



International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics

A Section of the International Statistical Institute (<http://isi.cbs.nl/>)

Newsletter of the

ISBIS News

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Editorial

With the short delay of one day, I can present you herewith the “February” edition of our newsletter. You may notice that it is shorter than the previous ones, despite intensified ISBIS activities. The reason is that I require more submissions from you, the ISBIS members. Remember that a lot can be of interest to our readers, particularly biographic news from members, new books or software and any other relevant activities.

Now that some 3-issue per year pattern has emerged as being most suitable I can announce deadlines for submission of items for the remaining two newsletters of this year for end of June and end of October respectively. Please help to make this outlet of communication a success by contributing content.

In this issue you will as usually find and address from our president, as well as the regular columns from our young peoples group ybis and the editor of our journal ASMBI. Let me particularly draw your attention to the announcement for the World Bank's financial support for developing countries participants of the ISBIS-2010 conference and the Wiley book discount for all our members.

Also do not forget to read more news on ISBIS, including reports from our successful conferences, in the latest ISI newsletter on

<http://isi.cbs.nl/newsltr.htm>

Best regards

Werner G. Müller

Editor ISBIS News

President's column



Let me first wish to all the ISBIS members an excellent 2010! Be it a successful year for what you will undertake, for ISBIS and for Statistics. And remember that October 20th, 2010 will be World Statistics Day!

Now the New Year has already very well started for ISBIS. Let me advert to these two important great news that were already sent to the ISBIS membership per email, but which perhaps haven't reached you yet:

The first one concerns the **y-BIS Prize**, given to young ISBIS members for the best paper that will be presented at our biennial international symposium ISBIS-2010, taking place in the sea resort of Portoroz on the Adriatic Sea, from July 5 to July 9 (more on ISBIS2010 in this Newsletter below). The prize valued at \$US 1'000 is sponsored by the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) and by the American Statistical Association (ASA). Thanks to NISS and ASA for their generosity but also to our Vice-President Scientific Program Nick Fisher, who was instrumental in organizing this fantastic reward for talented young statisticians.

The second news item concerns the **financial support** that the World Bank will be granting to ISBIS to help statisticians from developing countries to attend ISBIS sponsored conferences during this and next year. This is part of a larger agreement between ISI and this financial organization. Details on both news items can be found on www.isbis.org, our web site, and of course on the website of ISBIS-2010.

I would like to ask you to please pass these two pieces of informa-



tion along to non-ISBIS members. We want to make ISBIS-2010 a success and this funding support offers a unique opportunity that should definitively not be missed.

Let me now turn to another issue. One of the goals of the ISBIS Executive Committee this year is to increase membership. In this regard, **I am asking here for your help**. Please make attentive colleagues in your home country of the great benefits of an ISBIS membership:

- An international journal, Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI) (**free** on-line access to ISBIS members);
- A regular newsletter (**free** to ISBIS members);
- 25% **discount*** on Wiley books for ISBIS members (*some restrictions apply);
- A website www.isbis.org that provides broad range of information and a Members Only area with access to ASMBI and ISBIS sponsored events;
- Excellent networking opportunities with numerous well-known statisticians from across the world;
- Substantially reduced rates at ISBIS conferences.

The yearly fees are currently very low considering these benefits (€25 or €15 if developing country) and still lower rates apply for y-BIS members (€15 or €8 if developing country). Furthermore student rates are FREE (see the webpage for more details on the fees). So, I am definitely counting on you for recruiting as many members as possible! Thank you in advance for your efforts.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Portoroz next July! Have a great 2010!

(Yves-Laurent Grize)

Wiley book discount for ISBIS members

Did you know that our publishing partner for Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry

provide a greater benefit to your members we would like to offer the members of your society 25% off all Wiley books*.

This discount can be claimed in a variety of ways. You can quote the code ISB25 when you place your order with Wiley by telephone, email, post or web.

Wiley publishes a wide range of titles, from the latest research to specialist titles for the statistical community. Our collection of books has something for statisticians at every level, including students with only basic algebra or advanced researchers and practitioners with many years of experience. We also publish extensively in other areas such as travel or business and your members can still benefit by using their discount on any of these titles too. To see the full range of books from Wiley please visit

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ISBIS Membership

ISBIS membership is open to all individuals and organizations with a professional interest in any aspect of business, financial and industrial statistics. There are individual, institutional, and student memberships. Details and application forms can be obtained from the ISBIS website

(www.isbis.org)

ISBIS Conferences

International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS-2010): Portorož (Portorose) - Slovenia, July 6-9, 2010



NEWSFLASH

Are you a statistician from a Developing Country? If so, you are eligible to apply for some support. The World Bank offers support for up to 15 participants. Please visit the conference web site and download the information.

