



# International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

**President:** Berthold Lausen

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**Editor:** Katrijn Van Deun

**The International Federation of Classification Societies**, founded in 1985, is composed of:

Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, British Classification Society, Latin American Society of Classification and Data Analysis, The Classification Society, Classification and Multivariate Statistics Group of the Hungarian Statistical Association, GfKI Data Science Society, Greek Society of Data Analysis, Irish Pattern Recognition and Classification Society, Japanese Classification Society, Korean Classification Society, Moroccan Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, Multivariate Data Analysis Group of the South African Statistical Association, Multivariate Statistics and Classification Group of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research, Società Italiana di Statistica, Statistical Society of Slovenia, Vereniging voor Ordinatie en Classificatie and Section of Classification and Data Analysis of the Polish Statistical Society.

The IFCS is a non-profit, non-political scientific organization, the aims of which are to further classification research. Among other activities, the IFCS organises a biennial conference, and supports two journals: *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification* and the *Journal of Classification*.

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## Words from the IFCS President

Dear friends and colleagues,

Looking back at the year 2019 we had our IFCS conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, August 26-29, 2019. I like to thank Theodore Chadjipadelis as conference chair, the scientific program committee, the local organizers and all making the conference a great success. The organisation of the IFCS2021 in Porto, Portugal, on 24-28 August 2021 is already underway, see the report by Paula Brito.

I like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the executive committee for their hard work and excellent contributions. In January 2020 Angela Montanari will become president. I am sure that Angela will be an excellent president of IFCS.

**IFCS Homepage:** <http://www.ifcs.info>

I wish you all a wonderful and successful new year 2020.

Very best wishes,

Berthold Lausen  
IFCS President

## News from the IFCS Secretary

Since the last Newsletter the Executive Committee (EC) has met on 29 March, 9 May, 12 July, and 27 August 2019. These meetings were mostly used in order to discuss the preparation of the IFCS-2019 in Thessaloniki. Also, the bid of the JoCLAD to host the IFCS-2021 in Porto was discussed and put to a vote of the IFCS Council, where it was eventually approved. Further discussion items involved a new visualisation of the IFCS membership, regional structures, and activities to win potential new membership societies, although no final decisions were made on these.

On 28 August 2019 the IFCS Council met in person in Thessaloniki. With 27 delegates this was a well attended meeting. Once more, much of the meeting was devoted to reporting on the IFCS-2019 and discussing the planning of IFCS-2021 in Porto. The proposal to have a pre-conference proceedings volume for the Porto conference and post-conference special issues of journals was approved.

Another issue that was discussed was the upcoming elections. The Council decided that the Secretary should put together a calendar of elections. Here is a list of the next upcoming elections:

### **Between October and the end of the year 2019**

(\*):

- *Election of the President-Elect*
- *Election of the Secretary*
- *Election of the Treasurer*
- *Election of three new members of the Finance Committee replacing Ahmed Moussa, Helena Bacelar-Nicolau, and Andrzej Sokolowski*

### **March 2020**

- *Election of a new Election Committee member replacing Anuska Ferligoj*

### **Between October and the end of the year 2020**

(\*):

- *Election of the Publication Officer*

- *Election of two new Additional Members of the Council replacing Iven van Mechelen and Friedrich Leisch*
- *Election of a new Finance Committee member replacing Francois Bruckner*

### **March 2021**

- *Election of a new Election Committee member replacing Tae Rim Lee*

(\*): According to the IFCS Election Rules: "Elections for the Executive Committee and the additional Council members should be organized from 1st October (asking for candidates) to 31st December (voting results)."

As always, I remind you that the IFCS Secretary tries to keep the IFCS Directory up to date. Please make in any case sure (reminded or not) that you tell me all relevant changes regarding the member societies (Presidents, Treasurers, Council Delegates, Distributors of the IFCS Newsletter; I always need email addresses and the end of their terms so that I can remind the society again at that point).

Note that the IFCS Directory is published under "Governance" on the IFCS website, however names and email addresses of persons who don't explicitly consent to the publication of this information are not listed. I will ask everyone who takes up these positions in the member societies for such a consent (although consenting is not mandatory).

