

THE ISBA BULLETIN



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The official bulletin of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Raquel Prado -
president@bayesian.org

It has been a busy few months for ISBA since the beginning of the year. Now that summer is here I am sure many of you will be attending (or have already attended!) one of the ISBA sponsored or endorsed conferences. We have a few of them this summer (see announcements later in this *Bulletin*), including two section meetings – the 12th International Conference on Bayesian Nonparametrics on June 24-28 in Oxford, and the O'Bayes Meeting on June 29-July 2 in Warwick.

The Program Council and the Scientific and Local Organizing Committees of the 2020 ISBA World Meeting have also been working hard in the organization of this conference. See information in this *Bulletin* for an update from the Program Council, including information on the submission of Special Topic Session proposals coming up this August. Additional announcements and further details about this conference are available at <http://www.isba2020worldmeeting.com/>

The local organizing committee of the 2022 ISBA World Meeting in Montreal chaired by Alex Schmidt has also been very actively discussing proposals for possible venues in Montreal. We will give you an update about the 2022 World Meeting next summer in Kunming.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Antonietta Mira and Gregor Kastner as new members of the ISBA Continuing Education Committee. They will work jointly with Kassie Fronczyk who is chairing the committee this year. If you have any ideas that may be worth exploring please get in touch with Kassie. I also welcome Nicolas Chopin, Michele Guindani, Anthony Lee, Rosangela Loschi, Veronika Rockova, and An-

ton Westveld to the Nominating Committee. This committee will be chaired by Past-President Marina Vannucci. Later this summer, this committee will be putting together a slate of candidates for our next election cycle. If you are interested in running for any of the available slots or would like to nominate another member for one of such positions please get in touch with Marina or any other member of the committee with your suggestions.

I also want to remind you that nominations are now being accepted for new ISBA Fellows. Any ISBA member, who has been a current member for at least 3 years, is eligible for nomination. Nominations must be received by February 1st, 2020. Details are available at <https://bayesian.org/membership/isba-fellows/>

Submissions for the DeGroot, Mitchell and Savage awards are also open. The deadline for all the awards is June 21st. Please see <https://bayesian.org/resources/news/> for information about this year's submission process.

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As announced in the March 2019 Issue of the Bulletin, SafeISBA has transitioned to the Professional Conduct Committee (see <https://bayesian.org/membership/safe-isba/>). Earlier this year the Board also approved a major update of the Code of Conduct and Procedures. The Code of Conduct comprises policies on Ethics, Equal Opportunity and Anti-Harrassment. You can find the Code of Conduct, Procedures, and also a section on Frequently Asked Questions at <https://bayesian.org/governance/code-of-conduct/>. The SafeISBA Task Team with support from the Board was instrumental in developing and implementing the Code of Conduct, and also in carrying out the recent revisions based on feedback received from our community during a three month period as a result of a call for comments sent out to all ISBA members in May 2018. Once again, I want to thank the members of the SafeISBA task team and all our Board members last year and this year for their work. This has been a long and difficult process, but we have made significant progress in creating a set of rules and procedures that will make our society safer. The newly formed Professional Conduct Committee is now responsible for administering the Code of Conduct and Procedures. Furthermore, this Committee will consider further revisions in the coming months and will bring those to the attention of the Board by the end of the summer. I will be informing you about this process as soon as it is completed.

Finally, this summer we plan to spend time revising and updating the information available in our website. Please get in touch with me, Feng Liang (ISBA Secretary) or Daniel Williamson (ISBA Webmaster) if you have any suggestions or have encountered any problems accessing the information available online at <http://www.bayesian.org>.

– Raquel Prado

FROM THE EDITOR

- Maria DeYoreo -
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It has been a busy few months with the end of the academic year and summer conference season upon us! This is evidenced by the slightly late June issue, which is actually coming out in July. Please forgive your *Bulletin* Editor and AEs for this! If you have recently attended a conference, the ISBA community would love to hear about it. Please contact me to submit conference highlights or reports to appear in the September *ISBA Bulletin*. I also request that you think about someone who might be interested in serving as an Associate Editor for the *Bulletin*, and urge them to reach out to me with questions! I also would be happy to accept nominations and reach out to potential AEs myself. Thanks to all for considering, and I wish everyone a happy summer filled with much Bayesian statistics!

CALL FOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS

We are still in need of an Associate Editor to help compile the *News from the World* section! The primary role of this AE is to compile news from ISBA members, such as announcements of important awards members have received, solicit conference reports and announce upcoming conferences or meetings of interest to members, or share interesting things happening in the Bayesian community. Please contact mdeyoreo@rand.org if you are interested in serving as an AE for the *Bulletin*! I also ask readers to think about whether you know someone who might be a great candidate for this position, and please tell them to contact me to talk about this opportunity. This is a great opportunity to get more involved with ISBA by contributing to the society and staying up to date with what's happening in the community, and to meet more people within the Bayesian community. This is a great position for a graduate student or postdoc!

