



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BAYESIAN ANALYSIS

# THE ISBA BULLETIN

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BAYESIAN ANALYSIS

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Aad van der Vaart  
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Welcome to the first ISBA bulletin of 2024!

While ISBA is bustling with activities in its full width, the big event this year will be the world meeting in Venice, July 1-7. We are looking forward to an energising scientific program, in a dream location. I hope to see you all and would encourage you to register as early as possible, to ease the logistics (early bird registration closes on April 15 and late fees apply after June 1). We are very much indebted to Roberto Casarin and his team at Ca' Foscari University to make the conference possible, on the island of Venice, and to Matthias Katzfuss, Sinead Williamson, Sergios Agapiou and Sameer Deshpande (together the ISBA program council) and the other members of the program committee for putting together a program of foundational lectures, keynotes, invited and contributed lectures, poster sessions, short courses, etc., and of course the social events remain very important too. Big efforts have been made by our new sponsorship committee, chaired by Antonio Canale and established last year by then president Amy Herring, to collect financial support from various sources, both scientific and commercial, with big success. For the largest part these will go to travel subsidies benefiting young researchers, and part of this funding will go to subsidise childcare during the conference, which has now become standard. See the website for details.

Based on early applications we expect a record attendance. My biggest fear is that there will be a record number of Bayesians somewhere on the island, but too often not in the dedicated rooms. Young Bayesians may come a little earlier to attend BAYSM (organised by our j-ISBA section) and some of us may stay longer for other satellite events (listed on the website). Consider coming a bit longer too if you intend to take in the sights.

Travelling to Venice, and to other events, will for most of us mean taking a plane, and leaving a  $CO_2$  footprint. The other day I was in an audience of scientists asked to reflect on the necessity of flying. (We were instructed to write our estimated number of flights per year on a sheet of paper, fold this into an airplane and fly it to the stage. We were promised some statistics later, but already were made aware of some extremes. In hindsight I underestimated my own footprint, even though I am definitely grown more conservative in accepting far away travel.)

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Following questions by some ISBA members, we discussed the issue also in the executive committee, and decided that while virtual meetings are very useful (ISBA has several by now), they cannot be a substitute for meeting in person, as in the upcoming world meeting. Perhaps we can all think of compensating our footprints in some way. The issue will be relevant also for our next world meeting in 2026, which we have already allocated to Japan. (The 2028 meeting has not been planned yet; a call for proposals has just been opened; consider making one.)

As of January 1, Amy Herring has handed over the presidency, but we are very fortunate that she will continue to help ISBA with her wisdom and knowledge in the role of past-president. Sudipto Banerjee has rotated out of the executive committee after being (elect-/past-) president. We owe him great gratitude for his efforts on behalf of ISBA, and will miss his knowledgeable and wise input. We are happy that Michele Guindani has joined the ISBA executive committee as president-elect, whose great experience in many capacities in ISBA is already making an impact. I would also very much like to acknowledge the ongoing terms of Yanxun Xu as treasurer and Donatello Telesca as executive secretary, without whose continuous attention little would move at the centre of the ISBA organisation.

As said, ISBA is bustling with activities, many organised by its sections and chapters, or administered by its committees, boards and councils. In a relatively small period ISBA has grown into a big organisation, with around 1000 members. Below in this issue you can read about Thomas Leonard, one of our founders, who passed away recently and will be missed. Because so much is happening, with input by so many people, it is helpful that we have an "ISBA book of procedures" (next to a constitution and bylaws), which ensures that actions are taken in the right manner and at the right time. For instance, we are currently setting up a committee to advise on the next editor-in-chief of Bayesian Analysis, who will continue the wonderful work by Mark Steel in 2025. As every year we have also started the search of a new president-elect and new members of the Board of Directors. The "book of procedures" makes this a three-step procedure: we first form a "nominating committee", this committee next proposes candidates, who will stand in an election by the ISBA members. Until April 15 you can make suggestions for members of the nominating committee, self-suggestions included. The Board of Directors is our highest council, which makes all the big decisions, where I must admit that luckily dissension is rare (we Bayesians always agree?), but the Board does offer useful reflection on our organisation.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Francesco Denti

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Hello, ISBA community, and welcome to the first edition of the 2024 ISBA Bulletin!

