



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BAYESIAN ANALYSIS

# THE ISBA BULLETIN

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BAYESIAN ANALYSIS

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sudipto Banerjee  
[president@bayesian.org](mailto:president@bayesian.org)

The 2022 ISBA World Meeting, which concluded in Montreal, Canada, on July 01, exhibited the vibrancy, engagement and intellectual stimulation we customarily associate with ISBA conferences. The conference registered a footfall of over 600 attendees. The scientific program comprised over 500 presentations including 2 named lectures, 4 foundational lectures, 4 keynote lectures, 55 invited sessions, 17 contributed sessions, over 250 poster presentations, and 5 short courses.

I, once again, congratulate Alexandra Schmidt (Chair of the Local Organizing Committee) and Botond Szabo (Chair of the Scientific Committee and Past Chair of the ISBA Program Council) for their splendid work. To Alex, I say—and I believe I say this on behalf of all our members—you and your entire team have navigated unprecedented uncertainties and challenges in bringing us this conference. Your dedication to ISBA has been truly exemplary, and we thank you warmly and deeply for this. To Botond, I say: Congratulations and thank you and your team for compiling an outstanding scientific program. Your program featured a truly stellar lineup of plenary speakers and a stimulating collection of short courses,

oral presentations and posters. You had indeed brought together the legends and the best and the brightest of our profession to this meeting. And to all of our members who were able to attend, I say: Thank you for your efforts in attending this meeting. Many of you had travelled from afar under circumstances that may have been trying and less pleasant due to constraints and restrictions in global travel. It was because of your presence that this meeting will, I am sure, go down as the one to beat when future ones are planned. In summary, the World Meeting corroborated my sense of optimism, which I shared with the ISBA leadership and all of you in my opening address, that the intellectual pursuits and global synergies our society aims to foster and support across the world will continue unabated.

### IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE EDITOR

AWARDS

UPDATES FROM BA

JUNIOR ISBA

FROM THE PROGRAM COUNCIL

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

REMEMBERING NOZER SINGPURWALLA

On a more sombre note, it has not escaped me is that several attendees contracted the COVID-19 virus during the conference, with some exhibiting symptoms of illness that certainly went beyond mild. While personally, it was delightful for me to meet so many of my colleagues and friends in person after a long absence due to the pandemic, it has also been distressing to learn about them grappling with the effects of the virus. I certainly hope that all of our members are currently in good health and have been able to fulfil their summer plans without further encumbrances.

With the 2022 World Meeting behind us, the ISBA leadership is reflecting on the state of the society and turning its attention to future initiatives. ISBA's membership, at the time of the World Meeting in June, exceeded 1100 members which amounted to an annual increase of roughly over 50%. ISBA's revenue from membership also registered a very robust growth of close to 69%. The conference itself, with the generous help of sponsors and the strong attendance, is expected to generate a decent surplus once all the funds are accounted for. We expect ISBA's financial health in robust shape. Funds from our sponsors enabled us to offer a record number of travel awards to student attendees for the 2022 World Meeting. I take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors and my colleagues in the ISBA leadership team for their efforts in securing the financial health of our society.

I am also especially pleased to share with you the impressive growth and vibrancy among several of ISBA's sections. Notable among these are j-ISBA (short for Junior ISBA), which registered an annualised growth of about 92% in membership. With over 250 members, j-ISBA now stands as the section with the highest membership among ISBA's sections. A very impressive 68% growth was also witnessed by EnviBayes (Section on Environmental Sciences). Most of the other sections, except BERA-P which is now undergoing some rejuvenation efforts, have either maintained robust membership or witnessed modest growth. Sections continue to be actively involved in the organisation of meetings, workshops and conferences. I just returned from the biennial meeting of the section on Objective Bayes (O'Bayes 2022) hosted on site by the Department of Statistics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, which included a stellar lineup of speakers and a series of stimulating presentations. I thank and congratulate Bruno Sanso (Chair, Local Organising Committee) and Dimitris Fouskakis (Chair, Scientific Committee) and their teams for their splendid efforts. A list of upcoming events is available <https://bayesian.org/events/upcoming-meetings/> and shows the dynamism exhibited by our sections in dissemination of scholarly activities. I encourage members to attend as many of these events as possible, and also encourage their professional colleagues to do the same. The ISBA leadership is currently invested in and committed to the growth of the sections and their activities, and will be discussing steps to facilitate the rekindling of activities in sections that seem exhausted.

Let me also remind our members that the ISBA Program Council, currently chaired by Matthias Katz-fuss, is soliciting proposals for the 2026 and 2028 World Meetings. The Program Council strongly encourages interested members to contribute to the main scientific gathering of our society by submitting a pre-proposal. The deadline for submissions is **October 31, 2022**. Selected pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal, due in early 2023. The ISBA leadership has created templates for the pre-proposal (available for download [here](#)) and the budget (available [here](#)). In particular, I wish to remind members that proposals for future World Meetings are required to include a clear plan for providing childcare facilities for attendees travelling with small children. The expenses for these facilities must be accounted for in the conference budget. Submissions and questions should be sent to the ISBA Program Council at [program-council@bayesian.org](mailto:program-council@bayesian.org).