FROM THE PROGRAM COUNCIL

- Li Ma-

program-council@bayesian.org

The 2020 ISBA World Meeting will be held June 29-July 3, 2020 at Kunming, China, hosted by Yunnan University. Information about the meeting will be added to the conference website <http://www.isba2020worldmeeting.com> as it becomes available. The Committee on Named Lectures has selected Jim Berger as the Bruno de Finetti Lecturer and Tamara Broderick the Susie Bayarri Lecturer. The Keynote Lecturers are Ismael Castillo, Leonhard Held, Amy Herring, and Suchi Saria. The Foundational Lecturers are Wesley Johnson, Helene Massam, Xiao-Li Meng, and Fernando Quintana.

The nine sections of ISBA have each solicited proposals for Invited Sessions in the months of April and May 2019. The final decision on the Invited Sessions will be announced by July 5, 2019. In mid June 2019, a public call for Member Invited Session (MIS) proposals will be sent to all ISBA members. The submission link for proposals will be provided in the announcement and will also be added to the conference website. MIS proposals will be due three weeks after JSM, on August 22, 2019. After that, an open call for Contributed Talks will be sent out in early September.

Meeting Sponsorships and Co-sponsorships. If you are planning a meeting in 2020 and would like to request financial sponsorship (or co-sponsorship) or non-financial endorsement from ISBA, please submit your requests to the program council at program-council@bayesian.org. Detailed information on how to submit a request for either sponsorship or endorsement can be found at <https://bayesian.org/events/request-sponsorshipendorsement/>.

ISBA@NeurIPS 2019 Travel Award. As part of the ISBA@NeurIPS initiative, ISBA expects to grant two ISBA@NeurIPS travel awards (\$500 each) across all accepted workshops at NeurIPS endorsed by ISBA. Each awardee will receive \$500 to reimburse travel expenses to NeurIPS. The organizers of ISBA-endorsed workshops at NeurIPS will send a call for travel award applications, from which they will propose candidates for the competition. For details on eligibility and selection procedure, please refer to the recent ISBA@NeurIPS announcement sent out on May 22, 2019.

Upcoming ISBA-sponsored/endorsed events

1. 11th International Workshop on Bayesian Inference in Stochastic Processes, June 12 – 14 2019, Madrid, Spain.
2. Statistics conference in honour of Aad van der Vaart's 60th birthday, June 17-21, 2019, Leiden, The Netherlands.
3. VI Latinamerican Bayesian Conference (COBAL VI), June 19 – 21, 2019, Lima, Peru.
4. 12th International Conference on Bayesian Nonparametrics (BNP12), June 24 – 28, 2019, Oxford, UK.
5. O'Bayes 2019: Objective Bayes Methodology Conference, June 29 – July 2 2019, Warwick, UK.
6. The 4th EAC-ISBA Conference, July 13-14, 2019, Kobe, Japan.
7. Risk Analysis for Extremes in the Earth System, July 22 – 24, 2019, Berkeley, CA, USA.
8. BayesComp 20. January 8 – 10, 2020. Gainesville, Florida, USA.
9. The 5th EAC-ISBA Conference: A Satellite Meeting of the 2020 ISBA World Meeting in Celebrating James O Berger's 70th Birthday, June 26 – 27 2020, Da Li, China.
10. BAYSM 2020, June 26 – 27 2020, Kunming, China.

UPDATES FROM BA

From the BA Editor

- Michele Guindani-

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The June 2019 issue of Bayesian Analysis features 14 new manuscripts (<https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ba/1552528828>). There is no Discussion paper in this issue, which has allowed us to go through some of the backlog in Advance publication (<https://projecteuclid.org/adv/euclid.ba>).

The manuscript “A Bayesian Conjugate Method” by J. Cockayne, Chris J. Oates, Ilse C.F. Ipsen, and Mark Girolami has been recently accepted for publication as a Discussion paper in a future issue of the journal. You can find the manuscript in the Advance publication section of the journal website (<https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.ba/1558144846>). As it is now tradition of the journal, we welcome public contributions to the Discussion of this manuscript. The contributions should be no more than two pages in length, using the BA latex style (<https://projecteuclid.org/authors/euclid.ba>). The contribution should be submitted to the journal using the Electronic Journal Management System (EJMS) submission page (<https://www.e-publications.org/ims/submission/>), before August 4th, 2019.

There are many conferences in the Summer, new collaborations initiated and new manuscripts are completed. Please, keep Bayesian Analysis in mind as an outlet for your finest contributions! As you may know, we have a dedicated BA session at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver, on Sun, 7/28/2019, 4:00 PM – 5:50 PM. More details here: <http://bit.ly/2KErpqb>. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

j-ISBA

- Brenda Betancourt -

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Summer has begun and j-ISBA will be actively participating in the upcoming conferences! In June, the VI Latin American Meeting on Bayesian Statistics (VI COBAL) in Lima, Peru will host an invited j-ISBA session on “Junior Contributions to Bayesian Modeling and Inference”. This session includes talks by: Isabelle Beaudry (PUC, Chile), Kelly Cristina (UFRJ, Brazil), and Henrique Bolfarine (USP, Brazil). The official languages of the conference are Spanish and Portuguese in order to include participants (specially students) that do not know English. We are particularly proud of being part of this international event supported by ISBA as it stimulates and strengthens scientific interactions between researchers, academics and students in the Latin American Bayesian community.