I want to start by thanking Gregor Kastner, the former Editor of the ISBA Bulletin, for his excellent work. It is an honor to be appointed as his successor. I will do my best to ensure the same level of quality that Gregor has accustomed us to over the last three years.

This issue opens with a message from our new ISBA president, Aad van der Vaart. In the following pages, you will find a beautiful and moving obituary for Thomas Leonard, written by Diego Andres Perez Ruiz. Next, we have messages from the Program Chair, Sergios Agapiou, and Mark Steel, the Editor-in-Chief of Bayesian Analysis.

Beatrice Franzolini updates us about the numerous j-ISBA initiatives. Don't miss the new segment, the "j-Author spotlight," where young Bayesian researchers can showcase their work!

The 'News from the World' section is packed with events; make sure to save all the dates! Additionally, we have a report by Timothy Macuga on the *Bayes on the Beach* conference, with a great group picture. Finally, please take note of a call for personal recollections in honor of Prof. Ramamoorthi, which will be published in the next issue.

Thanks to all the contributors who made this issue possible! ISBA community, enjoy!

## OBITUARY FOR PROFESSOR THOMAS LEONARD (1948-2023)

Diego Andres Perez Ruiz

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With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Thomas Hoskyns Leonard, a distinguished and pioneering statistician whose contributions to the field have left an indelible mark. A retired professor from the Universities of Wisconsin-Madison and Edinburgh, Thomas Leonard's career was marked by ground-breaking work in Bayesian statistics and a deep commitment to interdisciplinary research.

Thomas Leonard's academic journey began at Imperial College London, where he earned a BSc in Mathematics with First Class Honours in 1970. Immediately thereafter, he completed an MSc in Statistics from University College London with Distinction and a PhD in Statistics from the same institution. His early career saw him as a Lecturer at the University of Warwick, where he co-founded the Department of Statistics and the innovative MORSE (Maths, Operations Research, Statistics, and Economics) degree programme with Robin Reed and P.J. Harrison.

In 1979, Thomas Leonard moved to the United States, joining the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an Associate Professor, later becoming a full Professor. His tenure at UW Madison was marked by significant contributions, including his work at the Mathematics Research Centre. He worked on improving the Bayesian components of both the teaching and research programmes, alongside Kam Wah Tsui and Michael Newton. In 1995, he returned to the U.K. to lead the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Edinburgh, a position he held until 2001.

A true visionary, Thomas Leonard co-founded the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) in 1992, alongside Arnold Zellner and Gordon Kaufman. In 2013, he was elected as a Founding Fellow of ISBA. He also served as a committee member for multiple statistical societies, including the Edinburgh Section of the Royal Statistical Society, contributing to numerous interdisciplinary debates and initiatives.

### **Thomas Leonard's academic work**

Thomas Leonard's academic work was both prolific and influential. His research in Bayesian Categorical Data Analysis is considered seminal, and his contributions to other areas have had far-reaching impacts. His work on multinomial shrinkage estimators drew parallels with the cryptanalysis techniques of Alan Turing and his assistant I.J. Good, showcasing a profound connection between historical methodologies and modern statistical analysis. Leonard's approach to density smoothing was similarly inspired by Good's work, underscoring the depth and innovation of his research and beautiful ideas.

His seminal contributions to Bayesian Categorical Data Analysis have been highly praised by leading statisticians such as Alan Agresti and David Hitchcock and further expanded upon by distinguished scholars Nan Laird and Terry Speed. His publications, including his co-authored book "Bayesian Methods: An Analysis for Statisticians and Interdisciplinary Researchers" and his work on the history of Bayesian statistics, have been widely recognised. Together with John Hsu, Leonard developed the conditional Laplacian approximations, offering a computationally accessible method for Bayesian inference that has significantly advanced the field and is widely used today.

