



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BAYESIAN ANALYSIS

THE ISBA BULLETIN

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BAYESIAN ANALYSIS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Igor Prünster

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Our first virtual ISBA World Meeting has been a success beyond the most optimistic expectations! In addition to the record number of 2,128 registered participants, great talks and stimulating discussions, I found it striking that everything went smoothly without any technical glitch. To be honest, I was a bit nervous during the conference and considered some major breakdown to be almost inevitable. It did not happen! All the credit and our heartfelt thanks go to the most efficient Organizing Committee as well as the wonderful team of UConn students who took care of every small detail. You can find a comprehensive account in the *News from the World* Section.

We now all look forward to our [2022 ISBA World Meeting](#), which – fingers crossed – will take place in Montreal from June 25 to July 1, 2022, giving us the opportunity to finally meet and interact in person. We should, however, treasure what we learnt about running successful virtual events, which have a clear advantage in terms of inclusiveness and ecological footprint but are still somehow deficient in terms of personal interactions. Going forward we will have to direct our efforts to identify the right mix between virtual and physical components, which will obviously depend on the type of meeting. For instance, mirror events represent an excellent compromise for splitting huge audiences into smaller scale workshops. I attended the ISBA 2021 mirror workshop in Marseille and it has been very reward-

ing: the closest experience to normalcy of the last 1.5 years! A wonderful and inspiring idea by the organizers.

Election time is fast approaching and voting will start on October 15! I would like to thank the Nominating Committee, composed by Ismael Castillo, Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter (Chair), Alessandra Guglielmi, Feng Liang, Fernando Quintana, Alexandra Schmidt and Bruno Sansó, for assembling an outstanding slate of officers for the ISBA general election. These include Amy Herring and Murali Haran as candidates for President-Elect and Donatello Telesca and Yanxun Xu for Executive Secretary. Thanks also to the officers of the ISBA sections for having finalized their lists. The profiles of all candidates standing for election are available [on the ISBA website](#).

Stay safe!
igor

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FROM THE EDITOR

Gregor Kastner

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September is coming to an end, and just in time the corresponding Bulletin is done. Thanks go to all the authors who contributed this month, covering the newest awards (Savage, EFaB, ISS, BAYSM), news about upcoming conferences, reports from j-ISBA, updates from our flagship journal Bayesian Analysis, and many conference reports, both virtually as well as in-person. Thirteen new pages, hot off the press. Enjoy!

AWARDS

Savage Awards 2020

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. The finalists for 2020 are:

- Theory & Methods:
 - WINNER: Tommaso Rigon for his thesis entitled “Finite-dimensional nonparametric priors: Theory and applications” (Supervisors: Antonio Lijoi and Igor Prünster)
 - Honorable mention: Leah South for her thesis entitled “Contributions to computational Bayesian statistics” (Supervisor: Christopher Drovandi)
- Applied Methodology:
 - WINNER: Adjdi Dieng for her thesis entitled “Deep Probabilistic Graphical Modeling” (Supervisor: David Blei)
 - Honorable mention: Kelly Moran for her thesis entitled “Advances in Bayesian Factor Modeling and Scalable Gaussian Process Regression” (Supervisor: Amy Herring)
 - Honorable mention: Sharmistha Guha for her thesis entitled “Bayesian Methods in Network Regression with Applications in Brain” (Supervisor: Abel Rodriguez)

For details on the Savage Award, including names of past winners and eligibility details please visit the corresponding [website](#). The winners receive a check for \$750.

ISBA would like to thank the members of all the prizes’ sub-committees for their dedication and excellent work.

ISBA New Researcher and EFaB Young researcher awards

by Sylvia Kaufmann

The 11th ESOBE Conference held at Carlos III de Madrid on September 2-3 2021 obtained partial support for new and young researchers from, respectively, ISBA and the EFaB Section of ISBA. The members of the Award Committee were Conchi Ausín, Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter, Gregor Kastner, Sylvia Kaufmann and Herman K. van Dijk. The ISBA New Researcher Travel Award went to

Karin Klieber from University of Salzburg for “Real-time inflation forecasting using non-linear dimension reduction techniques” (co-authored by Niko Hauzenberger and Florian Huber). The EFaB Presentation Award went to Daniel R. Kowal from Rice University for “Semiparametric functional factor models with Bayesian rank selection”, Annika Camehl from Erasmus University Rotterdam for “Disentangling Covid-19, economic mobility, and containment policy shocks” (co-authored by Malte Rieht) and Gregor Zens from Vienna University of Economics and Business for “Ultimate Pólya Gamma samplers – Efficient MCMC for possibly imbalanced binary and categorical data” (co-authored by Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter and Helga Wagner).

