

THE ISBA BULLETIN



Vol. 25 No. 2

June 2018

The official bulletin of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Marina Vannucci -
marina@rice.edu

Many of you must be getting ready to go to the World Meeting in Edinburgh. I personally look forward to welcoming you all! The local organizing committee has put together a wonderful program, which includes four foundational lectures, four keynote lectures and the second De Finetti and Bayarri lectures. Recipients of the ISBA prizes and awards and the newly named ISBA fellows will be recognized at the Banquet. You can read more about the 2018 ISBA World Meeting in the "From the Program Council" section of this Bulletin. Please make sure you download the Attendify app on your phone and search for the 2018 ISBA World Meeting to have the complete program handy while in Edinburgh.

The safeISBA Task Team (<https://bayesian.org/membership/safe-isba/>) has been working hard at drafting a Code of Conduct and a set of policies and procedures. Following six months of work, these documents have now been finalized and approved by the safeISBA Committee, the ISBA Board and our external legal representative. The documents have been posted to our website. Since these documents affect everyone in the Society, we now invite comments from all ISBA members. Are you comfortable with the Code of Conduct and related Policies? Are the Procedures clear and fair in your opinion? Do the FAQ cover all your queries or concerns? Do you have any suggestions for improvements or revisions? There is a three month response period, so please send your comments to safeisba@bayesian.org before 1st September 2018. Note that this is an email alias that goes to the chair and secretary of the task team, currently Kerrie Mengersen and Amy Herring. Also, at the World Meeting, all members will have the opportunity to engage with the

Task Team and the ISBA officers for broader input and discussion, and a lunchtime forum has been scheduled on Monday explicitly for this purpose. I wish to thank my fellow members of the safeISBA team, particularly Kerrie Mengersen, Chair of the team, and members Daniele Durante, Clara Grazian, Amy Herring, Christian Robert, and David Rossell, for the enormous amount of work they have done in such a short period of time. It is exciting to see ISBA at the forefront of this profession-wide endeavor to create more awareness about safety and harassment in the academic environment.

In this issue

- **SAFE ISBA: CODE OF CONDUCT**
☛ *Page 3*
- **FROM THE PROGRAM COUNCIL**
☛ *Page 4*
- **UPDATES FROM BA**
☛ *Page 6*
- **CONFERENCE REPORT: BAYES COMP 2018**
☛ *Page 7*
- **SECTION REPORT: j-ISBA**
☛ *Page 7*
- **SECTION REPORT: INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS**
☛ *Page 9*
- **NEWS FROM THE WORLD**
☛ *Page 9*
- **THE WITCHES OF BAYES**
☛ *Page 10*

Following up on initiatives started by past ISBA Presidents, I am continuing to strengthen our ties with other statistical societies, as a way to increase our visibility and disseminate Bayesian statistics more broadly. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ISBA and the ISI (International Statistical Institute) was signed in May. The objective of the MOU is to increase cooperation between the two societies, and to promote joint activities, such as scientific meetings, and the sharing of news and information. As part of the agreement, ISBA will be entitled to propose invited and special topic paper sessions for the World Statistics Congresses (WSC), as well as to propose satellite meetings for the World Statistics Congresses (WSC). I am pleased to announce that Edo Airoidi has been appointed as the ISBA liaison between the two societies.

More good news come from the Editorial Search Committee, chaired by Bruno Sanso, which has been at work to identify the new Editors for Bayesian Analysis and the ISBA Bulletin and the new ISBA Web Editor. It is a pleasure to report that at this time the ISBA Board has approved Michele Guindani's nomination as the incoming Editor in Chief of Bayesian Analysis, and that of Maria De Yoreo as the new Editor of the ISBA Bulletin. These positions will be effective on January 1st, 2019. The new ISBA Web Editor will be announced later. In thanking Michele and Maria for stepping up for such major service roles, I want to remind everyone that ISBA is a Society run by members who volunteer their time and efforts. It is important to ensure continuation in the various service roles and a broad participation from the membership. Please make sure to let me know if you are interested in volunteering your time for future ISBA activities.

