



# 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**



Just before the Xmas break and with the usual delay, I can herewith present you the most recent issue of the ISBIS newsletter. Being the last issue of the year it will at the same time be the last under my responsibility. As I have been asked to assume the coeditorship of the journal *Statistical Papers*, I will gladly pass my duties to a colleague. **Should you be interested in taking over from me, do not hesitate to write to our president!** Having been the “founding” editor of ISBIS-News makes me proud and I hope that my work will provide a foundation that can be built upon.

This issue opens with the traditional president's column 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 a very informative post conference report from South Africa.

I wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year, best regards

Werner G. Müller

Editor ISBIS News

**News from ISBIS members**

*Fabrizio Ruggeri* has been elected 2012 ISBA (International Society for Bayesian Analysis) President.

*Fugee Tsung* has been elected Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) and the American Society for Quality (ASQ) as well as been recipient of the Outstanding IIE Publication Award and the 2009 Best Paper Award for the IIE Transactions.

ASQ also elected *Johannes Ledolter* from the University of Iowa a Fellow of the Society in recognition of his significant contributions to quality.

**President's column**



Dear ISBIS members!

The end of 2010 approaches and it is a good opportunity to look back at what we achieved this year. Let me briefly comment on three major events, although I know that many more accomplishments were realized thanks to the efforts of our active executive and council members.

First our biennial Symposium ISBIS2012. This was truly an exceptionally successful conference, on the one end due to the high scientific quality of the talks but also on the other end because of the numerous attendance and great location. Many thanks to our Vice-President Scientific Program Nick Fisher for his continuous efforts! As a matter of fact I already have been receiving emails from different participants and also non-participants asking me if there would be an ISBIS2011 conference! And I always feel sorry when I have to answer that they will have to wait for another two years to attend our next Symposium!

Another highlight of the past year was the World Bank Support that the International Statistical Institute (ISI), our mother organization, was able to provide us to help participants of third world countries to attend ISBIS2010 or other ISBIS sponsored meetings (see more on that in this Newsletter). This did help us to effectively reach out to professional statisticians in business and industry for who an organization like ours is extremely beneficial if not vital.

Last but not least I also would like to underline the successful launch of our activities for young statisticians. A particularly warm thanks to our Vice-President



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Paulo Canas Rodrigues for his innovative work. Please visit the ybis site if you are interested in learning more about y-BIS or to participate to future activities for young statisticians.

Despite all these good results I would not feel comfortable if I didn't make an apology to all of you. On the last day of IS-BIS2010 I announced that we were about to complete the technical improvements on our website. It turned out that a few weeks later the executive committee and I decided that the improvements weren't sufficient enough and that a completely new design would be preferable. Despite the efforts of our web designer, delays in the developments were longer than expected. However, work has been progressing faster again and I have been told that the release of the new website is imminent (+/- 2 standard deviations of course). Perhaps when this Newsletter will be published, our new website will be up and running. Anyway you will receive an announcement per e-mail when the site is completed. Be sure to check it out and sent your comments to our web administrator (George at [gmichail@umich.edu](mailto:gmichail@umich.edu)) or to myself. I certainly hope that you will like it.

To all of you I wish a restful Holidays Season and an excellent and challenging New Year!

Best regards

(Yves-Laurent Grize)

*New books from ISBIS member Galit Shmueli:*

Modeling Online Auctions  
[as.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-047047565X.html](http://as.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-047047565X.html)  
Wiley, July 2010

Data Mining for Business Intelligence, 2nd Edition - this is a business-oriented data mining textbook that is used around the globe:

[dataminingbook.com](http://dataminingbook.com)

### Upcoming Events

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



The list of invited sessions is now final. One of the ISBIS contributions had to be withdrawn due to inactivity, the others are in good condition:

“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.

On the water theme day ISBIS is represented with the session “Understanding water resources and quality through analysis of massive data sets” by Karen Kafadar.

ISBIS is further cosponsoring a considerable number of invited sessions from other ISI sections and seems also well represented in the contributed programme.

Werner G. Müller

Programme Committee member

**ARS'11, Third international Workshop on Social Network Analysis** in *Naples, Italy, 23-25 June 2011*.



Workshop theme: “Collaboration Networks and Knowledge Diffusion: Theory, Data and Methods”

ARS'11 International Workshop is a follow up to two very successful previous editions (ARS'07 and ARS'09). Collaboration networks, nowadays, attract a lot of attention in many fields and are considered a key element in the advancement and dissemination of knowledge in scientific as well as in socio-economic domains. The workshop has the objective of presenting the most relevant results and recent developments in the areas of Collaboration Networks, Innovation Networks and Knowledge Diffusion.