With all the best wishes,

Christian Hennig  
IFCS Secretary

## News from the IFCS Treasurer

Please note that statements for the membership dues for 2019/2020 will be sent out shortly to the treasurers of the member societies. If your society had a change in treasurer, please ensure that the latest contact details are up to date with our Secretary, Christian Hennig.

Sugnet Lubbe  
IFCS Treasurer

## News from the IFCS Publication Officer

First of all, I would like to extend my personal gratitude to Theodore Chadjipadelis and his team

for organizing an unforgettable IFCS meeting in Thessaloniki. Second, I would like to wish Angela Montanari all the best in her new role as IFCS President.

Katrijn Van Deun  
IFCS Publication Officer

## Report on IFCS 2019

The last IFCS conference, IFCS 2019, was hosted by the Greek Society of Data Analysis at Thessaloniki Concert Hall, Greece. The conference was held from August 26th to August 29th. Theodore Chadjipadelis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) chaired the Local Organizing Committee and the Scientific Program Committee with Berthold Lausen (IFCS President) and Tae Rim Lee (Korea National Open University) as the vice-chairpersons. IFCS 2019 saw over 220 participants from across the country and from around the world. At the conference, a total of 178 papers were presented. The Conference program was organized over plenary invited sessions and contributed paper sessions. Vladimir Batagelj (University of Ljubljana), Theodoros Evgeniou (INSEAD), Michael Greenacre (University of Pompeu Fabra), David Hunter (Penn State Department of Statistics), Sofia Olhede (UCL), Julie Josse (Ecole Polytechnique), delivered plenary talks. The president's invited lecture: Deciding what's what: classification from A to Z was delivered by David J. Hand (Imperial College London), who received the IFCS 2019 Research Medal. Sanjeena Dang, Abby Flynt, Brian Franczak and Cristina Tortora received IFCS 2019 Chikio Hayashi Awards, Aghiles Salah the IFCS 2019 Helga and Wolfgang Gaul Stiftung Award, Ali Mertcan Köse and Hanneke van der Hoef the IFCS 2019 Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Paper Competition and Travel Award.

The efforts of our colleagues of the Greek Society of Data Analysis made this conference such a success. The high quality of the contributions was assured by the work of all members of the Scientific Program Committee. Our deepest gratitude goes to all of them. Special thanks must be addressed to ARTION Conferences and Events. A post-proceedings volume will be edited by Theodore Chadjipadelis, Berthold Lausen, Angelos Markos, Tae Rim Lee, Angela Montanari and Rebecca Nugent, and will be published by

Springer in the prestigious series on Studies in Classification, Data Analysis and Knowledge Organization (ISSN: 1431-8814). Authors are invited to submit their contributions via website <https://www.conftool.pro/ifcs2019/>. The deadline for submitting up to 8 pages is January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

## IFCS 2021: First Announcement and Call for Papers

The 17<sup>th</sup> conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies will take place in Porto, Portugal, on 24-28 August 2021. IFCS 2021 is a joint organization of the Portuguese Association for Classification and Data Analysis, CLAD, and the Faculty of Economics of the University of Porto, FEP-UP. The conference will feature keynote speakers, invited and contributed sessions, and organized streams on specific topics. Preceding the conference itself, tutorials on up-to-date fields will be organized on August 24<sup>th</sup>. A pre-conference book of proceedings is planned to be published in the Springer Collection "Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization". The Local Organizing Committee is working enthusiastically to make sure IFCS 2021 will be a successful conference and is looking forward to welcoming all of you in Porto.

Do not forget to add IFCS 2021 to your agenda!

The deadlines for submission are as follows:  
Submission of full papers (invited and contributed papers): January 15th, 2021  
Submission of Single Abstracts: April 9th, 2021

To learn more about IFCS 2021:  
[www.ifcs2021.fep.up.pt](http://www.ifcs2021.fep.up.pt) .  
Contact: [ifcs2021@fep.up.pt](mailto:ifcs2021@fep.up.pt)

Paula Brito

## News from CLAD

### JOCLAD 2020

The XXVII Annual Meeting of CLAD will take place in Lisbon. JOCLAD 2020 will be held from April 02 to 04, 2020, at the Universidade Lusófona de Lisboa, close to the Universidade de Lisboa campus, where CLAD headquarters are located. Participants will include researchers, teachers, students and users, working with Classification and Data Analysis and other data science related areas. JOCLAD 2020 scientific program includes

plenary and thematic sessions, contributed papers and poster sessions. Two short courses will take place on April 1st. JOCLAD 2019 program and additional information may be found at <http://www.joclad.ipt.pt/joclad2020/>, as well as on CLAD's website <http://www.clad.pt/>.