Finally, allow me to remind you to renew your membership and also encourage your students, collaborators and colleagues to join ISBA. ISBA is a truly special association that has served our profession admirably since its inception in 1992 and has witnessed the massive growth of Bayesian statistics over the years. I especially encourage you to join and participate in the different Sections of ISBA listed under <https://bayesian.org/>. The vitality of these Sections ensures the growth and expansion of the synergistic scholarly activities that our Society strives to achieve. I hope ISBA will see many new faces in the coming year among its members. The link to renew your membership and join the Sections is available from the ISBA homepage (<https://bayesian.org/>) or at <https://bayesian.org/membership/joinrenew>.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Gregor Kastner

[gregor.kastner@aau.at](mailto:gregor.kastner@aau.at)

Without being able to provide rigorous proof about its validity, I shall start off this edition with a simple claim: “This bulletin contains the highest number of awards announcements ever.” So please read on and convince yourself; or dig into ISBA’s archives and prove me wrong! In any case, buckle up for a show of the latest and greatest contributors to the Bayesian world. In addition, read about what’s going on at *Bayesian Analysis*, news from j-ISBA, updates from the program council, and an extensive collection of reports from important events and conferences. To conclude, find out about the life and work of the late Nozer Darabsha Singpurwalla in his obituary.

## AWARDS

Sara Wade and Ramsés H. Mena

[sara.wade@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sara.wade@ed.ac.uk) and [ramses@iimas.unam.mx](mailto:ramses@iimas.unam.mx)

With about 100 awards, prizes, honorable mentions, certificates and travel awards, corresponding to the different ISBA’s recognitions from 2019 to 2022, the Award Ceremony at the 2022 ISBA World Meeting, held in Montreal last June, was the largest ever! Indeed, it wasn’t until this event, after the pandemic lockdown, that we were finally able to celebrate the different achievements by the young and the not so young Bayesians in our community. It was a real pleasure to see so many colleagues in person after the isolation period.

Of course, such accomplishment would have not been possible without the intense work of all award chairs and committees devoted to the many selections and deliberations needed. Despite the limitations caused by the pandemic, ISBA’s commitment and resilience was evident and ratified.

Regarding the 2021 awards bestowed during the Award Ceremony we would like to congratulate the following awardees:

### SAVAGE AWARD 2021 IN THE CATEGORY APPLIED METHODOLOGY

**Winner: Cecilia Balocchi** for her thesis entitled “Bayesian nonparametric analysis of spatial variation with discontinuities” (Supervisors: Edward I. George and Shane T. Jensen).

**Honorable mention: Neil Marchant** for his thesis entitled “Statistical approaches for entity resolution under uncertainty” (Supervisors: Ben Rubinstein and Rebecca C. Steorts).

On behalf of ISBA, we are very grateful to Raquel Prado, who chaired the Applied Methodology committee, and all colleagues who were a part of it: Veronica Berrocal, Yang Ni, David Nott, Julia Palacios, Henry Scharf and Ting Zhang.

### SAVAGE AWARD 2021 IN THE CATEGORY THEORY AND METHODS

**Winner: Aritra Guha** for his thesis entitled “Inference and interpretability in latent variable modeling” (Supervisor: Long Nguyen).

On behalf of ISBA, we are very grateful to David Dahl, who chaired the Theory and Methods committee, and all colleagues who were a part of it: Felipe Barrientos, Minwoo Chae, Juhee Lee, Li Ma, Garritt Page, Stéphanie van der Pas and Debdeep Pati.

## MITCHELL PRIZE 2021

**Winners:** Mariano Gabitto, Herve Marie-Nelly, Ari Pakman, Andras Pataki, Xavier Darzacq, and Michael Jordan for their paper “A Bayesian nonparametric approach to super-resolution single-molecule localization”, published in *The Annals of Applied Statistics* (2021), 15: 1742–1766.

**Honorable mention:** Kenichiro McAlinn, Knut Are Aastveit, Jouchi Nakajima and Mike West for their paper “Multivariate Bayesian Predictive Synthesis in Macroeconomic Forecasting” published in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* (2020), 115: 1092–1110.

On behalf of ISBA, we thank Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter for chairing the Mitchell Prize 2021 committee, and all members who were a part of it: Mike Daniels, Peter Rossi and Helga Wagner.

## DEGROOT PRIZE 2021

**Winners:** Nicolas Chopin and Omiros Papaspiliopoulos for their book *An Introduction to Sequential Monte Carlo*, 2020. Springer.

We are compelled to display an extract of the thorough evaluation for this book:

*This is an excellent book. It provides a comprehensive, well-structured and accessible introduction to modern sequential Monte Carlo (SMC) methods. The book balances mathematical rigour with practical relevance: never losing sight of the fact that SMC is – at its heart – a computational tool. The book is unique in the way in which it presents all algorithms as special cases of one generic form of algorithm, with a unified pedagogical and notational approach used throughout. This approach does demand of the reader some prior investment in the mathematical formalities of Markov processes and Feynman-Kac models, as the bulk of the book builds upon those concepts and exploits the associated notation. However, the reader is rewarded for this effort by acquiring an integrated understanding of what often appear as distinct and disparate algorithms in the literature and other textbooks.*

On behalf of ISBA, we are very grateful to Gael Martin, who chaired the DeGroot Prize 2021 committee, and its members: Michael Gutman, Robert Kohn, Gary Koop and Anthony Lee, for their thorough evaluations.

## LINDLEY PRIZE 2021

**Winners:** Giacomo Zanella and Gareth O. Roberts for their paper “Multilevel linear models, Gibbs samplers and multigrid decompositions”, published in *Bayesian Analysis* (2021), 16(4): 1309–1391.