The workshop topics include:

Collaboration theory

Analysis of innovation networks in economics environments

Sources of collaboration data

Social Network Analysis methods for collaboration data

The Workshop will host invited and contributed papers sessions.

Topics for paper submission:

The program committee welcome the submission of original research papers dealing with theoretical and applicative aspects of collaboration. Topics of interest include, but are not restricted to:

Academic and Scientific Networks

Applications of advanced methods in Demography, Sociology, Business, Economics, and Political Sciences.

Innovation and Diffusion Networks, Inter-organizational Networks, Knowledge Networks

Network mechanisms and Network evolution

Network Visualisation

Qualitative Network Studies

Paper submission: April 18, 2011

Submission Format: Detailed submission instructions for authors are available on the workshop website.



We are currently negotiating with two major journals in methodology and innovation policy to fast-track the best workshop papers for publication.

Program Committee: Vladimir BATAGELJ, Alfredo DEL MONTE, Maria Rosaria D'ESPOSITO, Anuska FERLIGOJ, Giuseppe GIORDANO, Mario A.MAGGIONI, Maria Prosperina VITALE, Emma ZAVARRONE, Susanna ZACCARIN.

**GDRR 2011** - Second Symposium on GAMES AND DECISIONS IN RELIABILITY AND RISK, 19-21 March 2011, *Belgirate, Lago Maggiore.*



CNR IMATI and George Washington University organise the symposium, whose objective is to present novel use of game and decision theory in reliability and risk analysis and to bring together researchers from disciplines such as economics, engineering, finance, mathematics, medical sciences, probability and statistics who have a lot to contribute to this theme.

Further information:

[www.mi.imati.cnr.it/conferences/gdrr11.html](http://www.mi.imati.cnr.it/conferences/gdrr11.html)

or contact Fabrizio Ruggeri

([fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it](mailto:fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it))

**PROBASTAT 2011**, the 6th International Conference on Probability and Statistics, to be held on July 4 - 8, 2011 in *Smolenice Castle, Slovakia.*



This is the next in a long-running series of PROBASTAT conferences with the purpose of stimu-

lating exchanges of ideas and research in the field of probability and statistics.

The conference will include invited and contributed talks and posters in the following and related research areas:

- .Regression and Mixed Models;
- .Optimum Experimental Design;
- .Random Processes;
- .Innovative Statistical Practices.

A Proceedings volume is intended to be published after the Conference.

More detailed information is available at

[www.um.sav.sk/en/probastat2011.html](http://www.um.sav.sk/en/probastat2011.html)

Contact Address:

PROBASTAT 2011, Institute of Measurement Science, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Dúbravská cesta 9, 84104 Bratislava, Slovakia

E-mail: [witkovsky@savba.sk](mailto:witkovsky@savba.sk)

### Past Conferences Reports

**The Biennial International Conference of the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS)** held at the *Grand Hotel Bernadin in Portorose, Slovenia*, July 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2010.



The book of abstracts of SIBIS 2010 is available on the conference website:

[www.action-m.com/isbis2010/boa.php](http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/boa.php)

For a detailed conference report see the previous issue of ISBIS news.

**The South African Statistical Association's (SASA) annual conference** held at *Potchefstroom, South Africa.*

During the week of the 8th of November the South African Statistical Association's (SASA) conference was held at the North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus. For this prestigious event the organizing committee, led by Dr. James Allison and Prof. Riaan de Jongh (both members of ISBIS), invited the Nobel laureate Prof Robert Engle from the Stern School of Business, New York, as the keynote speaker and a workshop presenter. Other invited speakers included Prof. Winfried Stute from the University of Giessen, Germany, Prof. Peter Hall from the University of Melbourne, Australia and Prof Michael Greenacre from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain.

The conference also featured a business stream that included sessions on applications in finance, risk, health, marketing, investments, mining, telecommunications and logistics. This stream was organised by the local ISBIS organizing committee and various professionals from the private sector participated by delivering 27 papers.

A young statistician's breakfast (sponsored by ISBIS) was held on the morning of the 11th of November. At this event a risk analyst from South Africa's largest commercial bank addressed the future statisticians of South Africa.