### **CLAD's Book Series**

Authors of research papers presented at JOCLAD are invited to submit full papers for publication in the next book CLADMap IV. The third issue CLADMap III of CLAD's Book Series "Classificação e Análise de Dados. Métodos e Aplicações" was published and distributed during the previous JOCLAD 2019. Online copies of all the books will be available on CLAD's website.

### **Cooperation with Sister Societies**

According to the Protocol Agreement of associate membership between CLAD and Sociedade Portuguesa de Estatística, SPE, a plenary session on behalf of CLAD will be presented during the next annual SPE meeting. Organizers are Paula Brito and Fernanda Sousa. During JOCLAD 2019 a plenary session was organized on behalf of the SPE.

### **CLAD hosts IFCS 2021**

The next IFCS conference will be hosted by the Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, as approved during the IFCS 2019 conference. IFCS 2021 will be held at Faculdade de Economia da Universidade do Porto, in Porto, from August 24 to August 28, 2021. Email: [ifcs2021@fep.up.pt](mailto:ifcs2021@fep.up.pt). Further information will soon be available on the conference website [www.ifcs2021.fep.up.pt](http://www.ifcs2021.fep.up.pt).

Helena Bacelar-Nicolau

### **News from MDAG**

#### **MDAG's contributions to IFCS 2019**

South Africa was well represented at the IFCS conference in Thessaloniki with eight MDAG members in attendance. Two invited paper sessions were organised by Prof. Niël le Roux on behalf of MDAG. These sessions were dedicated to the late Professor John Gower.

#### **Annual MDAG meeting**

MDAG will be presenting a full-day workshop on Tuesday, 26 November 2019, prior to the annual South African Statistical Association (SASA)

conference. The workshop will focus on the application of multivariate data analysis, consisting of short lectures by six presenters on various topics. The following topics will be discussed:

- Visualisation of continuous multivariate data (Prof. Sugnet Lubbe – Stellenbosch University)
- Categorical data: Visualisation and missing values (Mrs. Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel – Stellenbosch University and Dr. Michael von Maltitz – University of the Free State)
- Piecewise Structural Equation Modelling (Dr. Sebnem Er – University of Cape Town)
- Auxiliary variables in Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) and methods to estimate a distal outcome model (Mrs. Esme Jordaan – South African Medical Research Council)
- Dimension reduction: Unsupervised and supervised feature selection methods (Prof. Berthold Laussen – University of Essex and current IFCS president)

The annual MDAG meeting will take place during the SASA 2019 conference in Port Elizabeth, South Africa (26-29 November).

Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel

### **News from SKAD**

The 28th Scientific Conference of Classification and Data Analysis Section (SKAD) of Polish Statistical Society (and the 33rd Taxonomic Conference) on "Classification and Data Analysis – Theory and Applications" was held between 18th-20th September 2019 at the Faculty of Economics and Management of the University of Szczecin. The conference was organized by both SKAD and the Institute of Econometrics and Statistics of the University of Szczecin.

The conference topics focused on:

- theory (taxonomy, discriminant analysis, linear ordering, multivariate statistical analysis, continuous variables analysis, discrete variables analysis, symbolic data analysis, data visualization),
- and applications (spatial data analysis; data analysis in finance, marketing, medicine, psychology, archaeology, etc.; computer applications of statistical methods).

The program included 15 sessions: 2 plenary sessions, 12 parallel sessions and a poster session.

There were 84 conference participants who presented 44 papers and 34 posters. The articles after the conference will be reviewed and then published in *Folia Oeconomica Stetinensia* (the journal of University of Szczecin) and in the Springer book series: *Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization*.

The next Conference of Section of Classification and Data Analysis of Polish Statistical Society "Classification and Data Analysis: Theory and Applications" will be held in 2020, presumably in September.