**Honorable mention:** John R. Lewis, Steven N. MacEachern and Yoonkyung Lee for their paper “Bayesian restricted likelihood methods: Conditioning on insufficient statistics in Bayesian regression” published in the *Bayesian Analysis* (2021), 16(4): 1393–1462.

On behalf of ISBA, we thank Michele Guindani for chairing the Lindley Prize 2021 committee and for all of his superb work as former Editor of *Bayesian Analysis*, as well as all members who formed the committee: Raffaele Argiento, Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, Maria Eugenia Castellanos, Petros Dellaportas, Li Ma, Clara Grazian, Eduardo Gutiérrez-Peña, Rosangela Helena Loschi, Matt Koslovsky, Daniel Kowal, David Rossell, Mark Steel.

Finally, but not least important, we would like to thank all members of ISBA’s Executive Committee, Organizing and Scientific Committees of the 2022 World Meeting, as well as various other members of our community for the incredible coordination in the Award Ceremony during the Banquet at Montreal!

## Sally Paganin

[spaganin@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:spaganin@hsph.harvard.edu)

The j-ISBA section has been growing in the past years, and with it the number of opportunities for—and created by—early-career researchers. It was amazing to finally be able to see all the juniors being recognized in public during the ISBA 2022 and BaYSM 2022 awards ceremonies. Join us in congratulating all the awardees!

### BLACKWELL-ROSENBLUTH AWARDS 2021

The Blackwell-Rosenbluth awards by j-ISBA have been the latest addition ISBA 2022 awards ceremony. Even though the winners have been officially announced in December 2021, we are delighted to congratulate them again! Here the winners of the first edition of the Blackwell-Rosenbluth awards:

UTC+ winners: **Marta Catalano** (Warwick University), **Samuel Livingstone** (University College London), **Dootika Vats** (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur)

UTC– winners: **Trevor Campbell** (University of British Columbia), **Daniel Kowal** (Rice University), **Yixin Wang** (University of Michigan).

The j-ISBA section is grateful to all the members of Scientific Committees, who provided timely and thoughtful evaluations, working side-by-side with the j-ISBA liaisons, Willem van den Boom and Aki Nishimura.

UTC+ Scientific Committee: Kerrie Mengersen (Chair), Daniele Durante (vice-Chair), Willem van den Boom (j-ISBA Liaison), Julyan Arbel, Clara Grazian, Peter Green, Gregor Kastner, Yongdai Kim, David Nott, Yasuhiro Omori, Lucia Paci, David Rossell, Stéphanie van der Pas, Sara Wade.

UTC– Scientific Committee: Steve MacEachern (Chair), Lorin Crawford (Vice-Chair), Akihiko (Aki) Nishimura (j-ISBA Liaison), Yves Atchade, Andres Christen, David Dahl, Ernest Fokoue, Hedibert Lopes, Luis Nieto-Barajas, Alexandra Schmidt, Surya Tokdar, Sinead Williamson, Yanxun Xu.

### POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS AWARDS AT ISBA 2022

Poster sessions are an essential part of the ISBA world meeting, and during this edition there were over 250 posters spanned over 3 nights. Thanks to two publishers, Taylor & Francis (CRC/Chapman & Hall) and Springer, who kindly donated book prizes, some of the ISBA sections had the chance to recognize the best posters of the conference.

**BNP:** Lorenzo Ghilotti, Federico Pavone, Changwoo Lee, Francesca Panero, Alessandro Zito, Federica Zoe Ricci, Paul Rosa, Kang Wang.

**BayesComp & j-ISBA:** Renato Berlinghieri, Niladri Das, Esmail Abdul Fattah, Mengying Lei, Florian Maire, Gemma Moran, Chen Shi, Emma Skarstein.

**j-ISBA:** Filippo Ascolani, Maximilian Autenrieth, Dawid Bernaciak, Shounak Chattopadhyay, Riccardo Corradin, Laura D'Angelo, Jennifer Kampe, Bokgyeong Kang, Antoine Meyer, Bo Y.-C. Ning, Antonio Peruzzi, Michele Peruzzi, Daniel Schwartz, Torben Sell, Roopali Singh, Daniel Spencer, Justin Weltz, Jun Yang, Shengbin Ye, Qiuyun Zhu.

The publishing sponsors also provided prizes for the Industrial Statistics presentation awards.

**Industrial statistics presentation awards:** 1st prize: Isabella Deutsch; 2nd prize: Chiara Galimberti; 3rd prize: Garrett Frady.

Many thanks to the following members of the ISBA community, who had the hard task to serve as judges during the posters nights and during the talks.

**Poster Award and Industrial Statistics Presentation Award Committees:** Julyan Arbel, David Banks,

Federico Camerlenghi, Trevor Campbell, Antonio Canale, Bertrand Clarke, Marco Ferreira, Michele Guindani, Fabrizio Leisen, Alice Kirichenko, Peter Mueller, Georgia Papadogeorgou, David Rossell, Briana Stephenson, Donatello Telesca, Yanxun Xu, Sara Wade, Giacomo Zanella.

## BAYSM 2022 AWARDS

The j-ISBA section and Microsoft kindly sponsored 4 awards each during the BaYSM 2022 conference, for the best talks and poster presentations. You can read about the conference in the “News from the world” section of this bulletin. Congratulations to the winners!