His constant search for understanding, and his tenacity as a researcher, led him to develop some of the most difficult and influential theories in Bayesian Statistics. With Hsu, Chiu, and Tsui, Leonard co-invented the matrix linear covariance model, a development recognised as foundational by econometricians James LeSage, Kelley Pace, and Manabu Asai. In his 1999 publication with John Hsu, Leonard presented innovative alternatives to the expected utility hypothesis in economics, challenging traditional theories of risk aversion and offering new perspectives on economic behaviour.

Leonard's interdisciplinary work extended into family medicine, where, in collaboration with Richard L. Brown, Orestis Papanicolaou, and others, he played a crucial role in establishing the Wisconsin Substance Abuse Programme. His influential work in obstetrics, particularly his 1981 invited discussion paper with Jim Low and colleagues, transformed the prediction of fetal metabolic acidosis, marking a significant advancement in the field. His collaborations in geophysics with Ian Main and others have been recognised as ground-breaking, further illustrating the wide-reaching impact of his research.

### **Beyond Academia**

Beyond academia, Thomas Leonard was a passionate advocate for mental health, providing expert testimony and evidence to the Scottish Government. He submitted a large amount of anecdotal and statistical evidence to the Scottish Parliament regarding the widespread devastating side effects of psychiatric medications and electroconvulsive therapy.

His commitment to societal issues was evident in his extensive work on the history of eugenics, including a significant submission to the Commission of Inquiry into the History of Eugenics at University College London (UCL).

Thomas Leonard's legacy is immortalised not only in his contributions but also in the lives of the students and peers he inspired and mentored. His passing is a great loss to the statistical community and to all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. Thomas Leonard was an extraordinary person, kind, gentle, and generous in ways that few ever have the privilege to encounter in their lifetime. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

His memory and contributions will continue to inspire and guide future generations of statisticians.

Tom, you will be profoundly missed.



## **FROM THE PROGRAM COUNCIL**

**Sergios Agapiou**

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**Welcome New Member** Sameer Deshpande has joined the Program Council as the new Vice Chair. We are very grateful to our departing member Matthias Katzfuss for his dedication and exceptional service in the past three years. Matthias will continue serving on the Scientific Committee of the ISBA 2024 World Meeting, working in close collaboration with the Program Council. Thank you, Matthias, and welcome, Sameer!

**ISBA World Meeting 2024** The ISBA 2024 World Meeting is scheduled to be held in Venice, Italy, from July 1 to July 7, 2024. The Scientific Committee has created an outstanding program, with over 200 speakers and over 400 of poster presentations. In addition, thanks to the great work of the newly formed Sponsorship Committee, we have received a large number of sponsorship commitments, allowing us to provide many travel awards to junior researchers. Notifications to awardees are being sent in waves, as sponsorship commitments materialize. The first wave of notifications has been sent at the end of March. Registration for the World Meeting is now open, with Early Bird rates available before April 15, 2024. Details about the meeting can be found [here](#). Notice that registration for the conference, the banquet and for childcare needs, are done via 3 separate forms, while the option of requesting a VISA invitation letter appears immediately after conference registration.

**Call for ISBA2028 pre-proposals** ISBA announces a call for pre-proposals for the ISBA World Meeting in 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, 2024. Selected pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal due in early 2025. Pre-proposals should provide as much detail as possible, including dates, conference venue, 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/>.

The list of upcoming ISBA-sponsored/endorsed events can be found in the 'News from the World' section.

## UPDATES FROM BA

Mark Steel

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I only have a very brief update, concerning two of the (many) exciting issues that we can look forward to in the upcoming ISBA World Meeting in Venice.

### Lindley Prize

The Lindley Prize Committee is currently in the closing stages of its deliberations on deciding the winner of the 2022 Lindley Prize, which will be announced at the 2024 ISBA World Meeting in Venice. Just to remind you that the contenders were all featured in the December 2023 issue of Bayesian Analysis. These papers can be viewed at [this link](#).