FROM THE EDITOR

- Beatrix Jones -

beatrix.jones@auckland.ac.nz

In this issue, we include the standards of conduct developed by safeISBA, important reading for all members. The program council section includes the highlights of the imminent world meeting as well as events on the horizon. Along with the usual updates from the BA editor and j-ISBA, we have a report from the Industrial Statistics section, and a conference report from BAYES COMP 2018. "News of the World" includes an announcement of two new named lectures to be held at the North American Joint Statistical Meeting, starting in 2019: the E. L. Scott and F. N. David lectures. Those of you with an ear for catchy titles may be hoping "Witches of Bayes" has become a permanent Bulletin section, but we wrap up discussion of this story in this issue, with a final word from its authors.

Let me also congratulate our next *Bulletin* editor Maria De Yoreo. Maria will take over starting with the March 2019 issue. The current editorial team has a two final issues to produce, and as always we are open to suggestions from readers. I will be at the World Meeting later this month and welcome the opportunity to chat with *Bulletin* readers.

SAFE ISBA: CODE OF CONDUCT

Following six months of work, the ISBA Code of Conduct and related Procedures and Policies have now been finalised and approved by the safeISBA Committee, the ISBA Board and our external legal representative. The Standards of Conduct are reprinted below, with links to the other documents on our website.

Since these documents affect everyone in the Society, we now invite comments from all ISBA members. Are you comfortable with the Code of Conduct and related Policies? Are the Procedures clear and fair in your opinion? Do the FAQ cover all your queries or concerns? Do you have any suggestions for improvements or revisions? There is a three month response period, so please send your comments to safeisba@bayesian.org before 1st September 2018. Note that safeisba is an email alias that goes to the Chair and Secretary of the committee (currently Kerrie Mengersen and Amy Herring.) For more information about safeISBA, please see <https://bayesian.org/membership/safe-isba/>.

Note that during the consultation period, the Code of Conduct will be in effect at ISBA events, including the upcoming World Meeting.

Code of Conduct

The aims of ISBA are to promote the field of Bayesian statistics, support the professional development of its members, and foster the exchange of ideas related to the profession. To achieve this, ISBA promotes good conduct in the practice of our profession, in our relationships, and in our society. Here, good conduct includes but is not restricted to scientific and ethical integrity, equality of opportunity and treatment, and respectful non-harassing behavior. These are detailed in the [ISBA Professional Ethics, Equal Opportunity, and Anti-Harassment Policies](#). The purpose of this Code is to establish and enforce recognized standards for good conduct that ISBA and its members commit to uphold and promote. Abiding by this Code is essential for membership in ISBA and for participation in ISBA activities. Here, ISBA activities include but are not restricted to: professional gatherings organized by ISBA, such as conferences and workshops; social occasions organized by ISBA; and communications relating to ISBA or with ISBA members, such as presentations, messages, and conversations.

Standards of Conduct

Members of ISBA and other participants in ISBA activities **will**:

1. Uphold and promote ethical scientific conduct and statistical practice.
2. Engage in and support professional development for themselves and others.
3. Make every reasonable effort to not disseminate false or misleading information and correct any such act promptly.
4. Make every reasonable effort to uphold equal opportunity for all ISBA members.
5. Support opportunities for members of underrepresented groups to enter and advance in the profession.
6. Strive to ensure that participant interactions are respectful, fair, and free of discrimination and harassment.
7. Comply with all applicable laws and professional rules, and all ISBA codes, rules, and policies.
8. Report or seek to remedy conduct in conflict with this Code, as per the [ISBA Code of Conduct Procedures](#).
9. Abide by the [ISBA Code of Conduct Procedures](#) in the event of a conduct review.