Mateusz Baryła

## News from JCS

### (I) New Executive Members of JCS

The following list includes the new staff of the Japanese Classification Society elected according to the articles of the JCS governing the election of Executive Members. The tenure for these members is from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2021.

#### President

Koji Kurihara, Okayama University, 1-1-1 Tsushima-naka, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-8530 Japan, [kurihara@ems.okayama-u.ac.jp](mailto:kurihara@ems.okayama-u.ac.jp)

#### Auditors

Tadashi Imaizumi, Tama University. Fumi Hayashi, Toyo Eiwa University.

#### Executive Committee Members

Kohei Adachi, Fumio Ishioka, Tatsuo Otsu, Akinori Okada, Makiko Oda, Yutaka Kano, Takafumi Kubota, Fumitake Sakaori, Mika Sato-Ilic, Nobuo Shimizu, Akinobu Takeuchi, Makoto Tomita, Yuki Toyoda, Atsuhiko Nakayama, Yasumasa Baba, Atsuhiko Hayashi, Masahiro Mizuta, Hiroshi Yadohisa, Kazunori Yamaguchi, Yoshiro Yamamoto

#### Secretariat Members

*Secretary:* Makoto Tomita, Yokohama City University, [mtomita@ism.ac.jp](mailto:mtomita@ism.ac.jp)

*General affairs:* Fumio Ishioka, Okayama University, [fishioka@okayama-u.ac.jp](mailto:fishioka@okayama-u.ac.jp)

Takafumi Kubota, Tama University, [kubota@tama.ac.jp](mailto:kubota@tama.ac.jp)

Yoshiro Yamamoto, Tokai University, [yama@tokai-u.jp](mailto:yama@tokai-u.jp)

*Public relations:* Satoru Yokoyama, Aoyama

Gakuin University, [yokoyama@busi.aoyama.ac.jp](mailto:yokoyama@busi.aoyama.ac.jp)

*Treasurer:* Makiko Oda, National Defense Medical College, [oda@ndmc.ac.jp](mailto:oda@ndmc.ac.jp)

The other members are Akinobu Takeuchi (Jissen Women's University), Yuki Toyoda (Hosei University), Kuniyoshi Hayashi (St.Luke's International University), Mika Sato-Ilic (University of Tsukuba), Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University), Fumitake Sakaori (Chuo University), Atsuhiko Nakayama (Tokyo Metropolitan University), Masahiro Mizuta (Hokkaido University), Ryoza Yoshino (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics), Tatsuo Otsu (National Center for University Entrance Examinations) and Akinori Okada (Tama University).

### (II) Report of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society

The 38th Annual Meeting was held on June 15th and 16th, 2019 at Jissen Women's University, Shibuya Campus, Tokyo. The program of the meeting comprised 13 presentations in all, divided into two invited talk sessions, one student session, and 3 general sessions.

### (III) Awards and Fellows of JCS in 2019

In 2019, award winners of contribution award, paper award, encouraging award and fellows of JCS are selected as follows:

- Distinguished Career Award: Shizuhiko Nishisato (Professor Emeritus, The University of Toronto)
- Outstanding Paper Award: Sayaka Arai (National Center for University Entrance Examinations)
- Young Researcher Award: Masaaki Okabe (Doshisha University)
- Fellows: Shuichi Iwatsubo (Professor Emeritus, National Center for University Entrance Examinations)

### (IV) The 1st Data Analysis Seminar in 2019

The 1st Data analysis seminar in 2019 was held on May 18, 2019 at Tokai University, Takanawa Campus, Tokyo. The seminar consisted of two parts: Visualization of geographic information with R; and Hot-spot detection in spatial data and its practice.

Hiroyasu Abe

## News from GfKI

### New Managing Board

During its meeting of members at ECDA 2019 in Bayreuth a new Managing Board of GfKI has been elected which took office on April 16, 2019. The new board is comprised of Adalbert F.X. Wilhelm (Jacobs University Bremen), Hans A. Kestler (University of Ulm), Friederike Paetz (Technical University Clausthal), Andreas Geyer-Schulz (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), Eyke Hüllermeier (University of Paderborn), Ursula Garczarek (Cytel), Dominik Heider (Philipps University Marburg). A big thank you goes to the outgoing Board Members, in particular Berthold Lausen, who has been presiding the board for the last six years, and Daniel Baier, who has been responsible for public relations during that time.