### Bayesian Analysis session at ISBA 2024

There will be a dedicated Bayesian Analysis session at the World Meeting in Venice, organised like an invited session with three wonderful speakers and a very insightful discussant. Details are still under wraps for now, but I predict it will be a stimulating session!

Finally, I wish you all a happy Easter break and hope to see you in Venice.

## JUNIOR ISBA

Beatrice Franzolini  
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### About the j-ISBA board

With the start of the new year, the newly elected officers have joined the j-ISBA board. Please join me in welcoming our new Chair-elect, Matteo Giordano; our new Program Chair, Filippo Ascolani; and our new Secretary, Jordan Bryan. You can find their brief biographies on the j-ISBA website at [this link](#).

A big ‘thank you’ goes to our outgoing board members Alejandra Avalos-Pacheco, Cecilia Balocchi and Fan Bu for their hard work and outstanding service to j-ISBA in 2022 and 2023!

j-ISBA will hold elections again this year for the positions of Chair-Elect and Treasurer; announcements will follow in the upcoming months.

### Upcoming events and activities

- Another edition of the **Blackwell-Rosenbluth Award** awaits us! The award aims at recognizing outstanding junior Bayesian researchers, based on their overall contributions to the field and to the community. While the call will open in April 2024, you might start thinking about a nomination! PhD students or early career researchers who obtained their PhD after January 1, 2019 will be eligible.

- **Call for Short Papers** for the volume “New Trends in Bayesian Statistics”. We are pleased to announce a call for short paper contributions for the volume “New Trends in Bayesian Statistics”, to be published with Springer. This volume will feature both the proceedings from BAYSM 2023 and contributions from j-ISBA members. Therefore, attendance to the conference is not required for submission.

Each contribution should be approximately 10 pages in length, including tables, figures, and references. However, longer contributions are also welcome! You can submit your short papers by April 15, 2024, through the submission portal at [this link](#).

The review process for the volume is single-blinded and, typically, submissions undergo at least two rounds of revision. Reviewers consist of middle to senior-level researchers and professors who bring a wealth of expertise to the evaluation process.

For any questions regarding the call, free to reach out via e-mail at [jisba.section@gmail.com](mailto:jisba.section@gmail.com).

- **BaYSM 2024** will take place in Venice, Italy, on June 29-30, 2024. Alongside the exciting talks, BaYSM will also host a **mentoring panel** on Sunday, providing young researchers with the opportunity to ask questions about the challenges and difficulties of academic careers to senior professors from our community. We are honored to have Professors Michele Guindani, Steven MacEachern, Kerrie Mengersen and Sonia Petrone as panelists for the mentoring panel.
- Do not miss out the following j-ISBA **organized and sponsored sessions** in 2024:
  - “Junior advances in scalable Bayesian computational methods” @ **2024 ISBA World Meeting 2024**, Venice, Italy, 1-7 July 2024.  
*Speakers:* Paolo Ceriani, Jeremias Knoblauch, Yuexi Wang  
*Discussant:* Gareth Roberts