Members of ISBA and other participants in ISBA activities **will not**:

10. Act in a manner detrimental to the interests of ISBA or the profession.
11. Act or communicate in an unethical or illegal manner.
12. Knowingly or carelessly act in a manner that negatively impacts on the professional integrity or equal opportunity of others.
13. Knowingly or carelessly act in a manner that endangers the safety or security of others.
14. Engage in disrespectful, disruptive, violent, abusive, harassing, or intimidating conduct.
15. Use substances (e.g., alcohol) to the extent that they adversely affect behavior or negatively impact on others or the profession.
16. Act inconsistently with this Code of Conduct or any other ISBA code, rule, or policy.
17. Fail to participate as requested, or retaliate against anyone because of their participation, in an ISBA conduct review carried out under the **ISBA Code of Conduct Procedures**.

Reporting and Enforcement: Enforcement of this Code of Conduct is governed by the ISBA Code of Conduct Procedures:

<https://bayesian.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Code-of-Conduct-Procedures.pdf>. Members should consult the Procedures if they experience, observe, or know about a contravention of this Code.

Maintenance of the Code of Conduct: This Code of Conduct is the result of an on-going dialogue within ISBA and is subject to periodic review and amendment by the ISBA Board of Directors. By its very nature it cannot be a complete articulation of all conduct obligations of members and participants.

A **Frequently Asked Questions** document is also available: <https://bayesian.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Code-of-Conduct-FAQs.pdf>. All the relevant documents (Standards, Procedures, and FAQ) can be found together on the Code of Conduct page of the ISBA website: <https://bayesian.org/governance/code-of-conduct/>.

FROM THE PROGRAM COUNCIL

program-council@bayesian.org

World Meeting

- The meeting schedule has been set, please see <https://bayesian.org/isba2018/Program>. Many thanks to the Scientific and Local Organizing Committees for their help.
- As introduced in ISBA 2016, a cell phone App has been prepared to facilitate accessing the program and other meeting-related events. Download **Attendify** on the Apple Store (for iOS users), Google Play (for Android) or Web App (<http://xsbrg0.m.attendify.com/app/about/9UJ0soVtVKUsAovSOJ> if you don't have iOS or Android) and search "2018 ISBA World Meeting" to access the event.
- Travel awards. We're happy to report that thanks to our sponsors and a strong commitment of ISBA's own funds we have been able to extend support to 129 students and young researchers coming from 25 countries. Many thanks to our travel support sponsors (Google, USA Office of Naval Research, SBSS section of the ASA, Stata, RStudio) and to the other meeting's sponsors (The Alan Turing Institute, ICMS, Convention Edinburgh).
- Discussants for Foundational and Bayarri Lectures. Robert Wolpert and Antonio Lijo agreed to be a discussant for the de Finetti lecture given by Phil Dawid. Peter Müller and will be the discussant for the Bayarri lecture given by Veronika Rockova.

- The safeISBA team led by Kerrie Mengersen has drafted an ISBA Code of Conduct (CoC) that will be in effect for the World Meeting. See <https://bayesian.org/governance/code-of-conduct/>.

Other Updates

- Mahlett Tadesse has agreed to serve as ISBA representative for JSM 2019. Thank you also to Mario Peruggia who will be the ISBA representative at JSM 2018.
- The ISBA@NIPS initiative call for this year was launched in May. ISBA supports initiatives that highlight the importance and impact of Bayesian methods in machine learning and data science. For the past several years ISBA has promoted proposals for workshops submitted to the Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) Conference. ISBA will continue this tradition for the 2018 meeting held Dec 3-8 in Montréal, Canada (<https://nips.cc/Conferences/2018>). The ISBA Program Council reviewed all requests submitted by May 31, 2018 and has contacted the applicants with the results. As part of the ISBA@NIPS initiative, ISBA will grant three ISBA special Travel Awards (see below).
- Upcoming sponsored meeting: Bayesian learning theory for complex data modelling. 6-7 September 2018, Grenoble (France). <https://sites.google.com/view/bigworkshop/accueil>

ISBA@NIPS Travel Award

ISBA expects to grant three ISBA special Travel Awards across all accepted workshops at NIPS endorsed by ISBA. Each awardee will receive \$500 to reimburse travel expenses to NIPS. The organizers of ISBA-endorsed workshops at NIPS will send a call for travel award applications in September 2018, from which they will propose candidates for the competition.