To view the slides from Prof. Engle's plenary address and workshop, please visit the conference website at

[www.sasa2010.co.za](http://www.sasa2010.co.za)



From left to right, Dr. James Allison, Mrs. Yoko Chhana (President of SASA), Prof. Riaan de Jongh, Prof. Robert Engle and Dr. Theuns Eloff (Vice-Chancellor of the North-West University)



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



After the very successful IS-BIS 2010 and very active participation of y-BIS, we are now working on setting up the “y-BIS Council Committee”, which will include young business and industrial statisticians from all over the world. So far we have four European representatives (Chris Marley, UK; Giorgio Russolillo, France/Italy; Markus Kalisch, Switzerland; Petra Posedel, Croatia), two from Oceania (Rohmatul Fajriyah, Indonesia; Nuttanan Wichitaksorn, Australia), one from Africa (James Allison, South Africa), one from America (Marcela Machado, Brasil) and one from Asia (Kaibo Wang, China). However we still have some gaps to fill, namely one for Africa (other than South Africa), one for Central/South America (other than Brazil), two for North America, and one or two for Asia (other than China). If you are from one of these missing countries and are interested in collaborate with us and helping us to reach as many young statisticians as possible please express your interest by email to [paulocanas@gmail.com](mailto:paulocanas@gmail.com).

In 2011 we will start the “y-BIS Mentorship Program” where senior and experienced statisticians will be available to help young statisticians (mostly, but not only) from developing countries, in their career choices. More information will be sent to the ISBIS members asking for their support and contribution, in the first half of 2011.

To keep y-BIS growing within ISBIS and outside the Society we need all the possible help you can provide. My request for young people is to join y-BIS and contribute as much as you can (free for full time students and very

cheap if you have just finished your PhD). To senior statisticians I would like to ask you to spread the information about y-BIS across your students and others that may be interested.

You can find more information about y-BIS in the website

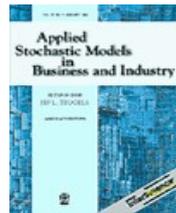
[sites.google.com/site/ybisisbis/](http://sites.google.com/site/ybisisbis/)

or by writing me.

Paulo Canas Rodrigues  
([paulocanas@gmail.com](mailto:paulocanas@gmail.com))

Chair of the Founding y-BIS, IS-BIS Vice-President

### What's new in ASMBI?



I invite you to browse the most recent ASMBI issue (v. 26, n.5, September-October 2010) since it gives a clear idea about what we, ASMBI Editorial Board, would like the journal to be; look at

[onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1526-4025](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1526-4025)

There are a lot of interesting, and quite different, mathematical models, stemming from real problems: automatic crack detection based on vibrothermography sequence-of-images, machine efficiency in multi-machine assignments, tracking customer portfolio composition, spatial contagion between financial markets, kriging in nuclear safety, stand-by systems, assessment of voltage sag frequency due to transmission line fault in the electric power system, hedging unit-linked life insurance, and load-sharing system under overload conditions.. Furthermore, authors are spread all over the world from USA to Europe and Asia, making the journal more and more international, as in the ISBIS spirit.

In the next issue the discussion paper will be “A Modern Bayesian Look at the Multi-Armed Bandit”

by Steve Scott (Google), whereas the third issue next year will contain “The usefulness of Bayesian optimal designs for discrete choice experiments” by Kessels, Goos, Jones and Vandebroek. Other planned discussion papers include one by Deepak Agarwal (Yahoo) and one by Bart De Ketelaere on some statistical issues in agriculture. The latter contribution stems from the strong cooperation among ASMBI, IS-BIS and ENBIS.

The first two issues next year will be devoted to papers from two conferences (one in Brazil and one in Washington). The themes will be, respectively, “Statistical Modeling in Insurance and Finance” and “Games and Decisions in Risk and Reliability”, with discussion papers by Willmot and Lin and by Banks, Petralia and Wang.

We received more than 20 papers from the ISBIS2010 conference and they are currently reviewed according to the usual ASMBI standards, aimed to publish papers with innovative methodologies and actual applications (or, at least, a strong potential for them). The acceptance rate is quite constant and low (10-15%) to ensure high quality of the published papers, whereas almost all submitted papers are handled quite quickly: some (unfortunately for the authors ...) in few days whereas most of them get reports within 3-5 months. Currently, only 7% of the papers under review are 5 months or more older.

As usual, I invite ISBIS members to read (for free) ASMBI and submit their best papers through <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/asmb>.

Fabrizio Ruggeri,

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