Planning for ISBIS-2010 is now well advanced. We have an exciting scientific program in prospect that significantly broadens the scope of previous ISBIS biennial meetings. Highlights include (but are not limited to!):

· The Invited Session stream on Tuesday 6 July devoted to Image Analysis, featuring one of the two co-founders of Image Analysis and Mathematical Morphology, Jean Serra. Professor Serra will give the opening plenary address, outlining the development of the subject he initiated with George Matheron in the 1960s. He will then present a tutorial introduction to Image Analysis, which will be followed by three Invited papers by other leading practitioners. There will be a significant emphasis on how this substantial body of methodology has been applied to solve a vast range of problems in optical microscopy, histology, signal compression, multispectral imagery, material sciences and many other industrial settings.

· A final plenary afternoon on the future of statistical computing for large and complex data sets, with



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the closing plenary address given by Lee Edlefsen, Vice President of Engineering of REvolution Computing. Dr Edlefsen has had a long career developing data analysis and visualization software. He played a leading role in designing and developing three award-winning, commercially successful software programs (Gauss, Axum, and S-PLUS for Windows), and was the co-founder and CEO of three successful software companies.

· Significant emphasis on Financial Services, Health Services, and other emerging topics in the service economy, in addition, of course, to more mainstream topics in Business and Industrial Statistics

· An ASMBI Discussion Paper by Ming Li, Steve Holland and Bill Meeker on a problem in Automatic Crack Detection.

· A number of invited and contributed sessions and activities, including a Development Workshop, specifically targeting Young Statisticians.

For more information, please visit the conference website:

www.action-m.com/isbis2010

Nick Fisher
ISBIS-2010 Director

The 58th Biennial Session of the ISI to be held in *Dublin, Ireland, August 20th-27th 2011.*



The Programme Committee has now produced a draft list of invited sessions. Thanks to your submissions it was possible to select 5, which are now tentatively in the programme, running under ISBIS lead.

These are “Current Developments in Healthcare Engineering”

organized by Ronald Does, “Boundary Crossing Probabilities and their Applications” by Liquan Wang, “New Applications of System Signatures in Reliability” by Frank Samaniego, “Sequential Computer Experiments” by Luc Pronzato, and “The Statistical Perspective to Social Network Analysis” by Giuseppe Giordano.

ISBIS is further cosponsoring a yet undetermined number of sessions and is thus well represented in the programme.

Topic contributed sessions can now be proposed directly to the local organizers via www.isi2011.ie and I am sure that they will be happy receiving further high-class ISBIS submissions.

Werner G. Müller
Programme Committee member

Other Events

Fifth IFC Conference to be held at the BIS in Basel on 25 and 26 August 2010.

IRVING FISHER COMMITTEE
BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

the Chairman of the Irving Fisher Committee (IFC) on Central Bank Statistics is inviting ISBIS members to participate in the 5th IFC Conference to be held in Basel on 25 and 26 August 2010. The conference focuses on “Initiatives to address data gaps revealed by the financial crisis”.

If you are interested in this topic, you can find more information in the circulated letter, describing the conference and the call for paper.

IFC is also introducing an award for the best paper presented by a young statistician at this conference.

* **ABS10** *

Applied Bayesian Statistics School: BAYESIAN MACHINE LEARNING WITH BIOMEDICAL APPLICATIONS

June, 11 - 15, 2010 - Bolzano/Bozen, Italy



Lecturer Prof. David B. Dunson, Department of Statistical Science, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA

Programme and registration details are available at www.mi.imati.cnr.it/conferences/abs10.html

Interested people are invited to contact the ABS10 Secretariat at

abs10@mi.imati.cnr.it

This short course is intended to provide a practically motivated introduction to Bayesian methods for machine learning and high-dimensional data analysis. Some topics of particular interest include high-dimensional variable selection for regression and classification, and multi-task learning and combining of information for related signals, functions or images.