- “Frontiers of Bayesian methods for complex data” @ [7th International Conference on Econometrics and Statistics \(EcoSta 2024\)](#), Beijing, China, 17-19, July 2024.  
*Speakers:* Fan Bu, Forough Fazeli Asl, Federico Pavone, Fangda Song
  - “Advances in Bayesian methods for evidence-based health policy” @ [Joint Statistical Meetings \(JSM\) 2024](#), Portland, Oregon, 3-8, August 2024.  
*Speakers:* Gabriel Hassler, Raphael Morsomme, Arman Oganisian, Matteo Pedone, Sharmistha Guha.
  - “Blackwell-Rosenbluth Award” @ [Joint Statistical Meetings \(JSM\) 2024](#), Portland, Oregon, 3-8, August 2024.  
*Speakers:* Sharmistha Guha, Simon Mak, Akihiko Nishimura, Maria Skoularidou, Guanyang Wang
  - “Causal inference” @ [Frontiers of Bayesian Inference and Data Science Workshop](#), Oaxaca, Mexico, 1-6 September 2024.  
*Speakers:* Georgia Papadogeorgou, Dafne Zorzetto, Arman Oganisian, Falco J. Bargagli Stoffi
  - “Nonparametrics” @ [Frontiers of Bayesian Inference and Data Science Workshop](#), Oaxaca, Mexico, 1-6 September 2024.  
*Speakers:* Francesca Panero, Francesco Gaffi, Deborah Sulem, Mario Beraha
  - “Bayesian methods for spatio-temporal data that don’t take ages” @ [RSS International Conference 2024](#), Brighton, UK, 2-5 September 2024.  
*Speakers:* Emanuele Aliverti, Clara Grazian, Sahoko Ishida, Xenia Miscouridou
- All j-ISBA members will be welcome to virtually participate in the [Frontiers of Bayesian Inference and Data Science Workshop](#) in Oaxaca, Mexico, from September 1st to 6th, 2024. More information will be provided soon.
  - The j-ISBA board is also planning **many new activities**, including a peer-support scheme and a research challenge. So, stay tuned and remember to join the j-ISBA section, if you have not done so yet, by adding USD \$5 when you renew your ISBA membership (which is only USD \$5 for students and USD \$30 for early career researchers)!

For any questions or suggestions please feel free to reach out to the j-ISBA board via e-mail at [jisba.section@gmail.com](mailto:jisba.section@gmail.com).

## j-Author Spotlight: recent research highlights from junior researchers

Here are some recent research works from j-ISBA members that you won’t want to miss out on:

- **A Bayesian Bootstrap for Mixture Models** by Fuheng Cui.  
(authors: Fuheng Cui, Stephen G. Walker)  
*Summary:* This paper proposes a new nonparametric Bayesian bootstrap for a mixture model, by developing the traditional Bayesian bootstrap. We first reinterpret the Bayesian bootstrap, which uses the Pólya-urn scheme, as a gradient ascent algorithm which associates one-step solver. The key then is to use the same basic mechanism as the Bayesian bootstrap with the switch from a point mass kernel to a continuous kernel. Just as the Bayesian bootstrap works solely from the empirical distribution function, so the new Bayesian bootstrap for mixture models works off the nonparametric maximum likelihood estimator for the mixing distribution. From a theoretical perspective, we prove the convergence and exchangeability of the sample sequences from the algorithm and also illustrate our results with different models and settings and some real data.  
**Read the full paper at:** <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2310.00880.pdf>