### Meeting of the working group Data Analysis and Numerical Classification

On October 10 and 11, 2019 the working group Data Analysis and Numerical Classification holds its annual autumn conference. This year's conference will be held in honor of Claus Weihs, former president of the GfKI, who will retire from TU Dortmund this autumn. The conference theme is Musicology and the preliminary program is available here <http://www.gfki.org/ag-dank-herbsttagung-2019/>

### 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting of AG MARKETING

The 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting of AG MARKETING will be held at Schloss Karlsruhe from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, hosted under the umbrella of the GfKI (Gesellschaft für Klassifikation e.V.). The general theme is "Advanced data analysis techniques with marketing applications".

AG Marketing invites methodological, theoretical or empirical papers which aim to contribute to the understanding of quantitative marketing issues. This first workshop is connected to a Call for Papers for a special issue in the Journal of Business and Economics (JBE), one of the leading academic journals for business and management (VHB: B). The CfP is not limited to any specific field of marketing and welcomes quantitative contributions that can help to improve marketing decisions in areas like product innovation management, sales management, pricing, advertising, market segmentation, consumer

behavior etc. However, papers are expected to contribute over the extant literature by proposing sophisticated new data analysis methods in order to extract relevant information from marketing data.

Interested researchers are invited to submit an abstract for presentation. Abstracts will undergo a peer-review process. Accepted presenters of the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting of AG MARKETING will have the opportunity to submit a full paper for a special issue to the Journal of Business Economics (Guest editors: Friederike Paetz, Winfried. J. Steiner, Harald Hruschka).

Important Deadlines:

- **Abstract submission:** Please submit your abstract (max. 1800 characters, plain text) until 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019 via mail to [agmark-workshop@tu-clausthal.de](mailto:agmark-workshop@tu-clausthal.de)
- **Notification about acceptance:** until 14<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019
- **Registration:** Please register via mail to [agmark-workshop@tu-clausthal.de](mailto:agmark-workshop@tu-clausthal.de) until 21<sup>st</sup> of October, 2019.
- **Submission Deadline for special issue in JBE:** 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020

Adalbert Wilhelm

## News from The Classification Society

### (I) Report on the 2019 Annual Meeting of The Classification Society

The 48th annual meeting of The Classification Society was held at the City Centre Campus of MacEwan University, Edmonton, AB, Canada, from Thursday June 19 to Saturday, June 22, 2019. The meeting was sponsored by the MacEwan Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI), and hosted by the current secretary/treasurer of The Classification Society, Brian Franczak, who had onsite support from Dr. Ion Bica (MacEwan). Brian Franczak and Paul McNicholas, the current president of the Classification Society, had prepared an impressive conference program. The Scientific Program Committee (SCP) was chaired by Paul McNicholas; other members of the SCP were Brian Franczak, Stephen France, and Abby Flynt.

The President's Invited Address was given by

Isobel Claire Gormley, University College Dublin, Ireland, who discussed state of the art techniques for model-based approaches to clustering high-dimensional data where the number of variables is large. The focus was on developments in factor analytic methods that are well known to accommodate big data. The utility of these approaches was illustrated through high dimensional benchmark and real data sets.

Keynote lectures were given by Antonio Punzo, University of Catania, on clustering data when the underlying normal distributions are contaminated; by Brianna Heggseth, Macalester College, on tree-based clustering of longitudinal data, and by Hans Friedrich Köhn, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on the use of nonparametric methods in cognitively diagnostic assessment.

The Distinguished Dissertation Award 2019 of The Classification Society had been awarded to Anjali Silva, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre-University Health Network, for her thesis on the application of machine learning and Bayesian clustering of discrete-valued gene expression data for identifying gene co-expression networks. The recipient presented her research during a special invited session.

Invited sessions were also held on recent advances of clustering and applications of classification with speakers Cristina Anton, MacEwan University, Canada, Guangliang Chen, San Jose State University, Brian Franczak, MacEwan University, Canada, Bei Jiang, University of Alberta, Canada, Rebecca Nugent, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, and Meredith Wallace, University of Pittsburgh.