Best Student Presentation Award of the Industrial Statistics Section

by Marco Ferreira

During ISBA 2021, we had the first competition for the Best Student Presentation Award of the Industrial Statistics Section of ISBA. The members of the Award Committee were Richard Arnold, Bertrand Clarke, and Lizanne Raubenheimer. The award winner is Anna Yanchenko from Duke University with the presentation “Hierarchical Dynamic Modeling for Individualized Bayesian Forecasting.” An honorable mention goes to Annie Sauer from Virginia Tech with the presentation “Active Learning for Deep Gaussian Process Surrogates.”

FROM THE PROGRAM COUNCIL

Botond Szabo

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ISBA World Meeting 2022

After the successful virtual ISBA 2021 conference, we are looking forward to the Bayesian statistics community getting together again at (in-person) conferences. The Program Council is working with the Scientific Committee on the ISBA 2022 World Meeting, to be held in Montreal, Canada, from June 25 to July 1, 2022. Please visit the [website](#) for more information.

We have received a large number of high-quality invited session proposals. The Scientific Committee will communicate the results by the end of September; a call will be made shortly thereafter for individual contributed oral presentations and posters, which is expected to be open until end of October.

(Co-)Sponsorship/Endorsement Requests

If you are planning a meeting and would like to request financial sponsorship (or co-sponsorship) or non-financial endorsement from ISBA, please submit your request 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 [here](#).

Upcoming ISBA-sponsored/endorsed events

1. The 5th EAC-ISBA Conference: A Satellite Meeting of the 2021 ISBA World Meeting in Celebrating James O Berger’s 70th Birthday (Postponed to Fall 2021).

2. “Your model is wrong: Robustness and misspecification in probabilistic modeling” NeurIPS workshop, 14th of December, 2021, online.
3. 1st BNP Networking event, April 25-29, 2022, Nicosia, Cyprus.
4. ISBA 2022 World Meeting, June 25-July 1, 2022, Montreal, Canada.
5. NSF-CBMS Conference on “Bayesian Forecasting and Dynamic Models”, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, USA. (Postponed to Summer 2022).
6. O’Bayes 2022, September 7-10, 2022, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, USA.
7. BNP 13, October 24-28, 2022, Puerto Varas, Chile.

JUNIOR ISBA

Sally Paganin

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Summer is typically conference time, where all the planned j-ISBA sessions and events finally take place. This year, most of the conferences have been held online. In late June we had the ISBA 2021 conference, where we finally were able to have the j-ISBA sponsored session planned in pre-pandemic times on “Computational and Modeling Advances for Complex Biological Data”, featuring Alejandra Avalos-Pacheco (Harvard University), Giorgio Paulon (the University of Texas at Austin) and Riccardo Corradin (University of Milano-Bicocca). We thank Tommaso Rigon for organizing and chairing the session. If you registered for ISBA 2021 and missed the session, you can still check it out [here](#). During the conference, j-ISBA also hosted a meet-up on the virtual Gather.town beach. You can read more about that in the “News from the world” section of this bulletin.

Later in August, we were also present at JSM 2021 with a topic-contributed session on “Bayesian Methods and Approaches in Big Data Analysis” that included talks from Leonardo Egidi (University of Trieste), Lasse Vuursteen (Leiden University), Margarita Grushanina (Vienna University of Economics and Business), Zehang Richard Li (University of California, Santa Cruz), and a discussion led by Adam Szpiro (University of Washington).

BaYSM 2021. Closing the conference summer, on September 1-3 2021 we had the BaYSM 2021 conference, now the official conference of j-ISBA. The **BaYSM** conference is built around junior researchers, with more than 80 speakers between talks and posters, and senior researchers giving keynotes and leading discussions.

