in ICBPMM 2012. We would like to invite other scholars all around the globe to submit an extended abstract, followed by complete paper to be published in the above edited book.

Please contact the editors at the above e-mail address for more information.

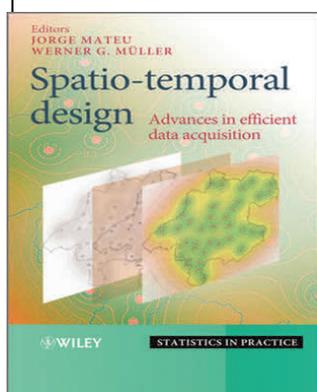
Books by ISBIS Members



Statistik for ikke-statistikere (Second ed.)
by Birger Stjernholm Madsen
www.Samfundslitteratur.dk 2012

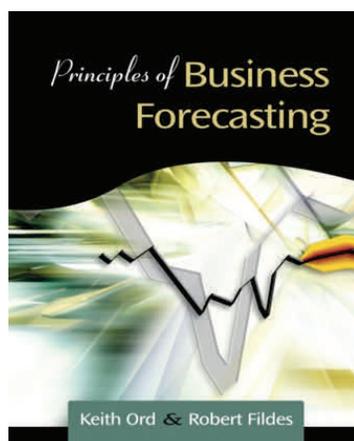
This book is a substantially revised edition of the Danish version of the book “**Statistics for Non-Statisticians**” (English version Springer 2011). The book is well suited for an introduction or review of statistics. It is written for people who collect, analyze and present data such as administrative, economic or scientific data. In particular it will be useful to plan sample surveys, e.g. customer surveys. The book will also be useful as a supplementary book for high schools, business colleges or preliminary courses at business schools or other higher education.

Even experienced statisticians will find new topics or new approaches to traditional topics to be interesting. The presentation is as non-mathematical as possible. Mathematical formulae are presented only if they are necessary for calculations and/or add to the understanding. The book contains many examples using statistical functions in spreadsheets.



Spatio-temporal Design: Advances in Efficient Data Acquisition
 November 2012
 edited by
 Jorge Mateu and Werner Muller

Details may be found at
<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd047097429X,descCd-tableOfContents.html>



Principles of Business Forecasting.
 by Keith Ord and Robert Fildes
 Georgetown University and Lancaster University
 ISBN-10: 0324311273, ISBN-13: 9780324311273
 ©2013 Published

This book serves as both a textbook for students and as a reference book for experienced forecasters in a variety of fields. The authors' motivation for writing this book is to give users the tools and insight to make the most effective forecasts drawing on the latest research ideas. This book introduces both standard and advanced forecasting methods and their underlying models, and also includes general principles to guide and simplify forecasting practice. Forecasting techniques are demonstrated using a variety of software platforms and the companion website provides easy-to-use Excel® macros to support the basic methods. The authors also cover more novel techniques including data mining and judgmental methods, which are gaining increasing attention in applications.

ISBIS Video



As part of the celebration of the International Year of Statistics in 2013, ISBIS will be producing a video to promote the role of Statistics in Business and Industry.

Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi and Laura Trinchera are the promoters of this initiative in collaboration with David Banks and Vijay Nair. ESSEC Business School of Paris will provide the technical support and the expertise of the ESSEC TV team for video shooting and editing.

The video will consist of a collection of short interviews where a sample of leading data analysts and statisticians in business and industrial statistics will express their views. The focus will be on the use and the impact of Statistics on daily business, the job of a data scientist, the Big Data revolution, and the most challenging issues foreseen in the near future for Statistics and data analysis in business and industry.

A first release of the video is expected in April 2013. The video will be posted on the ISBIS web page and the ESSEC YouTube.

For more information on this initiative please contact Laura Trinchera at laura.trinchera@rouenbs.fr

Final Words from the Editor



I wish the whole ISBIS family a very happy, healthy and productive new year. Let us join hands to celebrate “Statistics-13” in a grand scale and meaningful way.

I hope to receive interesting articles for the next issue of the newsletter from our members. Please share your experiences with fellow members and also inform us about activities that you or your organization are planning to celebrate “Statistics-13” .

Please utilize this newsletter as a medium for circulating interesting information to the BIS community. You can e-mail them to me at balajicusat@yahoo.com

With best regards, Balakrishna