- **Best talks:** Peter Knaus, Yuexi Wang, Isabella Deutsch, Renato Berlinghieri
- **Best posters:** Dennis Nieman, Dirk Douwes-Schultz, Francesco Sanna Passino, Mariia Vladimirova

**BaYSM awards committee:** Alejandra Avalos-Pacheco, Shirin Golchi, Florian Maire, Sally Paganin, Massimiliano Russo.

## UPDATES FROM BA

Mark Steel

[m.steel@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:m.steel@warwick.ac.uk)

I hope you all had a great summer with the right mix of relaxation and academic excitement now that meetings are finally happening in person again. I would like to remind you of two things: the Lindley Prize (with a slightly **extended closing date**) and two upcoming discussion papers.

As previously announced, the Prize Committee of ISBA welcomes submissions for the **2022 Lindley Prize**. The 2022 Lindley Prize will be awarded for innovative research in Bayesian statistics that is accepted for publication in BA and was presented (invited or contributed, oral or poster) at the ISBA 2022 World Meeting in Montreal, Canada. The prize includes a check for \$ 1000 and a plaque and/or certificate with the winner(s) announced at the ISBA World Meeting in 2024. We have now extended the closing date for submissions to **October 15, 2022**. Submissions should be made electronically at <https://www.e-publications.org/ims/submission/BA/author>. Please indicate in the comments to the Editor or in the submission letter that you wish your paper to be considered for the 2022 Lindley Prize. Also, please include the identification number of the session in which the work was presented. Authors should prepare their manuscripts using the BA macros. For further details on the Lindley Prize, just visit <https://bayesian.org/project/lindley-prize/>. Please direct any queries to the Lindley Prize Committee, at [m.steel@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:m.steel@warwick.ac.uk). The committee looks forward to seeing many interesting submissions for this prize.

As you know, Bayesian Analysis regularly publishes papers with discussion. We now welcome contributed discussions of the two following manuscripts:

- “Evaluating Sensitivity to the Stick-Breaking Prior in Bayesian Nonparametrics” by Ryan Giordano, Runjing Liu, Michael I. Jordan and Tamara Broderick. The manuscript can be accessed in the Advance publication section of the journal website or at <https://doi.org/10.1214/22-BA1309>.
- “Deep Gaussian Processes for Calibration of Computer Models” by Sébastien Marmin and Maurizio Filippone. The paper can be found in the Advance publication section of the journal or at <https://doi.org/10.1214/21-BA1293>.

Please note that the contributions should be no more than two pages in length, using the BA L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X style. The discussions should be submitted to the journal using the journal submission page (<https://www.bayesian.org>).





Figure 1: j-ISBA session at ISBA 2022. (from left to right) Speakers: Bora Jin, Francesco Denti, Gabriel Hassler. Discussant: Giovanni Parmigiani. Chair: Sally Paganin.

[//www.e-publications.org/ims/submission/BA/author](http://www.e-publications.org/ims/submission/BA/author)) by **October 15, 2022**. Please choose “contributed discussion” as manuscript type and clearly indicate which Discussion Paper your discussion refers to when submitting your contribution. I very much hope to see many interesting and thoughtful contributions appear in the journal.

## JUNIOR ISBA

Sally Paganin

[spaganin@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:spaganin@hsph.harvard.edu)

This past summer was quite busy for the board, and we had a lot of things going on within the j-ISBA community. It was exciting to finally be able to gather together in person in Montréal at ISBA 2022 and during the other summer conferences.

**j-ISBA organized sessions.** The j-ISBA session at ISBA 2022 was not to miss! The session “Advances in Bayesian methods for complex data” featured the work of three junior researchers, Bora Jin (Duke University), Francesco Denti (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore) and Gabriel Hassler (UCLA) along with a discussion led by Giovanni Parmigiani (Harvard University). The talks touched base on a broad range of statistical challenges in different domains of application, from constrained spatial data, to brain imaging and phylogenetics. Quoting Giovanni’s summary, “papers that do honor the application context. Yet they contain ideas that can be helpful in many other contexts”. The discussion was terrific, puns included!

Later in August, we also had a topic-contributed session at JSM 2022 on “Advances in scalable Bayesian methods for spatial data” with three great talks from Michele Peruzzi (Duke University), Lu Zhang (University of Southern California), and Isabelle Grenier (Verisk). Since we had more time than expected in the session, we tried a new *leave-one-out cross-discussion* experiment, where in turn two of the speakers acted as discussant for the third. It was fun, and we might replicate this in the future. The room was full of interested researchers who made sure to challenge our speakers with many compelling questions. Unfortunately, we had to rush for lunch and did not have the chance to get a picture!

**BaYSM.** We could not be happier to finally have the Bayesian Young Statisticians Meeting in person! This 2022 edition was held in Montréal, just before ISBA 2022. It was so refreshing to be able to meet the new generation of junior Bayesians. You can read more about that in the “News from the world” section of this bulletin. We look forward to see you at BaYSM 2024!

Finally, we are thrilled to announce that the Book of Proceedings of BaYSM 2021, “[New Frontiers in Bayesian Statistics](#)” has been published. The book features some of the work presented during the online 2021 edition, related to many different topics in Bayesian statistics and presenting promising methodological approaches to address important challenges in a variety of applications.

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

- **Chair-elect:** Beatrice Franzolini (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, A\*STAR), and Michele Peruzzi (Postdoctoral Associate, Duke University).
- **Treasurer:** Beniamino Hadj-Amar (Postdoctoral Fellow, Rice University), Jonathan Huggins (Assistant Professor, Boston University), and Jonathan Owen (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Leeds)

Statements of the candidates are available at 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 the j-ISBA section can vote for the election, and you can join our section for only \$5 with your ISBA membership!