This BaYSM was held online, with live talks and poster introductions on Zoom, and poster sessions on Gather.town. Check out the [webpage](#) for more information. There were about 300 registrants, with a good attendance overall. We also had prizes for the Best Talks and Best Posters in “Theory and Methods” and “Applications and Computation”. The selection of winners was difficult since there were many outstanding works, so we decided to assign two honorable mentions for talks. We are happy to announce and congratulate the winners:

- Best poster for Applications and Computation: **Zaineb Boulil** (San Diego State University), “Detecting changes in dynamic social networks based on unlabeled movement data”
- Best poster for Theory and Methods: **Bart Eggen** (Delft University of Technology), “Bayesian sensitivity analysis for a missing data model with continuous outcomes”

- Best talk in Applications and Computation: **Alessandro Colombi** (Politecnico di Milano, now PhD student at University of Milano-Bicocca), “Learning Block Structured Graphs in Gaussian Graphical Models”

Honorable mention: **Matteo Pedone** (Università degli Studi di Firenze), “Bayesian nonparametric approach for joint modeling of prognostic and predictive covariates”

- Best talk in Theory and Methods: **Hanyu Song** (Duke University), “Curved factor analysis with the ellipsoid-Gaussian distribution”

Honorable mention: **Cian Naik** (University of Oxford), “A Recursive Construction for Hilbert Coresets”

We wish to thank Yunnan University for having generously sponsored two prizes for the Best Talks, and ISBA and j-ISBA for having sponsored the Best Posters prizes. During the conference, there was also a Bayesian-themed Quiz open to all participants, with prizes up for grabs to redeem in statistics books sponsored by ISBA. Congratulations to the winners, Alessandro Colombi (1st) and Cecilia Balocchi (2nd).

We hope to see you all soon at the next BaYSM, which will be in Montreal July 3-5 2022, just after the ISBA 2022 conference!

j-ISBA Elections. Elections are coming up soon and we are delighted to have two candidates for each of the two soon-to-be vacant positions:

- Chair-elect: Alejandra Avalos-Pacheco (Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University) and Tommaso Rigon (Assistant Professor, University of Milano-Bicocca)
- Program Chair: Joshua Bon (Postdoc, Queensland University of Technology) and Fan Bu (Postdoctoral Researcher, UCLA)
- Secretary: Cecilia Balocchi (Postdoc, University of Torino) and Francesca Panero (PhD student, University of Oxford)

Statements of the candidates are available on the [ISBA website](#). We wish all of them good luck for the elections and encourage you to vote when the time comes. Remember that only members of j-ISBA can vote for the election, and you can join our section for only \$5 with your ISBA membership!

Coming up. Works are underway for the Blackwell-Rosenbluth Award, and winners of this first edition will be announced around late October. Stay tuned and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

UPDATES FROM BA

Michele Guindani

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- The success of BA is measured by the service it provides to the entire Bayesian community, and its ability to be a vehicle for discussion of novel methods and interesting applications. However, we are certainly glad to share good bibliometric indexes when they become available. The Journal Impact Factor (JIF) of BA has increased from 2.696 in 2019 to 3.728 in 2020. More importantly, the relative ranking of the journal among the publications in the *Science Citation Index*

Expanded category of *Statistics & Probability* remains quite high (14/125). This is particularly remarkable for a relatively young journal with a targeted readership like ours and confirms a steady trend over the years. As a way of comparison, the *American Statistician* tops the list of the most impactful journals (2020 JIF: 8.710), whereas the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* has a solid 5.033 JIF (8/125), the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B* a 4.488 JIF (10/125), and the *Annals of Statistics* a 4.028 JIF (11/125). *Bayesian Analysis* is also indexed in the *ISI Science Citation Index Expanded*, in *MathSciNet* and in *Scopus*, among others. In addition to the metrics listed above, BA has an Article Influence Score (2020) of 2.860, Article Influence Ranking of 13/124, SCImago SJR (2020) of 2.685, and a SCImago (2020) Ranking of 16/257 (Statistics & Probability). Despite all the caveats that are necessary when citing bibliometric indexes, we are grateful to our authors for sending their best manuscripts to the journal, and to the members of our editorial board for their dedicated work to ensure the enduring quality of the publications in the journal.

- As you probably know, BA is an open access journal, thanks to the financial support of ISBA. Voluntary fees or donations to the Open Access Fund are accepted. Funds from publication charges are collected by IMS and help defray the rising costs of production and editing that ISBA is incurring to support the BA online publication system. By contributing to the publication charges, authors will ensure the long-term economic viability of the journal and the mission of ISBA, allowing ISBA to promote and support additional activities to promote the development and application of Bayesian Analysis, especially for students and younger investigators. Both full or partial payments of the publication charges are allowed. Please consider supporting the success of the journal and ISBA!

We are often asked about the copyright for all the articles published in BA. We adopt the most permissive license, the [Creative Commons BY 4.0 license](#). A summary of the main important aspects of the license can be found [here](#).