- **Causally Sound Priors for Binary Experiments** by Nicholas J. Irons.  
(authors: Nicholas J. Irons, Carlos Cinelli)  
*Summary:* We introduce the BREASE framework for the Bayesian analysis of randomized controlled trials with a binary outcome. Taking a causal inference perspective, we parameterize the likelihood in terms of the baseline risk, efficacy, and adverse side effects of treatment, along with a flexible, intuitive, and tractable independent beta prior distribution. Our approach has a number of desirable characteristics: it naturally induces prior dependence between expected outcomes in the treatment and control groups; the hyperparameters of the prior are interpretable, facilitating prior elicitation and sensitivity analysis; and we provide analytical formulae for the Bayes factor and an exact posterior sampling algorithm.  
**Read the full paper at:** <https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.13713>
- **Informed Random Partition Models with Temporal Dependence** by Sally Paganin.  
(authors: Sally Paganin, Garritt L. Page, Fernando A. Quintana)  
*Summary* Recent proposals in model-based clustering have considered methods that allow incorporating an initial partition informed by expert opinion. Using some loss criteria, partitions different from the initial one are down-weighted, i.e., they are assigned reduced probabilities. We add to this literature a method that allows assigning varying levels of uncertainty to any subset of the partition, accounting for cases where practitioners have clear prior information for only a small subset of the partition. Rather than building on partition metrics, our approach considers individual allocation probabilities for each unit to locally weight prior information, allowing also straightforward modeling of time-dependent partitions.  
**Read the full paper at:** <https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.14502>
- **Ultimate Pólya Gamma Samplers—Efficient MCMC for Possibly Imbalanced Binary and Categorical Data** by Gregor Zens.  
(authors: Gregor Zens, Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter, Helga Wagner)  
*Summary* This article presents new latent variable representations and Gibbs sampling algorithms for binary, categorical and binomial regression models. The algorithms utilize a conditionally Gaussian likelihood representation, simplifying extensions to more complex scenarios, such as state space frameworks. To address the common issue of low MCMC sampling efficiency, we propose novel marginal data augmentation strategies to enhance efficiency, particularly in cases with imbalanced outcomes. We demonstrate the merits of these approaches through detailed simulations and real-world data applications, and provide an R package to facilitate the use of these algorithms.  
**Read the full paper at:** <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01621459.2023.2259030>
- **Easily Computed Marginal Likelihoods from Posterior Simulation Using the THAMES Estimator** by Nicholas J. Irons.  
(authors: Martin Metodiev, Marie Perrot-Dockès, Sarah Ouadah, Nicholas J. Irons, Adrian E. Raftery)  
*Summary* We propose an easily computed estimator of marginal likelihoods from posterior simulation output, via reciprocal importance sampling, combining earlier proposals of DiCiccio et al (1997) and Robert and Wraith (2009). This involves only the unnormalized posterior densities from the sampled parameter values, and does not involve additional simulations beyond the main posterior simulation, or additional complicated calculations. It is unbiased for the reciprocal of the marginal likelihood, consistent, has finite variance, and is asymptotically normal. It involves one user-specified control parameter, and we derive an optimal way of specifying this. We illustrate it with several numerical examples.  
**Read the full paper at:** <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.08952>

Are you a j-ISBA member and would you like to showcase your work in the j-Author Spotlight section of the next bulletin? Please fill out the Google Form with information about your work at [this link](#).



## NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Francesco Denti

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### Announcements

#### Remembering R.V. Ramamoorthi

*by the BNP section board members*

*Raffaele Argiento and Garritt Page*

Dear members of the ISBA community,

We recently learned the sad news that R.V. Ramamoorthi passed away on November 13, 2023. He was a beloved member of the BNP community for many years. An obituary will be published in the June issue of the ISBA Bulletin.

It would be nice to accompany the obituary with some remembrances from members of the Bayesian community. If you would like to share a tribute or a personal recollection, please send it to [this email](#) at the latest by May 30, 2024.

Please limit your recollections to roughly 150 words.

### Reports from Important Events and Conferences

#### Bayes on the Beach – Surfers Paradise, Australia, 5-7 February 2024

*by Timothy Macuga*

The Bayes on the Beach Statistical Conference returned to Australia's Gold Coast this year. This biennial conference has been held for over 15 years and is a small gathering of Bayesians drawn from across Australia and around the world. It's organised by the Bayesian Research & Applications Group (BRAG) at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in collaboration with the [QUT Centre for Data Science](#), the Australasian chapter of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA); the Statistical Society of Australia's [Bayesian Statistics Section](#).

*"Bayes on Beach is an intentionally small conference with a big heart,"* says QUT Centre for Data Science Director Kerrie Mengersen. Even so, nearly 70 people attended the three-day event at Surfers Paradise in Queensland, Australia. The attendees came from 12 universities around the world and nine other industry organisations. The meeting provides an opportunity for Australian and international researchers to present and discuss the most recent research developments in Bayesian statistics. The invited presentations contain a series of interesting and recent research topics related to Bayesian methodology.

The conference featured:

- Three keynote speakers: Prof. A. Mira (Università della Svizzera italiana), Prof. P. Bürkner (TU Dortmund University, Germany), and Dr. E. Khan (RIKEN center for Advanced Intelligence Project (AIP) in Tokyo);
- 15 invited speaker and contributed talks;



- Skill development/coding tutorials & workshops, and 35 poster presentations.

Participants said they especially enjoyed the five data challenges that were spread out throughout the three-day conference. The challenges encompassed various data domains, including sports injuries, terrorism, environmental/population health data, as well as topics related to mixture modelling and Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods. Participants are put together in groups to work together to tackle the challenges.

