

NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF STATISTICS



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–Ron Wasserstein, on behalf of [The World of Statistics Steering Committee](#)

NEWS

Workshops in India Draw Clinicians, Researchers for Software Training and Biostatistics Education

The Biostatistics Resource and Training Centre and the Department of Biostatistics at Christian Medical College in Vellore, India, hosted a workshop on “Data Analysis using R” on September 18-20, 2017. L. Jeyaseelan, professor and head of the Biostatistics Department of Christian Medical College, and former visiting professor in Kuwait, gave a brief introduction about the importance of R Software and how it is powerful as compared to other software products. Tunney Sebastian and M. Thenmozhi demonstrated how to handle data and perform data analysis with R. More than 60 participants attended the program for improving their computational skills in R.



A workshop titled “[Biostatistics and Epidemiological Methods in Medicine and Public Health](#)” took place on October 20-21, 2017, at St. Thomas College in Pala, Mahatma Gandhi University, in Kottayam, India. The workshop targeted researchers, post graduate students, clinicians, statisticians in medical and other life sciences as well as academicians who are involved in clinical research and who are, and will continue to be, supporting clinical research. More than 40 biostatisticians attended the two day event that focused on statistical principles important for conducting research in biostatistics and related areas. The workshop was coordinated by Anil C. Mathew, professor of biostatistics and former General Secretary, ISMS; B. Binukumar, assistant professor of biostatistics at NIMHANS and current treasurer, ISMS; K. K. Jose, head of the Department of Biostatistics; Rose Maria Jose, Anjana Thomas, and Meenu Tom.

The Department of Statistics and Biostatistics at St. Thomas College will also host ICSA 2018, January 3-7. For a lineup of invited speakers and session topics, visit icsa2018.wordpress.com or by emailing icsa2018@gmail.com.

Symposium on Statistical Inference Gathers Professionals to Address Reproducibility in Research

Following the widespread impact of its [historic statement](#) on the overuse and misinterpretation of p -values throughout the scientific community, the American Statistical Association (ASA) is convening scientists spanning many disciplines to help bolster statistical and scientific evidence, move beyond an irrational overdependence on p -values, and improve the rigor and reproducibility of research on October 11–12, 2017, in Bethesda, Maryland.



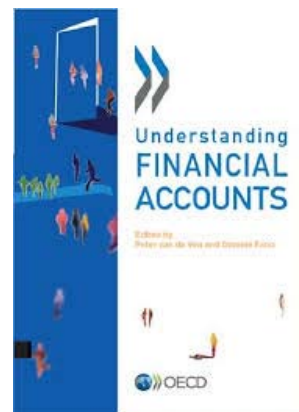
Discussions centered on specific approaches for refining statistical and scientific evidence as it intersects with conducting, using, sponsoring, disseminating and replicating research. Upon the conclusion of the symposium, recommendations, approaches and guidelines will be published and made available to the entire scientific community, policymakers, members of the media and the general public.

Presentations from the event can be accessed [here](#). A call for papers has been issued for a [special edition](#) of *The American Statistician*.

OECD Releases New Publication Offering Guidance to Understanding Financial Accounts

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released "[Understanding Financial Accounts](#)," a new publication that seeks to show how a range of questions on financial developments can be answered with the framework of financial accounts and balance sheets, by providing non-technical explanations illustrated with practical examples. Questions such as:

- What are the basic principles, concepts and definitions used for this framework which is part of the system of national accounts?
- What sources and which methodologies are used for their compilation? How are these used to monitor and analyse economic and financial developments?
- What can we learn about the 2007-2009 economic and financial crisis when looking at the numbers provided in this framework?
- What can we learn about financial risks and vulnerabilities?



A fully cooperative effort between the OECD, BIS, ECB, Fondazione AIB, the IMF, national central banks (Austria, Italy and Portugal), national statistical offices (Australia and Canada), and the Treasury of Canada, this publication is intended for

young statisticians, students, journalists, economists, policymakers and citizens who want to know more about the statistics that are at the heart of the analysis of financial developments in OECD economies.

BigSurv18 to Connect Survey Science, Big Data in October 2018

Help solve the challenge of combining Big Data and Survey Science. Meet with experts and exchange ideas about promising technologies and methodologies for using massive datasets and state-of-the-art analytical techniques to improve, supplement or replace data and estimates from complex surveys and censuses. Conducted by RTI International and ESRA, BigSurv18 is the intersection of survey science and Big Data and takes place October 25-27, 2018 at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Research and Expertise Centre for Survey Methodology, in Barcelona. A call for papers will soon be issued. Learn more about the conference, see who is on the Scientific Committee, and find out about sponsorship opportunities at www.bigsurv18.org.