Eligibility criteria:

- Only participants in ISBA-endorsed workshops at NIPS will be considered.
- The recipients should be graduate students or junior researchers (up to five years after graduation) who will be presenting at the workshop.
- The recipients should be ISBA members at the time of receiving the award.

Application procedure:

- The organizers of ISBA-endorsed workshops at NIPS who wish to apply will select at most two individuals and propose them as candidates to the ISBA Program Council. The deadline for nominations is Sep 30, 2018.
- The ISBA Program Council will select the recipient(s) from among the candidates proposed by all ISBA-endorsed workshops and communicate the results to the workshop organizers. The winner(s) will be recognized as ISBA@NIPS Travel Award recipients at the NIPS workshops. For further information, email program-council@bayesian.org.

UPDATES FROM BA

From the BA Editor

- Bruno Sansó -

bruno@soe.ucsc.edu

The June issue of the journal is available online at <https://projecteuclid.org/current/euclid.ba>. This issue includes twelve papers on a wide variety of interesting topics in Bayesian methods. One of the papers is the discussion paper: “Bayesian cluster analysis: Point estimation and credible balls” by Sara Wade and Zoubin Ghahramani. The invited discussants for this paper are: Nial Friel, Stefano Monni and Peter Müller. There is a long list of contributed discussions, nine in total. I am extremely pleased with this outstanding number of contributions, as it reflects the interest of the paper for the Bayesian community, and the vitality of the journal. In addition to the discussion paper, the issue features the invited review paper on “Prior Distributions for Objective Bayesian Analysis”, by Guido Consonni, Dimitris Fouskakis, Brunero Liseo, and Ioannis Ntzoufras. This paper provides a comprehensive and fascinating account of the development of the field of objective Bayes.

We hope to replicate the same level of success achieved with the discussion paper in the last issue, with the one that is now up for discussion, and will be published in the September issue: “Using Stacking to Average Bayesian Predictive Distributions” by Yuling Yao, Aki Vehtari, Daniel Simpson, and Andrew Gelman. It is available from <https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ba/1516093227>. Bertrand Clarke, Peter Grünwald and Meng Li will be the invited discussants.

As has become traditional, Bayesian Analysis will have its invited session at the Joint Statistical Meetings, that will take place in Vancouver, July 28 to August 2, 2018. The session will serve to highlight some of the most interesting papers recently published in the journal. The session will feature four talks. First, “Bayesian Spectral Modeling for Multivariate Spatial Distributions of Elemental Concentrations in Soil”, <https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ba/1478919835> by Maria A. Terres, Montserrat Fuentes, Dean Hesterberg, and Matthew Polizzotto. The presenter will be Maria Terres, who is at The Climate Corporation. Second, “Approximation of Bayesian predictive p-values with regression ABC Authors”, <https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ba/1479286819> by Nott, Drovandi, Mengersen and Evans. The presenter will be Chris Drovandi, who is at the Queensland University of Technology. Next, “Variational Hamiltonian Monte Carlo via Score Matching” by Cheng Zhang, Babak Shahbaba, Hongkai Zhao, <https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ba/1500948232>. The presenter will be Chen Zhang, who is at the University of California Irvine. Finally, “Sequential Bayesian Analysis of Multivariate Count Data,” https://projecteuclid.org/download/pdfview_1/euclid.ba/1490234588 with authors Aktekin, Polson, Soyer. The presenter will be Tevfik Aktekin, who is at the University of New Hampshire. Please mark the session in your JSM calendars. In the meantime, see you in Edinburgh for the BA session on “Lassos and horseshoes for the sparse Bayesian cowboy”, starring Polson, Szabo, Scott and Martin.