- We welcome public contributions to the Discussions of the two following manuscripts:
 - (a) *Bayesian Restricted Likelihood Methods: Conditioning on Insufficient Statistics in Bayesian Regression* by John R. Lewis, Steven N. MacEachern, and Yoonkyung Lee.
and
 - (b) *Multilevel Linear Models, Gibbs Samplers and Multigrid Decompositions* by Giacomo Zanella and Gareth Roberts

The contributions should be no more than two pages in length, using the [BA latex style](#). The contributions should be submitted to the journal using the [Electronic Journal Management System \(EJMS\)](#) submission page **before November 1st, 2021**. Please, clearly indicate which Discussion paper you intend to discuss when submitting your contribution.

- The December 2021 issue of “Bayesian Analysis” will contain the manuscripts competing for the 2022 Lindley Prize. The Lindley Prize is awarded for innovative research in Bayesian Statistics that is presented at an ISBA World Meeting and accepted for publication in the journal *Bayesian Analysis*. The Prize is named for Dennis V. Lindley, and recognizes the impact and importance of his work in the foundations, theory, and application of Bayesian Statistics, and his marked influence on the evolution and spread of the discipline, over many decades. The winners of the Prize will be announced during the [ISBA World Meeting 2022](#).

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

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Reports from Important Events and Conferences

2021 ISBA World Meeting

by the members of the Scientific Committee and the Organizing Committee

The 2021 ISBA World Meeting was successfully held as a virtual conference, with short courses offered on June 23 - June 27, 2021 and the main program taking place on June 28 - July 2, 2021. The main program ran from 5:00 am New York time to 9:30 pm New York time each day. A historical record number of attendees (2128) registered/attended this world meeting. The attendees were from over sixty countries. There were 705, 1096, 775, 1216, and 808 attendees who signed up for these five-day short courses, respectively.

The Scientific Program included 5 Short Courses, 4 Foundational Lectures, 4 Keynote Lectures, 2 Named Lectures, 49 Invited Sessions, 31 Contributed Sessions, and 2 Poster Sessions. The program comprised a mixture of live talks, pre-recorded talks, and posters. Foundational, Keynote, and Named Lectures, as well as all invited talks, were live-streamed during the corresponding sessions. All live-streaming sessions were via Zoom, with links integrated into the Whova platform. Contributed talks were pre-recorded and were made available from June 10, 2021. During the live-streamed Contributed Sessions, each speaker gave a 5-min live recap of their contributed talk, highlighting the main points, followed by live discussion and Q&A from the audience. Contributed speakers who had optionally chosen to accompany their talk with a poster also presented their poster in their designated Poster Session. Poster Sessions were held on Gather.town, which also served as the virtual space for social time during the whole conference.

In designing the format of the virtual conference, both the Scientific Committee and the Organizing Committee made a particular effort to increase participation from junior researchers. Feedback was very positive for the new Contributed Presentation format, which was designed to give researchers the opportunity to present their work through the (15 min pre-recorded) oral presentation, accompanied by a 5-min live recap, and the option also to present a poster. The oral presentations were recorded and uploaded by the speakers onto the Whova app and made available from June 10, 2021, so that attendees could use some time before the conference to watch them and ask questions during the live sessions. About one third of the presenters (103) decided to accompany their talk with an optional poster, participating in one of the two poster session days. Poster Sessions were held on Gather.town, a virtual space where people can move around and interact with each other, pretty much as in real life.

The new “15+5+poster” format helped bypass the limitation in the number of contributed oral talks in past World Meetings, and substantially improved participation from junior researchers. Among the 336 Contributed Presentations in the final program, 243 were from students and postdocs. This is the highest level of participation from junior researchers we have ever achieved! Moreover, a total of 21 presentations (from 15 students and 6 postdocs) from these 243 eligible submissions were selected by an award sub-committee to receive an NSF-sponsored Best Student/Postdoc Contributed Paper Award.

We would like to thank all of the speakers, organizers, session chairs, and other participants for the

success of the virtual conference. Our special thanks go out to the Short Course instructors and Contributed Session chairs for their contribution to engage junior researchers.