**Coming up.** Blackwell-Rosenbluth Award, and winners of the second edition will be announced in October, 2022. Stay tuned and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

## FROM THE PROGRAM COUNCIL

Matthias Katzfuss  
[program-council@bayesian.org](mailto:program-council@bayesian.org)

**Call for ISBA 2026/28 Proposals.** ISBA announces a call for pre-proposals for the ISBA World Meetings in 2026 and 2028. We strongly encourage any interested members to contribute to the main scientific gathering of our society by submitting a pre-proposal. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2022. Selected pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal due in early 2023. Pre-proposals should provide as much detail as possible, including dates, conference venue, hybrid options, childcare options, estimated meeting expenses broken down by fixed costs and per-participant costs, suggested registration fee and expected participant costs (hotels, shuttles). Meetings should be planned to be revenue neutral. The pre-proposal should also indicate a local organizing committee and chair. This local organizing committee has primary responsibility for organizational tasks and seeking local funding. A scientific committee will be appointed by the ISBA Program Council and will have primary responsibility over the scientific program and seeking non-local funding. World Meetings are typically held in June or July at a time of year that helps maximize attendance, although timing may vary depending on the local circumstances of the chosen venue. The venue should be a location accessible to a large proportion of ISBA membership. Submissions and questions should be sent to the ISBA Program Council at [program-council@bayesian.org](mailto:program-council@bayesian.org). Pre-proposals are encouraged to follow the template available [here](#) and the budget template available [here](#).



**(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](mailto: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/>.

#### Upcoming ISBA-Sponsored/Endorsed Events:

- ENVR 2022 Workshop: Environmental and Ecological Statistical Research and Applications with Societal Impacts, October 6–8, 2022, Provo, UT
- Bayesian Biostatistics conference, October 12–14, 2022, Bethesda, MD, USA.
- GEOMED 2022, October 12–14, 2022, Irvine, CA
- BNP 13: 13th International Conference on Bayesian Nonparametrics, October 24–28, 2022, Puerto Varas, Chile.
- BayesComp, March 12–14, 2022, Levi, Finland
- BISP13: 13th Workshop on Bayesian Inference in Stochastic Processes, May 22–24, 2023, Madrid, Spain

## NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Francesco Denti

[francesco.denti@unicatt.it](mailto:francesco.denti@unicatt.it)

### Reports from Important Events and Conferences

#### 2022 ISBA World Meeting

Report from the Local Organizing Committee

*by Alexandra M. Schmidt*

**Why 2022 ISBA in Montréal?** As the 2015 ISBA President and, because of my personal connections with Canada, I always felt that ISBA should attempt to strengthen the Bayesian community in Canada, and thought that a good way to accomplish this would be to host an ISBA World meeting here. This is how, back in December 2015, when I was interviewing for a position at McGill, the idea of hosting the 2022 ISBA World Meeting arose. In 2018, I and a group of Canadian statisticians: Rob Deardon (University of Calgary), Aurélie Labbe (HEC, Montréal), Geneviève Lefebvre (UQAM), Nancy Reid (University of Toronto), and Jim Zidek (University of British Columbia), put together a proposal to host ISBA 2022 in Montréal. Montréal was chosen after competing with proposals from three other cities.

Back then, before COVID-19 came into our lives, we were expecting to have between 800 and 1000 people attending the meeting. As we needed a venue that could host plenary sessions with this large number of people, the local organizing committee opted to host the meeting at the Hotel Bonaventure. The chosen meeting dates were from June 26th to July 1st, 2022.

**Initial support.** From the beginning, we received great support from *Tourisme Montréal*, the official tourist centre of Montréal. They provided funds for members of the Board to visit Montréal, they also gave CAD\$ 17,130 to ISBA to cover travel expenses for attendees from outside Quebec. Besides the financial support, they gave great practical support throughout the organization of the meeting. I am grateful to *Marie-Catherine Lacoste* and *Sybil Brault*, who were always there when we needed to exchange ideas about organizational issues.

**COVID-19 and holding an in-person meeting.** Back in the Fall of 2021, the Executive Committee of ISBA met with the LOC to decide whether we would move forward with an in-person meeting. It was a difficult decision. Those who have organized big meetings know the uncertainty involved, but in the presence of COVID-19 this uncertainty was more challenging to assess. Because of this, until the very last minute, we were quite conservative about various expenses. I appreciate how the ISBA Executive Committee accommodated our requests; a special "Thank You" goes to Marian Farah, the ISBA Treasurer, for how understanding and accommodating she was, and for making the task of the LOC as easy as possible.

**Funds from Canadian Institutions.** *The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences* at McGill University was the first to donate funds to the meeting. I believe that this encouraged other universities and institutions to follow McGill's steps. Many different departments made donations to the ISBA World Meeting. The Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health (EBOH) at McGill University helped in several different ways. It provided funds for the local organizing committee to pay for some expenses (shirts for the LOC and registration for the students who helped with the organization). Personally, I am grateful to *Professor Rebecca Fuhrer*, who was the interim chair of EBOH between 2021 and 2022 and helped the LOC by providing financial support and advice and always being there when I needed to exchange ideas about the meeting.

The *Université du Québec à Montréal* (UQAM) also supported ISBA by paying for the registration of students who attended an ISBA World Meeting for the first time.

We are also grateful to *Professor Don Estep*, Director of the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI), and *Professor Octav Cornea*, Director of the Centre de recherches mathématiques (CRM) for securing CAD\$10,000 each to support the meeting. These sums paid for many travel awards for early career researchers.