CONFERENCE REPORT: BAYES COMP 2018

Omiros Papaspiliopoulos

omiros.papaspiliopoulos@upf.edu

This March, the Data Science Center at Barcelona Graduate School of Economics hosted Bayes Comp 2018 in Barcelona. Bayes Comp is a biennial conference sponsored by the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) section of the same name. The conference and the section both aim to promote original research into computational methods for inference and decision making and to encourage the use of frontier computational tools among practitioners, the development of adapted software, languages, platforms, and dedicated machines, and to translate and disseminate methods developed in other disciplines among statisticians.

This year's edition is the first major international gathering of researchers on Bayesian computation. The conference was attended by 200 people of 36 different nationalities from top institutions around the world. The plenary speakers were: Merlise Clyde (Duke University), who gave an overview of computational challenges in Bayesian model choice, Antonietta Mira (Università della Svizzera Italiana), who talked about ABC, Gareth Roberts (University of Warwick), who developed foundational concepts of the complexity theory of MCMC, and Andrew Stuart (Caltech), who talked about graph-based semi-supervised learning and its connections to machine learning, applied mathematics, and Bayesian computation. The rest of the program consisted of 10 invited sessions, 7 contributed sessions and a large poster session. The talks showcased the amazing breadth of Bayesian computation; for example there was a session on the use of Stein's method in computational statistics with talks by Vollmer (Warwick), Ley (Ghent) and Briol (Imperial); another session discussed computational machine learning with talks by Titsias (Athens), Teh (Oxford) and Yau (Birmingham); and Reid (Torotno), Ogden (Southampton) and Ruli (Padova) discussed deterministic approximations for intractable likelihoods.

The social program was equally successful. The conference took place at Ciutadella campus, which is only 10 minutes walk from the beach. Participants chose among 3 social activities planned for the afternoon of the last day, a bike tour of the gothic city, a guided tour to one of Gaudi's most emblematic buildings and a crossfit session on the beach! The conference dinner, which was attended by more than 150 people, closed the meeting.



SECTION REPORT: j-ISBA

- Clara Grazian -

clara.grazian@ndm.ox.ac.uk

An exciting summer is coming! j-ISBA has been working hard in order to organise several events and talks in the next weeks.

The ISBA World Meeting is around the corner and there will be a Section session organised by j-ISBA about “*Bayesian modelling of complex data*”, with Nick Foti from the University of Washington, Michael Jauch from Duke University and Annalisa Cadonna from the Vienna University for Economics and Business.

Just before that, the i-Like Workshop will take place in Newcastle, between the 20th and the 22nd of June. j-ISBA has been invited to organise two sessions, where Jochen Kursawe from the University of Manchester and Leah South from the Queensland University of Technology will give talks in the morning of the 21st and Alexander Buchholz from ENSAE and Felipe Medina Aguayo from the University of Reading in the afternoon.

Another important event for junior researchers this summer is BAYSM 2018 2-3 July 2018 (<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/staff/academic-research/wade/2018baysmconference>). BAYSM is an opportunity to connect with the Bayesian community at large, to exchange ideas, and to know people working in the same field for creating future networks. This is the fourth BAYSM meeting, after the one in Milan (2013), Vienna (2014) and Florence (2016). BAYSM is a platform for M.S. students, Ph.D. students, Post-Docs and young researchers interested in the field of Bayesian statistics to interconnect with the Bayesian community at an early level of their career. It is also an opportunity to get into touch with established senior researchers and start to build a network of knowledge. The platform aims at encouraging discussion and promoting further research in a wide spectrum of fields where Bayesian methods are employed. Past meetings have been greatly appreciated both by the early-research participants and by the senior speakers. You can find more about the meeting series at <http://www.baysm.org/>. This year the keynote speakers will be Kerrie Mengersen, Igor Prünster, Yee Whye Teh, Judith Rousseau and Stephen Senn. j-ISBA is sponsoring two prizes for Best Contributed Posters in Theory & Methods and in Applications of 250 dollars each, which will be awarded based on quality, originality, and importance of the presented research by a committee made up of Organisers with feedback from Discussants.