*“The tutorials and data challenges make for a very hands-on conference experience,”* says Kerrie. *“But, of course, the best part is being able to take breaks on the beach.”* Some testimonials from attendees:

- *“Intentionally small, plenty of time to speak and connect with people, well scheduled”.*
- *“Good cohort of participants from students through to world renowned professors, great talks and interactive activities”.*
- *“Both the workshops and the challenges were engaging. It was great that speakers/organisers had GitHub/code available”.*
- *“The challenges were the right balance of challenge and learning opportunities”.*
- *“The talks were high quality and with a great mix of local and international presenters”.*

## Upcoming Meetings, Conferences, and Workshops

### ISBA Sponsored Events

- This summer, the Psychological Methods Group at the University of Amsterdam is organizing two interesting workshops:

- The **Annual JAGS Workshop: Bayesian Modeling for Cognitive Science** will take place in Amsterdam, on July 8–12, 2024, in Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

This workshop will provide the theoretical background of Bayesian inference, and practical computer exercises will teach how to apply the popular JAGS software to a wide range of different statistical models. As the workshop covers a variety of topics within cognitive science and exercises of varying difficulty, the course material is appropriate for researchers with a wide range of prior knowledge and interests. Although some basic knowledge of Bayesian inference is an advantage, this is not a prerequisite.

Participants are invited to present a poster introducing their research topic. For details, please visit the [workshop website](#).

- The **Theory and Practice of Bayesian Hypothesis Testing: A Hybrid JASP Workshop** will be held on July 15-16, 2024, in Amsterdam (The Netherlands). This workshop can be attended both on-site or online.

The main purpose of this workshop is to familiarize participants with key Bayesian concepts in hypothesis testing. Concrete examples illustrate how to compute, report, and interpret Bayesian hypothesis tests for popular statistical models such as correlation, regression, t-test, ANOVA, and contingency tables. To facilitate the learning process we use JASP, a program whose attractive graphical user interface allows us to focus on core Bayesian concepts and principles. This workshop is relevant to psychologists, economists, biologists, and generally any student or researcher who wishes to draw conclusions from empirical data. No background in Bayesian statistics is required.

Registrations are open! Participants are invited to present a poster introducing their research topic. For details, please visit the [workshop website](#).

- The workshop **Uncertainty, Bayes and Statistics - A meeting in honor of Guido Consonni** will take place at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, in Milan. This event is as a satellite to the 2024 ISBA World Meeting.

The event is organized to celebrate the outstanding academic career of Professor Guido Consonni, and it will bring together international researchers and friends for a one-day workshop featuring a mix of scholarly contributions and social gatherings.

Registrations will open soon. Monitor [this website](#) for more information.

- **COBAL-EBEB 2024** is an important joint event that encompasses the VII Bayesian Congress of Latin America (COBAL) and the 17th Brazilian Meeting of Bayesian Statistics (EBEB). It will be held from December 2 to 6, 2024 at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Belo Horizonte, in Brazil.

COBAL is an international event promoted by the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA), whose importance in our region lies in creating a space that allows dissemination, discussion, and interaction among researchers, academics, and students, with the aim of further strengthening scientific exchange among Bayesians in Latin America. ISBRA - the Brazilian Section of ISBA, was a pioneer in bringing together the Latin American Bayesian community by organizing the first COBAL.

Registration for Proposed Thematic Sessions is open until April 30, 2024. See [this website](#) for more details.

- The Institute for Mathematical Sciences (IMS) at the National University of Singapore will host the **Bayesian Nonparametrics (BNP) Networking Workshop** from July 30 to August 2, 2024. The workshop is sponsored by the BNP section of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis.

It is the third in a series that aims to create an informal BNP event characterised by a flexible schedule and slots dedicated to early career researchers, establish and strengthen local networks and broaden appeal, and foster brainstorming and innovation. This year's workshop is held in conjunction with the IMS programme [Interpretable Inference via Principled BNP Approaches in Biomedical Research and Beyond](#). This edition will offer three mini-courses delivered by Peter Orbanz (University College London), Li Ma (Duke University), and Kerrie Mengersen (Queensland University of Technology).