Best Student/Postdoc Contributed Paper Award. Twenty-one Contributed Presentations from students and postdocs have been selected to receive the “Best Student/Postdoc Contributed Paper Award” at the ISBA 2021 World Meeting. The awards are sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Each award is accompanied by a monetary prize (\$1,000) and a certificate. All of the 243 contributed submissions from students and postdocs were automatically entered for the competition. The overall quality of the contributed talks by students and postdocs was impressive. The selection process involved initial nomination by the Contributed Session chairs and evaluation by a 5-member subcommittee of the ISBA 2021 Scientific Committee (Athanasios Kottas - chair, Anirban Bhattacharya, Gael Martin, Andrea Riebler, and David Rossell). The 21 winning contributions are listed below (ordered by the first name of the awardee). Finally, a reminder that, if you had registered for ISBA 2021, you can still check out these recorded presentations and many other excellent ISBA 2021 talks on the conference [Whova site](#).

The 21 winners are: Alessandro Zito (PhD student at Duke University), Alex Gao (PhD student at University of Toronto), Annie Sauer (PhD Student at Virginia Tech), Bora Jin (PhD student at Duke University), Chiara Ghiringhelli (Postdoc at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore), Emilia Pompe (PhD student at University of Oxford), Francesca Panero (PhD student at University of Oxford), Francesco Denti (Postdoc at University of California Irvine), Gregor Zens (PhD student at Vienna University of Economics and Business), Hélène Ruffieux (Postdoc at University of Cambridge), Joshua Loyal (PhD student at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Laura D’Angelo (PhD student at University of Padova), Likun Zhang (Postdoc at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory), Naoki Awaya (PhD student at Duke University), Niloy Biswas (PhD student at Harvard University), Onur Teymur (Postdoc at Newcastle University), Stefan Franssen (PhD student at Leiden University), Takuo Matsubara (PhD student at Newcastle University), Willem van den Boom (Postdoc at National University of Singapore), Yanbo Tang (PhD student at University of Toronto), Zhuoqun Wang (PhD student at Duke University).

Student Volunteers. In particular, we would like to thank to the wonderful University of Connecticut (UConn) Student Volunteer team, consisting of Soumik Banerjee, Eric Baron, Zhiduo Chen, Simiao Gao, Yuen Tsz Abby Lau, Aolan Li, Daeyoung Lim, Md. Tuhin Sheikh, Wei Shi, Patrick Toman, Meiruo Xiang, Wenlin Yuan, Katherine Zavez, Yiming Zhang, and Haiwei Zhou (see Figure 1). They were moderating all sessions from June 28 to July 2. The UConn student team developed the rehearsal program and hosted all 12 half-hour rehearsal sessions for all plenary speakers and 12 one-hour rehearsal sessions for all invited and contributed speakers. The student volunteers set up and managed Whova/the conference website for the conference program and zoom links for all sessions. They also moderated all short courses and all sessions during these 10 days.

ISBA Travel Awards. The ISBA Executive Council was impressed by the wonderful job the UConn student team had done in the organization of this year’s World Meeting and each of the following students including Simiao Gao, Daeyoung Lim, Md. Tuhin Sheikh, Wenlin Yuan, and Yiming Zhang was awarded a travel award to attend the 2022 ISBA World Meeting or any other ISBA Section or co-sponsored meeting between now and December 31, 2022.

ISBA mirror in Marseille, France

by Christian Robert

As the ISBA 2021 meeting was getting near, we heard from the international mathematic conference centre (CIRM) in Marseille, France, that it would reopen in time for the conference and that it could