There will be definitively many moments for early career researchers to interact in the next weeks and we hope to provide some experiences in the next issues of the Bulletin. However, there is always one way to interact: the j-ISBA blog (<https://jisbablog.wordpress.com/>). The blog has been established in October 2017. So far we have been reached by 1216 visitors, 45 different countries, particularly from the USA, the UK and Italy. The most popular post was the one in December 2017, about the commitment of j-ISBA in the development of a code of conduct within ISBA.

Anyway, we would like to do better than that and to propose the blog as a platform to interact. Therefore, the contribution of any member is more than welcomed: if you want to advertise an event, give description of your experience, everything which may help junior researcher, feel free to contact j-ISBA! And, of course, there is always our Facebook page!

We look forward to meeting you in (at least) one of the ISBA summer conferences!

SECTION REPORT: INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

Fabrizio Ruggeri (ISBA-IS Chair) and Refik Soyer (ISBA-IS Program Chair)

soyer@email.gwu.edu

The industrial statistics section has several upcoming activities:

- Three ISBA-IS sessions have been organized at the ISBA World Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland during June 24-29, 2018. These include an invited session on “Bayesian methodology for multivariate dependent data” and two contributed sessions on “Bayesian optimization” and “Adversarial risk analysis.”
- An ISBA-IS invited session on “Industrial Statistics” has been organized at the ISBIS 2018 Congress in Piraeus, Greece during July 3-6, 2018.
- A one-day workshop on “Bayesian Software Workshop on Biopharmaceutical Applications” is planned for the third or the fourth third week in October 2018 at the George Washington University, Washington, DC. This is in collaboration with Biostatistics and Pharmaceutical Statistics section of ISBA. The workshop will involve an introduction to applied Bayesian methods in the morning followed by two parallel software sessions in the afternoon focused on SAS and R. The organizing committee include Bruno Boulanger, Fang Chen, Leonhard Held, Fabio Rigat, Gary Rosner, Refik Soyer and Simon Wilson.
- Another ISBA-IS workshop is planned for 2019 in Ireland. This will be organized by Simon Wilson at Trinity College Dublin.
- ISBA-IS planning to co-sponsor again the Symposium on Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk which will be held at the George Washington University, Washington, DC in May 2019. Also, an invited session on “Bayesian methods in reliability” will be organized at the Mathematical Methods in Reliability meeting which will take place at the City University of Hong Kong during June 3-7, 2019.

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Announcements

Establishment of the Elizabeth L. Scott and F. N. David Lectureships

The Committee of Presidents of Statistical Sciences (COPSS) has announced the establishment of two lectureships named after women: The Elizabeth L. Scott Lecture, and the F.N. David Lecture. The lectures will be given in alternate years at the annual Joint Statistical Meetings beginning in 2019, by the awardees of the Elizabeth L. Scott and F. N. David awards respectively. The Elizabeth L. Scott award was first awarded in 1992 and is presented in even numbered years to “an individual, male or female, who has helped foster opportunities in statistics for women.” The F. N. David award, established in 2001, is given in

odd numbered years to “a female statistician who serves as a role model to other women by her contributions to the profession through excellence in research, leadership of multidisciplinary collaborative groups, statistics education, or service to the professional societies.”

The Caucus for Women in Statistics (CWS) spearheaded the effort to establish the lectureships, in partnership with the ASA LGBT Concerns Committee, ASA Committee on Women, SSC Committee on Women, ISI Committee on Women, and IBS/ENAR/WNAR. The COPSS Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the CWS proposal.

Meetings and conferences

2nd València International Bayesian Summer School (VIBASS2), València, Spain. July 16-20, 2018.

VIBASS2 is a 5-day summer school that offers an opportunity to be introduced into Bayesian reasoning without previous knowledge in the subject.