Senegal Statistics Community to Celebrate Mathematical Days

The Senegalese community is organizing its National Mathematical Conference on December 18-22, 2017 at the Universite Gaston Berger Saint-Louis. Open to all branches of mathematics, in particular probability theory and statistics, and to the worldwide mathematics community. For full information and paper submission details, visit jms2017.net.



European Statistics Day Celebrated by Many

The Hungarian Statistical Association celebrated European Statistics Day on October 20 by commemorating the life of Karoly Keleti, its first president. In a letter to the country's statistical community, the organization references that Keleti touched on the role of Hungarian statistics in numerous writings in which he acknowledged that Hungarian statistics should cooperate with other national and international groups, particularly in the development of statistics in science and expansion. "In these decades, when we go through information boom, it is more complicated to know one's way around the data," the group writes. "It is not an easy task to choose the proper data sources as well as the rapid processing of data and communicating results. All of these requires stronger statistical knowledge, hence the development of statistical culture is inevitable."



Additionally, the International Statistical Institute developed a video message featuring ISI President Helen MacGillivray. The video message can be viewed [here](#).

Also, the Government of Malaysia, the host country of the [ISI WSC 2019](#), declared October 20 as the National Statistics Day (MyStats Day). The celebration was an initiative to create awareness of importance of statistics among Malaysians.

RSS Publishes New Educational Resources, Activities for Students and Guide for Legal Professionals

Members of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) Education Committee have designed new [hands-on statistics resources](#) to inspire young people at career fairs, festivals, and schools. The activities introduce concepts such as bias (and how to use it to your advantage), randomness (how difficult it is to be completely 'random'), sampling (and when it can give a wrong answer) and conditional probability (via the famous Monty Hall problem). Each activity, which has a short instruction sheet and accompanying video, has been tested and used at public events.



Additionally, the RSS and the Inns of Court College of Advocacy (ICCA) have just published a [guide to statistics](#) specifically for those in the legal profession. The release coincided with European Statistics Day last month.

The 75-page guide provides a brief overview of statistics when applied in courts of law to help lawyers assess their evidence critically, therefore enabling them to challenge any interpretation of statistics or probability statements where there may be cause for concern. It also identifies pitfalls that advocates are likely to meet when handling statistical evidence, such as misunderstandings of probability, conflating correlation/causation and the difference between absolute and relative risk. Chapters include case studies in different areas of law to show how advocates might go about questioning expert witnesses.

ICSA Seeks Proposals for Invited Sessions at 2018 Symposium

The International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) is seeking proposals for invited sessions at its 2018 Applied Symposium next June.

An invited session will be 100 minutes with four speakers or three speakers and one or two discussants. A proposal should include:

- Session title
- Organizer(s) with affiliation and email contact information
- Session chair with affiliation and email contact information
- A list of speakers or discussant with affiliation and email contact information and tentative talk titles.



There is one-talk policy, but one can serve as a discussant in another invited session while speaking in an invited or contributed session. It is required to confirm all speakers and discussants' availability before submitting a proposal.

The submission deadline is **December 15, 2017**. All proposals need to be submitted at the symposium [online submission site](#). Proposals not submitted online will not be considered for the symposium.

FENStatS Drafts Letter Supporting Former Greek Statistics Officials

The Federation of European National Statistical Societies (FENStatS) has issued a [letter of support](#) for Andreas Georgiou, the former head of the Hellenic Statistical Society, and several colleagues facing prosecution. "While it is not our aim to comment in detail on those legal proceedings, we wish to express our deep concern about the impact of their outcomes," notes Maurizio Bichi, president of FENStats. "Andreas Georgiou and his ELSTAT team have successfully established a well-functioning statistical infrastructure according to international standards. The legal convictions against these modern Greek statisticians are unjustified, they destroy their professional and private lives, they undermine international credibility that had only just been rebuilt and, last but not least, they support the incorrect belief that independent and impartial statistical information cannot and do not exist."



Read the letter in its entirety [here](#).

Contribute News, Jobs to the World of Statistics

The editorial staff of the World of Statistics relies on you so that we can share newsworthy statistics-related events. Send us details via the links below. In addition, the World of Statistics will feature job listings for statistics and data science positions in this newsletter. There is no cost for this service, but listings are limited to 250 words and must include a link to where more detailed information can be found. Send your job listing to ron@amstat.org.

As always, we look forward to promoting the positive work of the global statistical community to educate the public, grow the profession, expand research and development, and improve the quality of life.



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