**Running the meeting.** Following the feedback we have been receiving until now, the meeting ran very smoothly and this was thanks to a great team-work that involved *Auréli Labbe*, *Geneviève Lefebvre*, and the team of graduate students (most of them from McGill University) who helped us: *Renaud Alie*, *Mariana Carmona*, *Lily Chafetz*, *Dirk Douwes-Schultz*, *Tasneem Fatima-Alam*, *Cynthia Herkenhoff* (UFRJ, Brazil), *Paritosh Kumar Roy*, *Victoire Michal*, *Daniel Rodriguez*, *Julien St-Pierre*, *Armando Turchetta*, *Gabrielle Virgili-Gervais*, *James Willard*, *Haoyu Wu*, *Mingchi Xu*, and *Sara Zapata-Marin*.

For the first time ever, an ISBA World Meeting provided childcare in situ. ISBA fully sponsored the childcare and parents seemed grateful for this opportunity, mentioning that without it they would not be able to attend the meeting. It was challenging to find someone who provided this service in Montréal. Moving forward to future meetings, in my opinion, the model we had in Montréal is not sustainable. ISBA was only able to fully sponsor it because not many children required childcare.

Running an in-person meeting during COVID-19 times had many extra challenges and resulted in more than one sleepless night for the organizers. We had many last-minute cancellations, either because attendees tested positive just before travelling to Montréal or because they did not receive their visa to enter Canada on time. Unfortunately, many early career researchers experienced issues with the visa and the LOC could not help. The ISBA Board was very understanding and under such circumstances provided a full refund of the registration fee to these attendees. Despite these cancellations, we had 600 people in Montréal this summer, an impressive number given all the uncertainty we faced.

As the Chair of the LOC, I thank those of you who came to me during the meeting or have sent me personal messages thanking us for the experience you had. It is rewarding to see that, overall, the meeting went well, and people had a great time in Montréal. I am sorry that many of you, like me, got COVID-19 during the meeting. We are still learning how to live with COVID-19 and, moving forward, ISBA will have to discuss the format of the World Meetings.

For those of you planning to organize future ISBA World Meetings, I wish you the best of luck; do not hesitate to contact me if you need to borrow from my experience in organizing ISBA 2022.

### **Report from the Scientific Committee**

*by Botond Szabó*

The **Scientific Committee** has received a huge number of high-quality submissions, for instance, we have received almost 600 proposals for contributed talks and poster presentations. In the end the Scientific Program included 5 Short Courses, 4 Foundational Lectures, 4 Keynote Lectures, 2 Named Lectures, 54 Invited Sessions, 18 Contributed Sessions, and 3 Poster Sessions. Foundational, Keynote, and Named Lectures, were recorded, and the recordings are available at [ISBA's YouTube page](#)

For both environmental reasons and to adapt to the uncertainties (related to the Covid pandemic and the endless visa procedure for many ISBA members) we have adopted an online schedule (using Whova). This allowed to dynamically deal with the countless last-minute changes in the program.

**ISBA Travel Awards:** The Executive Committee and the Program Council have ensured a record number of sponsors (5 platinum level, 10 gold level, 6 silver level and 3 bronze level), allowing to support over 180 students to attend the world meeting. The student awards were assigned by the scientific committee in multiple rounds, taking all type of diversity factors into account and aiming to support young researchers from developing countries.

The **ISBA webmaster**, *Tony Pourmohamad*, in coordination with the Scientific Committee, has regularly updated the [conference website](#). Many thanks to Tony for his tireless and high-quality work.

---

### **BaYSM 2022**

*by Alejandra Avalos-Pacheco*

The **BaYSM 2022** conference in Montréal Canada was a great success. The Centre de recherches mathématiques (CRM) hosted the two-day conference in which fifty-eight participants were enrolled, between June 22-23, 2022. The conference featured five extraordinary plenary talks addressed by *Lorin Crawford, Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter, Amy Herring, Tamara Broderick, and Adrian Raftery*.

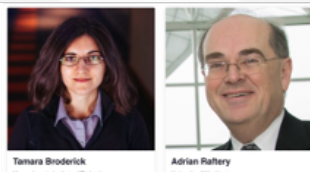
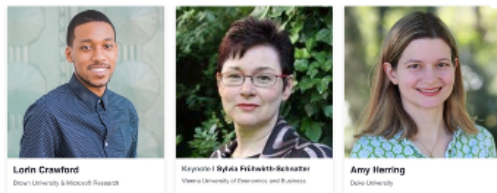
The Scientific Committee (SC) members were *Roberta de Vito, Massimiliano Russo, Trevor Campbell, Gregor Kastner, and Alejandra Avalos-Pacheco*. The SC was happily impressed by the quality of the work presented by the participants, with twenty-three talks and twenty-two posters. The committee is particularly thankful for all the work and great comments of the discussants: *Raquel Prado, Bruno Rémillard, Jason Roy, Alexandra M. Schmidt, and David A. Stephens*.

All presenters (posters or talks) of BaYSM 2022 will be invited to extend and submit their contribution as a chapter for the Proceedings of BaYSM 2022. More details will come soon!

The conference granted two **j-ISBA** and 2 **Microsoft awards** for the best poster and talk presentations, as well as 20 ISBA New Researcher Travel Awards for the poster and talk presentations, ten each. All the contributed submissions from students and postdocs were automatically considered for the j-ISBA and Microsoft competitions. The ISBA travel award winners were given on a competitive basis, with a preference for participants from economically disadvantaged countries.