A special Session in Honour of Professor Stanley Sclove featured Stanley Sclove, University of Illinois at Chicago, Stephen France, Mississippi State University, Herbie Lee, University of California, Santa Cruz, and Paul McNicholas, McMaster University, Canada.

## **(II) The 2020 Annual Meeting of The Classification Society**

The 2020 annual meeting of The Classification Society will be held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA, from June 17-20, 2020. The President's Invited Address will be given by Mark de Rooij, Leiden University. Plenary speakers include Jim Rohlf, SUNY Stony Brook, Felipe

Barrientos, Florida State University, and Nema Dean, University of Glasgow. Invited speakers include Sam Adhikari, NYU, Lucas Mentch, University of Pittsburgh, Lynn Lin, PSU and David Banks, Duke University. Abstract submission will open on The Classification Society website February 10, 2020 (<https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting>). Please contact Abby Flynt, the incoming president of The Classification Society, at [abby.flynt@bucknell.edu](mailto:abby.flynt@bucknell.edu) in case of any questions. We hope you will join us at Bucknell!

## **(III) The 2020 Distinguished Dissertation Award of The Classification Society: Call for Nominations**

Each year, the Classification Society offers a Distinguished Dissertation Award for an outstanding PhD dissertation on the theme of clustering, classification, or related areas of data analysis, encompassing associated theory and/or applications. The Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award is supported by Springer.

## **The 2020 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award**

The 2020 Award totals 500 USD in book vouchers from Springer and the winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special session at the 2020 Classification Society Annual Meeting, which will be held at Bucknell University from June 17-20, 2020. The Classification Society will cover travel expenses to the 2020 Annual Meeting of at most 1,000 USD for a North American-based Award winner or at most 1,500 USD for an Award winner based elsewhere.

Criteria for nomination for the Distinguished Dissertation Award include:

- the main topic of the dissertation is in classification, clustering or a closely related area;
- the dissertation contains innovative work in theory/methodology and/or or innovative or well developed application(s); and
- the literature review is thorough.

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible for nomination, a Ph.D. dissertation must have been successfully completed—including successful defense—within the calendar year 2019. Nominations may be made by the dissertation author, supervisor, or related person, and must be sent by email. A nomination must

include contact information for the nominator and nominee (if different), a URL where an online copy of the dissertation can be accessed by the members of the Award Committee, and an electronic (e.g., scanned) cover letter, written and signed by the nominator, stating the date of final completion of the Ph.D. dissertation and outlining why the dissertation merits the award. The nominator must also arrange for two external referee reports to be sent directly to the chair of the Award committee. If possible, the referees should be arms-length from the dissertation author and their supervisor. Cover letters should include full bibliographic details for any published papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material that have arisen from the dissertation. For non-English language dissertations, nominators are requested to provide an extended abstract in English and, where relevant, to highlight any papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material associated with the dissertation that have been published in English.

### **The 2020 Distinguished Dissertation Award Committee**

The 2020 Award Committee comprises:

- Dr. Sanjeena Dang, Binghamton University, United States (Chair),
- Dr. Stephen France, Mississippi State University, United States, and
- Dr. Paul McNicholas, McMaster University, Canada.

### **Nominations**

Nominations and external referee reports must be submitted to the chair of the Award Committee, Sanjeena Dang, at <sdang 'at' binghamton dot edu>, on or before 11:59pm (EST) on February 1, 2020 (see also <https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Dissertation-Award>).

Results will be announced approximately two months after this submission deadline.

Hans-Friedrich Köhn

## **News from SoLCAD**

### **XII International Symposium on Mathematical Methods Applied to the Sciences**

XII International Symposium on Mathematical Methods Applied to the Sciences (SIMMAC) and 11th SoLCAD Encounter for Data Analysis and Classification, in San José, Costa Rica, 25-28 February 2020. Website:

<http://simmac.ucr.ac.cr/index.php/en>. Deadline for submission: November 30, 2019.

### **V Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing**

V Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing (LACSC), in Mexico City, Mexico, 9-11 June, 2020. Website to be announced.