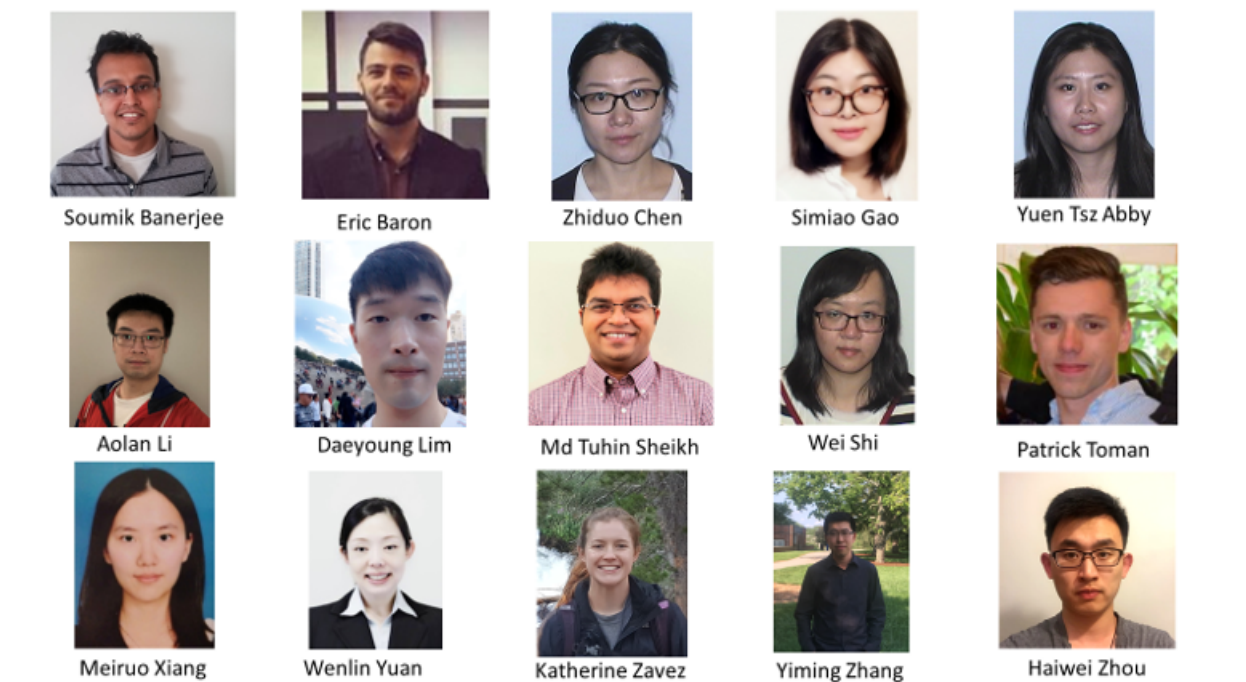


Figure 1: Members of the UConn Student Volunteer team.

accommodate up to seventy participants. We thus made a hasty proposal with Julyan Arbel and Judith Rousseau in May, which was immediately accepted, and started making a call for participants from France and nearby countries. This led to a large fraction of participants being from Northern Italy, plus a few from Austria, as other European countries faced stricter travel constraints. The total number of participants was above 70, some of which were presenting talks at the virtual ISBA 2021 meeting and thus able to make a physical presentation at the same time for the local group. Given the time difference between France and Eastern US, we organised in addition local talks for junior participants, under the supervision of some junior members. While missing the late talks (in French time), we were able to catch a fair amount of the talks, with two rooms in parallel allowing for access to both sessions. The presence of the participants at a single place, namely CIRM, on a campus at the boundary of a national park, led to a high degree of interactions and collaborations, and a warm feeling of being reunited with old and new friends. The conclusion was that such experiences should be repeated for future conferences and workshops, as they allow for more inclusion, shorter travels, and cheap accommodations in such sponsored public facilities.


We are also most grateful to the local staff for their support and kindness, as well as their acknowledgement for being there (see Figure 2 or this [link](#)), including five presidents of ISBA!

Acknowledgment. We would like to thank US NSF, DeepMind/Google and RStudio for their sponsorships.


Insights from j-ISBA

by Roberta De Vito, Xenia Miscouridou, and Sally Paganin

This is the first time all of us have been involved in such a big conference. We have definitely learned a lot about the “backstage” of an international conference, along with all the additional challenges of an online format. We are going to put this experience to good use in the next j-ISBA events! As j-ISBA section, we are enthusiastic about the ISBA effort of giving more visibility to junior researchers

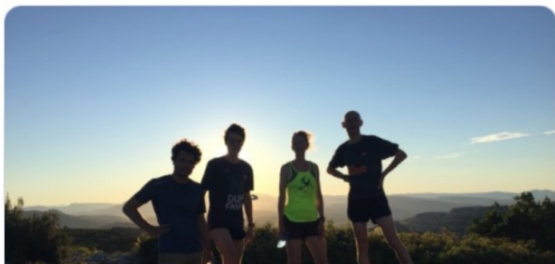


NOS MEILLEURS AMBASSADEURS ! OUR BEST AMBASSADORS!



Julyan Arbel @JulyanArbel · 13h

#ISBA2021 (aka Bayes World Meeting) just finished. Some thoughts & memories on the local mirror we've organized in Marseille w/ C Robert, France @_CIRM.