The due date for both the submission of contributed talks and travel grant applications for junior researchers is April 30. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information.

- The **EAC-ISBA Conference 2024** will take place at the Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), on June 25-26, 2024.

The purpose of EAC-ISBA is to promote research and education of Bayesian statistics in the Eastern Asia as well as the countries nearby via organizing academic activities including but not limited to conferences, workshops, and sessions of other meetings.

Visit [this website](#) for more information.

- The **Bayesian Education Research and Practice Section of ISBA (ISBA - BERaP)** promotes Bayes education and research on teaching and learning of Bayesian statistics and statistical literacy at all levels and for any audience.

By visiting [this website](#), you can stay updated about their webinars. A collection of past recorded webinars can be found [here](#).

## Other Events

- The **43rd International Workshop on Bayesian Inference and Maximum Entropy Methods in Science and Engineering** will take place in Ghent, Belgium, from July 1 to 5, 2024.

For over 42 years, the MaxEnt workshops have explored the use of Bayesian and Maximum Entropy methods in scientific and engineering applications. The workshop invites contributions on all aspects of probabilistic inference, including novel techniques and applications, and work that sheds new light on the foundations of inference and physics.

More information can be found at [this website](#).

- The **València International Bayesian Analysis Summer School, 7th edition (VIBASS7 2024)** will take place July 8-12, 2024 in València (Spain).

The five days of VIBASS are organised in three parts. The first two days include a basic course on Bayesian learning, alternating conceptual and practical sessions with R packages. The second part is dedicated to an issue of current interest in Bayesian research. This edition is dedicated to Bayesian modelling for economic evaluation of healthcare interventions, with a course by Prof. G. Baio (University College London, UK). The last day is devoted to the seventh VIBASS Workshop. It includes two plenary sessions, with invited speakers Dr. A. Quirós (Universidad de León, Spain) and Dr. T. Opitz (Inrae, France). The workshop ends with an informal brainstorming and a flash-presentations session with contributions of the participants in the school.

Registrations with early-bird rates are open until April 15. For more information, you can visit [this website](#).

- The **2024 European Seminar on Bayesian Econometrics (ESOBE)** will take place at Örebro university on August 22-23.

ESOBES, the largest conference on Bayesian econometrics in Europe attracts international experts working in macro-econometrics, micro-econometrics, finance, and statistical methodology. More information about past editions of ESOBE can be found on the [ESOBES website](#).

On April 2, the paper submission opens! For more information, see [the conference website](#).

## And don't forget:

- **International Society for Bayesian Analysis World Meeting (ISBA 2024)** Venice, Italy, July 1-7, 2024, at the Department of Economics - Ca' Foscari University of Venice, in San Giobbe Economics Campus.

Registrations are open! Monitor the official ISBA 2024 website for news at [this link](#).

- A **Satellite workshop to International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) world meeting** will take place on June 25-28, 2024, in Lugano, Switzerland.

More details about the workshop can be found at [this link](#).

- **BAYSM 2024** will occur in Venice, Italy, on June 29-30, 2024.

Please visit the BaYSM 2024 website for more information. Check the **JUNIOR ISBA** section of the Bulletin and [this link](#) for more details.

- The **27th International Conference on Information Fusion 2024**, dedicated to Machine Learning methods and their applications, will occur on July 7-11, 2024, in Venice, Italy. Check [this webpage](#) for more information.

- Don't miss the **series of monthly webinars** organized by the Bayesian nonparametric section of ISBA (**BNP-ISBA**).

Check [this link](#) for more details.

- An **Applied Bayesian Statistics (ABS)** summer school will take place in Villa del Grumello, located in Como, Italy, on August 26-30, 2024. The topic chosen for the 2024 school is *Bayesian phylogenetics and infectious diseases*. Visit [this link](#) for more information.

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