### **Workshop and Winter School Geometric and Topological Data Analysis**

Workshop and Winter School Geometric and Topological Data Analysis, Guanajuato, Mexico, 20-24 January 2020. Website: <http://atd2020.eventos.cimat.mx/>

Javier Trejos

## **News from CLADAG**

### **(I) CLADAG2019**

The 12th Scientific Meeting of the Classification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society, CLADAG2019, has been held at the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, Italy, from 11th to 13th September 2019.

After the successful CLADAG conferences in Milan (2017) and Cagliari (2015), 193 scholars attended this year conference, with contributions from 314 authors of 28 different countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

The conference hosted five keynote talks:

- Unifying Data Units and Models in (Co-) Clustering, by Christophe Biernacki, Lille,
- Statistics with a human face, by Adrian Bowman, UK;
- Bayesian Model-Based Clustering with Flexible and Sparse Priors, by Bettina Grün, Linz;
- Grinding massive information into feasible statistics: current challenges and opportunities for data scientists, by Francesco Mola, Cagliari;
- Statistical challenges in the analysis of complex responses in biomedicine, by Sylvia Richardson, Cambridge.



The conference had 32 invited and a series of contributed sessions as well. Invited sessions organized by the SKAD, GfKI and SEIO sister societies were highly appreciated.

Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi, President at ESSEC Paris, organized and chaired the Round table on Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in Business, with Jean-Pierre Bokobza, Senior Managing Director of Accenture Digital, Fikria Chaouki, Senior expert Advanced analytics & AI for business at Accor, Monica Pratesi at University of Pisa, President of the Italian Statistical Society, Jeroen Rombouts, Accenture Strategic Business Analytics Chair at ESSEC and Stefania Rubrichi, Research scientist at Orange's Sense Laboratory. A bridge among young people in the Academy and in Data-Science enterprises was also launched through the organization of a data contest powered by TIM, the largest Italian telecommunication company.

The social program has been rich, as well. A networking event with music, food, and drink took place on September 11th with a concert by the "MLT – Musica Libera Tutti" ensemble, with classic and modern music. A special guided tour to the Montecassino Abbey, with amazing sunset views, and the conference dinner at Mignano Castle were held on September 12th.

This year, the Scientific Board of ClaDAG decided to initiate a program to honor distinguished professors who excel in research and are strongly related to our scientific community. We started this course by marking our huge gratitude and deep admiration for Professor Geoffrey McLachlan, giving him the perpetual membership to ClaDAG. Finally, the Conference proceedings have been published in the Cladag2019 Book of Short papers (with ISBN), available on-line. Authors were also invited to submit a full paper in the Springer Series "Studies in Classification, Data Analysis and Knowledge Organization" to be edited in 2020, or for a special issue in an international journal.

The next Scientific Meeting of CLADAG will be held in Florence, in September 2021.

Francesca Greselin and Giovanni Porzio

## **(II) CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

We are pleased to announce that the Joint Advanced School ERS-IASC and CLADAG, on

**ROBUST STATISTICS: FOUNDATIONS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS** will take place on May 4-8, 2020, at Villa del Grumello, on the shores of the Lake of Como, Italy: <https://rsfd.lakecomoschool.org/>.

### **INSTRUCTORS:**

- Anthony Atkinson, London School of Economics, UK
- Agustin Mayo-Iscar, University of Valladolid, ES
- Marco Riani, University of Parma, IT
- Anna Maria Paganoni, Politecnico di Milano, IT

RobustStatistics@ComoLakeSchool is focused on giving a perspective on the modern challenges of robust statistics, combining novel statistical techniques with open problems in different application fields.

### **PROGRAM**

Robust statistics is at the forefront of statistical research, and a central topic in multidisciplinary science where mathematical ideas are used to model and understand the real world.

It is almost inevitable, when analyzing big data, to have to cope with errors or outliers. An outlier is an observation (or subset of observations) that seems inconsistent with the rest of the data set. Robust Statistics aims at reducing the incorrect measurement risks generated by outliers.

While outliers are generally easy to identify in low dimensional datasets, when it comes to multivariate data, or even heterogeneous multivariate data, this task becomes very difficult and must be based on a solid foundation.