Julyan Arbel @JulyanArbel · 13h

En réponse à @JulyanArbel

About #ISBA2021, this was a meeting of "firsts" - quoting ISBA president I. Prünster:

- free of charge
- 2000+ participants
- 500+ talks, incl 5-min contributed
- 16-hour-span program each day



Julyan Arbel @JulyanArbel · 13h

Great extra: possibility to add on-site live talks: @dabystrova, @martacatal, Adrien Hairault & @moins_theo organized 2 such sessions for a total of 16 ten-minute talks

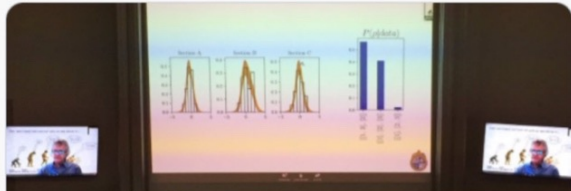
sites.google.com/view/isba-at-cirm

| mardi, 29 juin | |
|----------------|--|
| 09:00 | Nicolas ANDERSON (Bocconi University): Methodological and computational advances for Bayesian regression with mixed continuous and discretized responses |
| 09:15 | Alexandra ANGLADE PACHOUD (Paris Lodron Universität): Leveraging external data in Bayesian adaptive platform designs |
| 09:30 | Chafiq AMMAL (Université Paris Dauphine): Importance MCMC |
| 09:45 | Gergely ALFÖRD (Aix-Marseille Université): Tempered Adaptive Multiple Importance Sampling |
| 10:00 | Filippo ASDOLANI (Bocconi University): Trees of random probability measures and Bayesian nonparametric modelling |
| 10:15 | Louise ALAMICHEL (EMMA Grenoble Rhône-Alpes): Bayesian nonparametric mixtures inconsistency for the number of clusters |
| 10:30 | Beatrice FRANZOLINI (Bocconi University): Nonparametric priors with full-range borrowing of information |
| 10:45 | Gu NING (Sorbonne Université): On Joint Bernstein-von Mises Phenomenon and Sup-norm Contraction Rate for Bayesian Cox Proportional Hazard Models |
| mardi, 30 juin | |
| 09:00 | Francesco GAFFI (Bocconi University): Discrete nonparametric priors with fixed mean distribution |
| 09:15 | Adrien HAIRAUT (Université Paris Dauphine): Marginal likelihood estimation for Dirichlet Process Mixture models |

Julyan Arbel @JulyanArbel · 13h

Gathering in a conference center makes zoom talks look like real talks:

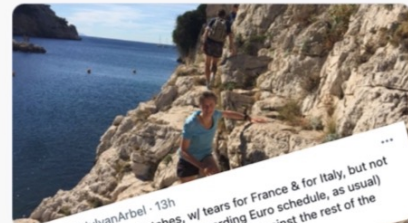
- in a large amphitheatre, or smaller rooms for // sessions
- slides projected on a huge wall
- extra two screens for speaker video



Julyan Arbel @JulyanArbel · 13h

About the mirror:

- organisation is pretty light: no work for scientific program, leaving some time to chill in Calanques park
- 60 participants mainly from 🇫🇷 🇮🇹 🇪🇺
- many juniors @_ISBA
- three (former, past and current) ISBA presidents



Julyan Arbel @JulyanArbel · 13h


Watching Euro football matches, w/ tears for France & for Italy, but not for the same reason (optimal week regarding Euro schedule, as usual)

Playing a soccer game, when Italy wins 12-1 against the rest of the world, and having a sore body for the next two days.

Julyan Arbel @JulyanArbel · 13h


Extra random thoughts:


- Meeting with old friends and meeting new (mostly junior) colleagues
- Drinking beers
- Buying packs in a supermarket when CIRM don't have anymore
- Hiding them in a fridge behind a wall of milk packs



Julyan Arbel @JulyanArbel · 13h

Working in a soothing place, in the shade of oaks and olive trees, rocked by the song of cicadas, close to the sea and the mountains. @_CIRM





Thank you @JulyanArbel and others








Figure 2: A collection of tweets from the ISBA mirror in Marseille, France.

during the conference. In fact, this conference included more than 200 contributed videos from early-career researchers (with 21 awards), two extended Savage sessions with 4 finalists each, and a jISBA invited session (plus the extra live junior talks at the ISBA@CIRM mirror workshop). During the conference, we also organized two j-ISBA online meet-ups on the Gather.town beach, where we had the chance to meet some old friends and get to know some new Ph.D. students, touching base on the pros/cons of the online format for juniors. ISBA has a good history of travel support for juniors participating in conferences, however the free online format has certainly helped make the conference more accessible worldwide, eliminating travel and funding necessities. We also discussed a lot of the cons of this online year, hoping to learn how to improve the online conference experience for the future. One main point was the risk of feeling isolated, especially for first-timers. It is considerably harder to have the chance to connect with peers and senior faculties since this needs a serious commitment of being online a good portion of the day (or night!), with bad internet connection and the so-called zoom fatigue getting into the way. Still, we concluded that it would be great in the future to find a good compromise between in-person and online events and get the best of both worlds!