The j-ISBA section also has an interesting topic contributed session at JSM 2019 titled “Advances in Bayesian Nonparametric Methods and Its Applications”. The session includes talks from Diana Cai (Princeton), Bianca Dumitrascu (Princeton), Lorenzo Masoero (MIT) and Zacharie Naulet (University of Toronto), and the discussion will be lead by Felipe Barrientos (Duke). Hope to see you all in Denver!

We are also happy to announce that the Bayesian Young Statistician Meeting (BAYSM) will become the official conference of the j-ISBA section. BAYSM 2020 (<http://www.baysm.org>) will be held close in space and time to the ISBA meeting in Kunming-Yunnan (China). Stay tuned for more information on j-ISBA activities and join our Section!

ISBA AWARDS

The Prize Committee of ISBA is pleased to call for submissions for the 2019 Savage Awards, the Mitchell Prize and DeGroot Prize. The deadline for submissions is June 21, 2019.

Nominations for the Savage Awards, the Mitchell Prize and DeGroot Prize may be made by any ISBA or SBSS member. To join ISBA please go to <https://bayesian.org/membership/joinrenew/> Please prepare nominations as a single pdf file following the convention LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME.PDF so the file name corresponds to the nominee and then email them to savage@bayesian.org or mitchell@bayesian.org or degroot@bayesian.org, provided the file is less than 25MB. For files larger than 25MB, please contact Maria De Iorio at m.deiorio@ucl.ac.uk to make appropriate alternative arrangements.

The Savage Award, named in honor of Leonard J. “Jimmie” Savage, is bestowed each year to two outstanding doctoral dissertations in Bayesian econometrics and statistics, one each in Theory & Methods and Applied Methodology. For details on the Savage Award, including names of past winners and eligibility details please visit <https://bayesian.org/project/savage-award/>. Up to two awards of \$750 will be awarded. Finalists will be notified in December 2019 and invited to present their dissertation research in a special contributed session at the ISBA World Meeting, in Kunming, China, in 2020.

The Mitchell Prize is given in recognition of an outstanding paper that describes how a Bayesian analysis has solved an important applied problem. For details on the Mitchell Prize, including names of past winners and eligibility details please visit <https://bayesian.org/project/mitchell-prize/>. The prize includes a check for \$1000 and a plaque; the winner(s) will be announced at the ISBA World Meeting, in Kunming, China, in 2020.

The DeGroot Prize is awarded to the author or authors of a published book in Statistical Science. For details on the DeGroot Prize, including names of past winners and eligibility details please visit <https://bayesian.org/project/degroot-prize/>. The prize includes a check for \$1500; the winner(s) will be announced at the ISBA World Meeting, in Kunming, China, in 2020.

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Members’ News

The first IMS with ISBA book is available! ISBA has joined in an agreement with IMS and Cambridge University Press (CUP) to publish textbooks and monographs. The main benefits for ISBA members are: as readers, a 40% discount on all books in the series (for many textbooks this becomes as low as \$25); and as authors, an opportunity to publish manuscripts at an (compared to some other publishers, amazingly!) affordable price, in a highly visible series. Many readers will have seen the CUP stand at just about all ISBA sponsored meetings. See <https://www.cambridge.org/ims> for titles in the series and instructions for the ISBA discount. We are delighted to announce the first publication in the series: Computational Bayesian Statistics, by Amaral Turkman, Paulino, and Mueller. See a review at <https://xianblog.wordpress.com/2019/02/01/computational-bayesian-statistics-book-review>.

Anyone with suitable book projects, please contact the ISBA Editorial Representative, Peter Mueller pmueller@math.utexas.edu or Diana Gillooly at CUP dgillooly@cambridge.org.

Meetings and conferences

Workshop on Risk Analysis for Extremes in the Earth System will be held in Berkeley, CA, from July 22–24, 2019. See information at: <https://cascade.lbl.gov/upcoming-workshops-conferences/>

The Workshop on Risk Analysis for Extremes in the Earth System will be held at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab in Berkeley, CA on July 22 – 24, 2019. This workshop will serve two complementary purposes. The first is to introduce graduate students, as well as others wishing to enter into the area

of extreme value analysis, to the techniques and challenges that are unique to studying rare events. The second is to provide a venue for statisticians and Earth scientists to share ideas and facilitate collaboration aimed at understanding rare, high-impact events in the Earth system.

The first day of the workshop will feature a pair of short courses, one on contemporary advances in statistical analysis of extreme events, and the second on using the NIMBLE and climextRemes software for data analysis. The following two days will feature research talks on statistical methodology and applications related to extremes, as well as talks on the science and impacts of extreme events in the Earth system. These talks will include several by researchers in both statistics and fields related to Earth science. Finally, there will be a poster session on the evening of Tuesday, July 23.

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