In some applied fields, often the so-called "outliers" are of paramount interest (fraud detection is an example). Sometimes, additionally, outliers might cluster in such a way that they become interesting for their own pattern, which can be properly disentangled from the bulk of the data with the aid of robust methods.

The aim of the course is three-fold:

- present novel models to describe real-world phenomena and their properties;
- study their behavior under different kinds of contamination;
- discuss their implementation through computational methods in R and Matlab, with extensive applications to real data.

- The topics covered by the course include regression, multivariate analysis, transformations, unsupervised classification and functional analysis. The school is designed for postgraduate development for both researchers and professional data analysts.

## APPLICATIONS

In order to foster active interaction among students and instructors, the school is targeted for a class of at most 30 qualified and selected participants. Deadline for applications: March 4, 2020.

Francesca Greselin, Salvatore Ingrassia

## News from VOC

The Dutch/Flemish classification society (VOC) will be celebrating its 35th anniversary with a two-day Jubilee Meeting November 21-22 2019 at the Wageningen Berg, Wageningen, The Netherlands. The programme will cover exciting topics related to classification and ordination reflecting the width of the field. Please keep an eye on [www.voc.ac](http://www.voc.ac) for more information.

Katrijn Van Deun

## MBC<sup>2</sup>: Call for Papers

The Fifth International Workshop MBC<sup>2</sup> (September 2-4, 2020) will focus on Models and Learning in Clustering and Classification. It is organized by the Department of Economics and Business of the University of Catania (Italy). The workshop aims at providing a focus on the state-of-the-art research in the field of statistical models and learning techniques in different areas of clustering and classification. Scientific discussions and debates among young and senior researchers are strongly encouraged. The workshop will take place with the support of the Italian Statistical Society and the Classification and Data Analysis Group (CLADAG). Interested people are invited to submit an abstract and some background literature by May 8, 2020. For more information, visit the website [mbc2.unict.it](http://mbc2.unict.it) or contact [mbc2@unict.it](mailto:mbc2@unict.it)

Salvatore Ingrassia

## Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

### January 2020

Workshop and Winter School Geometric and Topological Data Analysis, Guanajuato, Mexico, January 20-24, 2020, <http://atd2020.eventos.cimat.mx/>.

Workshop on advances in data science for big and complex data, Paris, France, January 23-24, 2020, <http://vladowiki.fmf.uni-lj.si/doku.php?id=sda:meet:pa20>.

### February 2020

XII International Symposium on Mathematical Methods Applied to the Sciences and 11th SoLCAD Encounter for Data Analysis and Classification, San José, Costa Rica, February 25-28, 2020, <http://simmac.ucr.ac.cr/index.php/en>.

### April 2020

JOCLAD 2020, Lissabon, Portugal, April 02-04, 2020, at the Universidade Lusófona de Lisboa, <http://www.joclad.ipt.pt/joclad2020/>.

### May 2020

Joint Advanced School ERS-IASC and CLADAG, on Robust Statistics, Villa del Grumello, Italy, May 4-8, 2020, <https://rsfd.lakecomoschool.org/>.

### June 2020

Annual meeting of The Classification Society, Lewisburg, USA, June 17-20, 2020, <https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting>.

V Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing, Mexico City, Mexico, June 9-11, 2020.

### July 2020

IBC 2020, Seoul, Korea, July 5-10, 2020, <https://www.ibc2020.org/welcome/welcome>.

### September 2020

MBC<sup>2</sup>, Catania, Italy, September 16-18, 2020, [mbc2.unict.it](http://mbc2.unict.it)

European Conference on Data Analysis, Napoli, Italy, September 16-18, 2020, <http://www.ecda2020.unina.it/>.

### August 2021

IFCS 2021, Porto, Portugal, August 24-28, 2021, [www.ifcs2021.fep.up.pt](http://www.ifcs2021.fep.up.pt).

## **Looking Ahead to IFCS Newsletter Number 61**

Contributions for the forthcoming issue of the IFCS newsletter should be sent to Katrijn Van Deun, IFCS Publication Officer, at [k.vandeun@uvt.nl](mailto:k.vandeun@uvt.nl) by March 13.

Plain text or Word files are preferred. Thanks!

Katrijn Van Deun  
IFCS Publication Officer