11th European Seminar on Bayesian Econometrics (ESOB 2021) 2-3 September 2021, Carlos III de Madrid

by Sylvia Kaufmann

Postponed from 2020, the exceptional [program](#) included keynote speeches by Daniel Peña (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), Herman K. van Dijk (Erasmus University Rotterdam) and Helga Wagner (Johannes Kepler Universität Linz); invited talks by Manuel Arellano (CEMFI), Roberto Casarin (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia), Gael Martin (Monash University) and Enrique Sentana (CEMFI). ISBA and the EFaB Section of ISBA sponsored a New and Young Researchers session. Instituto Flores de Lemus and IBiDat provided additional, highly appreciated sponsorship.

In addition, the program included 13 contributed papers and 19 posters, selected from a total of roughly 50 high-quality submissions. All works presented address topical issues and sketched avenues to pursue in statistical and econometric modelling and forecasting. The analysis of high-dimensional data remains topical, a synthesis between parameteric and non-parameteric, frequentist and Bayesian methods seems promising to tackle flexibly complex problems like time-varying, skewed and heavy-tailed data distributions.

Special thanks go to the local organizing committee. Andrés Alonso, Conchi Ausín, Pedro Galeano, Helena Veiga and Michael Wiper organized an efficient and professional hybrid format, which allowed participants from all over the world to join and exchange.

Highly appreciated, Instituto Flores de Lemus (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid) sponsored a two-day course in advance of the conference given by Hedibert F. Lopes (ISPER São Paulo) on [Modern Bayesian Econometrics](#).

Upcoming Meetings, Conferences, and Workshops

- The **ISBA-endorsed workshop on robustness & misspecification** titled *“Your model is wrong: robustness and misspecification in probabilistic modeling”* will take place virtually at [NeurIPS 2021](#). For a description of the workshop, please visit this [website](#).

The workshop is intended to bring together researchers focused on methods, applications, and theory to outline some of the core problems in specifying and applying probabilistic models in modern data contexts along with current state-of-the-art solutions. Participants will leave the workshop with (i) exposure to recent advances in the field, (ii) an idea of the current major challenges in the field, and (iii) an introduction to methods meeting these challenges.

Confirmed Invited speakers: Chris Holmes (Oxford University), Jonathan Huggins (Boston University), Ilse Ipsen (North Carolina State University), Lester Mackey (Microsoft Research), Andres Masegosa (University of Almería), and Yixin Wang (University of California Berkeley).

- The **Eastern Asia Chapter** of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (EAC-ISBA) will take place online, between November 14 and November 16, 2021.

Registration is open, and you can submit a poster until October 30, 2021. Visit this [link](#) to see the program.

- The 4th **International Data Science Conference** (iDSC 2021) will be held online on October 20-21, 2021. More details at this [link](#).

The conference is meant to bring together researchers, scientists, and business experts to discuss means of establishing new ways of embracing agile approaches within the various domains of Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), Industry & Production 4.0, including the dependability of systems, data mining, or visualization and communication as well as case studies and best-practices from leading research institutions and business companies.

- The **International Conference on Bayesian Learning for Neural Networks** will be digital on November 1-2, 2021. All the details can be found at this [link](#).

The conference aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Bayesian Learning for Neural Networks. The abstracts and full-text paper submission deadline is September 30, 2021.

And don't forget:

- The **series of monthly webinars** organized by the Bayesian nonparametric section of ISBA (BNP-ISBA) has already restarted! The next webinar will be on October 6, 2021. Check [this link](#) for more details.

CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

2022 COPSS Awards

Each year at the Joint Statistical Meetings an awards ceremony organized by the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS). Four awards are given:

- Presidents' Award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the statistics profession.
- The Distinguished Achievement Award and Lectureship (DAAL) is given yearly in recognition of outstanding contributions to statistical methods that have had significant impact on scientific investigations.
- The Elizabeth L. Scott Award and Lectureship are given to an individual who has helped foster opportunities in statistics for women.
- The newly created COPSS Leadership Academy Award is to recognize early career who show evidence of and potential for leadership and who will help shape and strengthen the field.

The call for nominations is available at the [COPSS website](#).

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