The first two-days (12 hours) will comprise an introduction to Bayesian learning, with conceptual and practical sessions with R packages in the afternoon. The next 2-days will be focused on a particular topic. This edition is dedicated to Bayesian modeling with BayesX. This course (12 hours) is provided by Nadja Klein and Nikolaus Umlauf. Finally, the last day will be devoted to the Second VIBASS Workshop with two plenary speakers – Paloma Botella and Luigi Spezia. Attendants to the school are encouraged to present posters based on their work.

The summer school's website is <http://vabar.es> and registration is available at <http://vabar.es/events/vibass2/>.

9th European Seminar on Bayesian Econometrics, New Orleans, LA. October 11-12, 2018.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta welcomes submissions to be considered for the 9th Annual European Seminar on Bayesian Econometrics (ES-OBE) at the New Orleans Branch of the Atlanta Fed. The ES-OBE meetings aim at bringing to-

gether researchers and professionals interested in the application of Bayesian inference. They invite papers applying Bayesian econometrics and statistical methods to financial time series analysis, risk management, economic growth analysis, measurement of policy effectiveness, individual decision making in marketing, labor market analysis, forecasting in monetary policy, etc.

Extended abstracts or completed papers can be submitted to <http://editorialexpress.com/conference/ESOBE2018> by July 13, 2018. Acceptance notifications will be sent by August 17, 2018.

Masterclass in Bayesian Statistics at CIRM, Marseille, France. October 22-26, 2018.

Following a similar event in 2016, a “masterclass in Bayesian Statistics” will take place this year at CIRM (Centre International de Recherches Mathématiques). The targeted audience includes all scientists (in particular PhD and post-doc students) interested in how Bayesian inference may be used to tackle the practical problems they face in their research.

More details of the masterclass are available at <https://www.chairejeanmorlet.com/2018-2-mengersen-pudlo-1854.html>. Please consider (pre-)registering as soon as possible, as total attendance is limited (around 90). Some (limited) funding for local expenses (food and accommodation at CIRM) is available; this funding will be allocated by the scientific committee, with priority to PhD and post-doc students.

THE WITCHES OF BAYES

We give the final word on the “Witches of Bayes” story discussed in the past two ISBA Bulletin issues to one of the story's authors, Rina Camporese rina.camporese@istat.it. She writes:

“We are grateful for all the suggestions made in the previous commentaries: they have been of great help to improve our stories. Here are some comments from the authors' point of view. Since we are talking about fables, allow us an informal, light style (which doesn't mean the subject is not serious).

Would one estimate a four hours delay in the event that the four engines of a plane break, given that the pilot has announced a one hour delay after one engine has broken? Of course not. Because context matters.

Would one consider optimal a choice that leaves some witches hungry forever, knowing that they are extremely revengeful when the lack of food is concerned? We wouldn't, because context matters.

Would one say that a sad story about a couple of young lovers hiding from their fighting families has nothing to do with Shakespeare? Probably not. Because inspiration by the classics is a common writing technique.

Would one say that a fable where better decisions are made thanks to conditional probabilities has nothing to do with Bayes? We probably wouldn't. But this is the authors' point of view.”

Executive Committee

President: Marina Vannucci
Past President: Kerrie Mengersen
President Elect: Raquel Prado
Treasurer: Robert Gramacy
Executive Secretary: Amy Herring

Program Council

Chair: David Rossell
Vice Chair: Li Ma
Past Chair: Clair Alston-Knox

Board Members:

2018–2020:
Alicia Carriquiry, Michele Guindani, Lurdes Inoue, Surya Tokdar

2017–2019:
Natalia Bochkina, Catherine Forbes, Feng Liang, and Luca Tardella

2016–2018:
David Banks, Abel Rodriguez, Marc Suchard, Luke Tierney

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor

Beatrix Jones
beatrix.jones@auckland.ac.nz

Associate Editors

News of the World
Xinyi Xu
xinyi@stat.osu.edu

Software Highlight
Anton Westveld
anton.westveld@anu.edu.au

j-ISBA
Clara Grazian
clara.grazian@ndm.ox.ac.uk

Interviews
Leanna House
lhouse@vt.edu