The school will make use of lectures, practical sessions, software demonstrations, informal discussion sessions and presentations of research projects by school participants. The slides and background reading material will be distributed to the students before the start of the course.

Guido Consonni and Fabrizio Ruggeri

ABS10 Directors



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The **y-BIS column**, the Young People's group in ISBIS



The recently formed ISBIS Young Statisticians

group, y-BIS, will take an important role in the next International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics, ISBIS-2010, July 6 - 9, 2010, Portoroz, Slovenia. This participation in the organization of our biennial international conferences will be the first of many.

In the first day (Monday July 5, 2010) it will take place a half-day developmental workshop, specifically focused on the needs of Young Statisticians, organised by Dr Ron Wasserstein (Executive Director of the American Statistical Association). This workshop will cover the topics: (i) Issues and challenges facing industry statisticians; (ii) Soft skills: how to manage client interactions, comments on technical writing; (iii) Handling ethical issues that arise in consulting; (iv) Educational issues; and (v) Professional accreditation.

So far 3 Invited Sessions will be organized by y-BIS members. The main topics of these sessions are: (i) Time Series; (ii) Chemometrics; and (iii) Spatial Extreme Value Statistics. We will also organize a "y-BIS Special Invited Session with the Editors" where Young (and Senior) Statisticians will have the chance to ask those questions no one answered before regarding paper submission and publication. To answer your questions, three experienced editors will take part of this session, namely Fabrizio Ruggeri, Vijay Nair and Bill Woodall.

For the first time in the biennial international conference of the ISBIS a Best paper award for papers presented by y-BIS members will be attributed. The "NISS / ASA Best y-BIS Paper Award

2010" was kindly sponsored by the NISS and the American Statistical Association, valued at \$US 1000. You can find more information regarding this prize in writing me (paulocanas@gmail.com) or on

www.action-m.com/isbis2010/

Paulo Canas Rodrigues

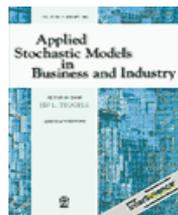
Chair of the Founding y-BIS

ISBIS website (www.isbis.org)

The address of the official ISBIS website is www.isbis.org. This is the place to look for up-to-date information on the activities of ISBIS including a member-only zone with electronic access to the ASMBI-Journal, list of members, papers from past conferences and much more.

For further information on the website, or suggestions for its content, please contact Yves Grize (ISBIS President Elect) at: yves-laurent.grize@baloise.ch

(Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi)



What's new in ASMBI?

A new Editor, Emmanuel Yashchin (IBM)

has started on January, 1st. I wish him a very warm welcome and, one more time, many thanks to the outgoing Editor, Dennis Lin.

ASMBI keeps publishing discussion/review papers. In the forthcoming issue (the first of 2010) there will be a paper by six USA and Israeli based IBM researchers (Natarajan, Bagchi, Baseman, Davenport, Slonim and Weiss) on Data Analytics and Stochastic Modeling in a Semiconductor Fab.

Forthcoming discussion papers are by George Michailidis on Experiment Design for Dynamical Systems with Application to Sampled

Network Data, by Huang, Hsing, Cressie, Noel; Ganguly, Protopoulos and Rao on Sources Detection and Parameters Estimation of Plume Model Based on Sensor Network Measurements, by Fisher and Nair who are preparing a new paper following the one on Quality Management and Quality Practice: Perspectives on their History and their Future, which started the series of discussion papers last year.

A discussion paper on by Reliability and Non-Destructive Evaluation will be published after being presented by Meeker and co-authors in the ASMBI Discussion session at the ISBIS meeting in Portoroz in July.

Another discussion paper by Lin and Willmot on Risk Modelling with the Mixed Erlang Distribution will be published in January 2011 in a special issue devoted to the Fourth Brazilian Conference on Statistical Modelling in Insurance and Finance, held last year.

One of the next issues will present papers from the ISBIS2008 conference in Prague, whereas participants of the forthcoming ISBIS2010 conference are invited to submit papers to ASMBI following the instructions provided on the conference website. Another special issue will contain papers presented at 4th Asia-Pacific International Symposium on Advanced Reliability and Maintenance Modeling, to be held in December.

We received very relevant papers out of the call on Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk, and we are planning another call for papers on a relevant topic.

As usual, ISBIS members are warmly invited to contribute to ASMBI with papers combining innovative methodologies with sound applications.

Fabrizio Ruggeri,

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