The **j-ISBA award winners** were *Dennis Nieman and Dirk Douwes-Schultz* for the best posters and *Peter Knaus and Yuexi Wang* for the best talks. The **Microsoft awardees** were *Francesco Sanna Passino*

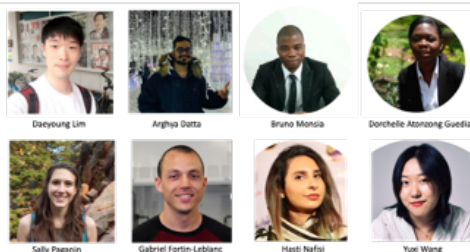
Many thanks for the inspiring **plenary talks** to



The **local committee** has done a titanic work



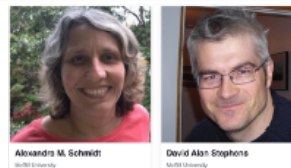
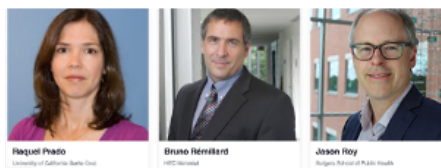
Thanks to all the **volunteers** for their hard work



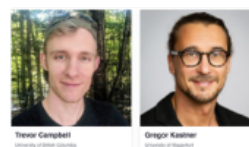
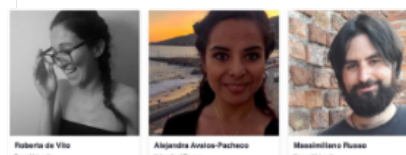
Thanks for the advice given at the **Mentoring panel**



Many thanks for all the stimulating **discussions** to



Thanks to the **scientific committee**



Congrats to the **j-ISBA & Microsoft winners**



And of course, thanks to all the amazing **participants**





and Mariia Vladimirova for the best posters and Isabella Deutsch and Renato Berlinghieri for the best talks. Finally, the ISBA New Researcher Travel Awards went to Aliaksandr Hubin, Beniamino Hadj-Amar, Caitlin Ward, Catherine Xue, Giorgos Vasdekis, Isabella Grabski, Jiawei Li, Lasse Vuursteen, Louise Alamichel, Nikolas Kuschnig, Peter Strong, Raiha Browning, Sascha Ranftl, Stephanie Wu, Stephen Coleman, Théo Moins, Willem van den Boom, Yanran Li, Yu Luo, and Yuexi Wang.

The conference hosted the new **BaYSM mentoring panel**, “Updating your (prior) beliefs”. This panel was the first event of a new seminar series where senior researchers share their experiences in handling career challenges in academia. The j-ISBA board wants to thank Amy Herring, Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter, and Adrian Raftery for all the advice and insights given in the panel. The panel has been recorded, and the video is publicly available [at this link](#). More events are coming soon. Stay tuned!

Special thanks to our former j-ISBA chair Roberta De Vito, for all her efforts in leading the organization of such a fantastic conference. Also, we are grateful to all the volunteers and the local and scientific committees. And above all, thanks to the fifty-eight participants for all their energy, passion, and great attitude. They were key to the success of this conference. See you at BaYSM 2024 in Italy!

**Acknowledgments:** We would like to thank the Brown Department of Biostatistics, Microsoft, Centre de recherches mathématiques (CRM), j-ISBA, and ISBA for their sponsorships.

## Upcoming Meetings, Conferences, and Workshops

- **GEOMED 2022** will take place at the University of California, Irvine, on 12-14 October 2022. The conference will be held in person, however it will also feature remote sessions.

GEOMED is an interdisciplinary conference on spatial statistics, spatial epidemiology, and geographical aspects of public health. The conference aims to bring together epidemiologists, geographers, statisticians, computer scientists and public health researchers and professionals to discuss methods of spatial analysis and results and applications of those methods to public health data. The registration page is now operational! A preliminary program is now available at [this link](#).

- The **ENVR 2022 Workshop: Environmental and Ecological Research with Societal Impacts** is the biannual meeting of the Statistics and the Environment Section of the American Statistical Association to be held in Provo, UT on October 6-8, 2022.

The ENVR 2022 workshop has the following goals: (i) facilitate inter-disciplinary research collaboration by sharing ideas and discussing future directions of environmental statistics and data science (ESDS); (ii) provide a venue for ESDS scientists to present novel ideas in the field; and, (iii) develop young talent in ESDS by holding short courses and a student data competition. Scientific sessions of the workshop will focus on data science and statistical methods for relevant environmental topics with societal impacts. Such topics include statistical methods for water applications, quantifying uncertainty in natural hazards and climate statistics. These sessions will touch on important modern topics in ESDS such as, but not limited to, data collected on non-Euclidean spaces such as river networks, analyzing rare-event data and extreme values and analysis of large environmental databases. In each of these sessions, scientists will present state-of-the-art methods in ESDS uniquely suited to address the statistical challenges associated with the environmental data. More information at [this link](#).

- **Bayes Comp 2023** is the biennial conference of the Bayesian Computation Section of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis. Bayes Comp will take place in Levi, Finland, between March 15-17, 2023.

The Keynote speakers will be Tamara Broderick, Anthony Lee, and Veronika Rockova. The call for contributed talks and posters is open. The deadline is September 30, and one should submit proposals via [this Google form](#). If you have any questions, please email [bayescomp2023@](mailto:bayescomp2023@)



[gmail.com](#). There will also be three satellite events on 12-14 March 2023. More information at [this link](#).

### And don't forget:

- The **13th International Conference on Bayesian Nonparametrics (BNP13)** will be held in Puerto Varas, Chile, from October 24 to October 28, 2022. Important information about the conference is available at [this link](#).
- The **Bayesian Biostatistics 2022** will be held in Bethesda, Maryland, on October 12-14, 2022. The call for abstracts is open; please send your abstract to [bayes2022@1sacademy.com](mailto:bayes2022@1sacademy.com). One can find more details at [this link](#).
- Don't miss the **series of monthly webinars** organized by the Bayesian nonparametric section of ISBA (**BNP-ISBA**). Check [this link](#) for more details.

## REMEMBERING NOZER SINGPURWALLA

### Kimberly F. Sellers, Refik Soyer, Thomas A. Mazzuchi IN MEMORIAM: NOZER DARABSHA SINGPURWALLA (1939–2022)

Nozer Darabsha Singpurwalla, 83, passed away on July 22, 2022 at his home in Washington D.C., surrounded by family. He was born in Hubli, India. As a young man, Nozer immigrated to the United States, where he obtained a M.S. in Engineering from Rutgers University, and a Ph.D. in Engineering from New York University under the direction of John Kao. He met Norah Jackson (who had recently immigrated from England) at a dance at Disneyland, and they married in 1969. Nozer and Norah lived most of their married life in Arlington, Virginia, where they raised their two children, Rachel and Darius.

Nozer was a faculty member at The George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, DC for over 40 years, serving as Distinguished Research Professor both in the Department of Statistics and the Department of Operations Research (later Engineering Management and Systems Engineering), respectively, and Director of GWU's Institute for Reliability and Risk Analysis; he further held a courtesy appointment with the Department of Decision Sciences at GWU. With areas of expertise in diverse fields including reliability theory, risk analysis, Bayesian statistical inference, quality control and statistical aspects of software engineering, he authored/coauthored three books, co-edited six additional references, and published over 200 manuscripts. Nozer was a prolific researcher who obtained prestigious grants and contracts with agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), the Office of Naval Research, the Army Research Office, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and held various secondary appointments and consultancies with several laboratories, institutes, and companies nationwide. While at GWU, he further served as a Visiting Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, Florida State University, the Santa Fe Institute and the University of Oxford (UK). Nozer obtained additional prestigious appointments with other institutions internationally. During the fall of 1991, he was the first C. C. Garvin Visiting Endowed Professor in the Mathematical Sciences at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In 1993, he was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Grant as a Scholar in Residence at the Bellagio, Italy Center.

Nozer's extensive scholarship and research carried over into his teaching and service activities. He had an impressive track record as a PhD advisor to over 40 students where, in some instances, he oversaw multiple students to graduate in the same year. Nozer's scholarly service to the academy

meanwhile included service on a broad array of editorial boards including the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *International Statistical Review*, *Operations Research*, *Technometrics*, and *The American Statistician*. He retired from The George Washington University in 2013 becoming an Emeritus Professor of Statistics, and served another eight years as faculty with the City University of Hong Kong. From 2013-2017, he held a joint appointment as Chair Professor in the Department of System Engineering and Engineering Management, and the Department of Management Sciences. He then transitioned to other faculty roles in the School of Data Science from 2017-2021; thereafter he was an Honorary Professor in the Department of Management Sciences at City University of Hong Kong.

Nozer was revered internationally for his scholarship, particularly regarding foundational aspects of reliability, risk analysis, and Bayesian Statistics. His efforts earned him various distinctions as a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), the American Statistical Association (ASA), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); and as an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). Along with these accolades, he received several additional honors and awards. He was recognized as the 1984 recipient of the U.S. Army's S. S. Wilks Award for Contributions to Statistical Methodologies in Army Research, Development and Testing; the first recipient of The George Washington University's Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Prize for Faculty Scholarship in 1992; and the ASA/NSF/NIST Senior Research Fellow in 1993. In 2011, he was recognized with the Medal of Excellence award from his alma mater, Rutgers University.

Nozer had a way with words and always enjoyed a spirited debate. His colleagues will most remember his sense of humor and his ability to make the complex appear simple. He loved music (Indian, classical, and opera), history and politics, and world travel with his family. He is survived by his wife, Norah (née Jackson); his sister, Khorshed Tantra, and her family; his children, Rachel (Peter) and Darius (Jennifer); and his beloved grandchildren, Veronika and Cyrus.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Sudipto Banerjee  
**Past President:** Igor Prünster  
**President Elect:** Amy Herring  
**Treasurer:** Marian Farah  
**Executive Secretary:** Donatello Telesca

#### PROGRAM COUNCIL

**Chair:** Matthias Katzfuss  
**Vice Chair:** Sinead Williamson  
**Past Chair:** Botond Szabo

#### BOARD MEMBERS

**2022–2024:**  
 Julian Arbel, Thais Fonesca, Li Ma, Sara Wade

**2021–2023:**  
 Veronica Berrocal, Cathy W.S. Chen, David Dahl, Mario Peruggia

**2020–2022:**  
 Francois Caron, Miguel de Carvalho, Nial Friel, Laura Ventura

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

##### Editor

Gregor Kastner  
[gregor.kastner@aau.at](mailto:gregor.kastner@aau.at)

##### Associate Editors

*Features*  
 Anton Westveld  
[anton.westveld@anu.edu.au](mailto:anton.westveld@anu.edu.au)

*News of the World*  
 Francesco Denti  
[francesco.denti@unicatt.it](mailto:francesco.denti@unicatt.it)