



International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

President: Angela Montanari

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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, GfKl 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 Ordonatie 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

These are my first words to the Newsletter as President and they come in a very difficult period for all of us. I hope you are all fine and coping with this tremendous situation and I am looking forward to meeting you all in person as soon as it will be possible. I believe that a great thing we can do is to give our contribution by passionately continuing our work whose main goal is to help people understand data and use them to make adequate political decisions. Never like today have we had such a lot of not always meaningful data. And we must contribute to transform those data into real information.

It is a great honour for me to serve as President, but I am aware it is also a great responsibility. I have the privilege to succeed Berthold Lausen who has been a very active President and has helped strengthening the presence of IFCS especially outside Europe. I would like to thank Akinori Okada as past President for the balance he has always brought in our meetings. I am pleased to welcome the new President elect, Rebecca Nugent and the new Secretary, Andrzej Dudek. I am sure

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

we will profitably work together. I thank Christian Hennig, our past Secretary, for continuing working for IFCS with passion, also while waiting for the election results, even if his term was already over. Many thanks also to Sugnet Lubbe, who has been re-elected as Treasures, and to Katrijn Van Deun, our publication officer, to whose effort and patience this newsletter is due.

After our successful IFCS conference in Thessaloniki, August 26-29, 2019 we are all looking forward to our next conference that has been postponed to 2022 and will take place in Porto, Portugal, July 19-23, 2022.

In order to keep connected and share ideas we have also organized a virtual event that will take place online on September 7th 2021. Details will follow soon. This will also be the occasion to award the research medal to a distinguished colleague working in the field of classification and data analysis. A call for proposal will be issued soon.

To conclude, I would like to wish all of us a peaceful and happy 2021.

Angela Montanari
IFCS President

News from the IFCS Secretary

This Newsletter comes at difficult times. I hope that all of you and your loved ones are in good health and you are coping well with all the restrictions.

Since the last Newsletter the Executive Committee (EC) has met on 18 October 2019 and 21 February 2020. We tried to meet also in December but couldn't find a suitable date, so there was email exchange in between. Angela Montanari has taken over as IFCS President, and Akinori Okada has retired as Past President. Berthold Lausen is now in this position. Unfortunately the IFCS Elections have been delayed. I am optimistic that they will be initiated very soon, hopefully already before this Newsletter is published, but right now the position of President-Elect is vacant, and the Treasurer Sugnet Lubbe and myself are still in place, but there will be new elections for a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Executive Committee has found candidates for all these positions, which will be announced when the

elections get started. Also new Finance Committee members need to be elected.

The main business of the meetings was the IFCS 2019 conference in Thessaloniki (for which Conference Proceedings are in the making now) and the IFCS 2021 conference in Porto, 19-23 July 2022, for which preparations are on the way, with more information elsewhere in this Newsletter.

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).

Like everything, IFCS activity is somewhat affected by the situation. We will hopefully have elections soon, and this may be my last report as IFCS Secretary. I thank all of you for good collaboration and will continue my close ties to the IFCS community.

... This is the place where the words from Christian end. First of all, I'd like to thank him for his outstanding work. It will be very hard for me to equal his level. Thanks indeed all members of IFCS Concil for the election. It is a great honour for me and I will do everything to make us come out of these challenging times strengthened as the organization.

I'm looking forward to cooperate with you in organizing the IFCS 2022 Conference, in preparing our virtual seminar for next year and in other IFCS activities.

One of the firsts urgent task is to actualize our database. If the elections in the societies have been carried out or terms of office were extended due to Covid-19 outbreak, please let me know using the

following e-mail address
andrzej.dudek@ue.wroc.pl

With all the best wishes,

Christian Hennig & Andrej Dudek
IFCS Secretary

News from the IFCS Publication Officer

First of all, I hope you and your beloved ones are doing well in these strange and trying times.

Given the circumstances, this is a much delayed and shorter newsletter than usual but I am happy to see that the society is still active and would like to thank those that made an effort to contribute. A special thank you goes to Ludovic Lebart and Michael Greenacre for writing the obituary to Jean-Paul Benzecri. Some other sad news is the passing of David Wishart. Please share your personal stories and memories on the memorial page:

<https://www.memories.net/page/3032/david-wishart>

Best wishes for 2021!

Katrijn Van Deun
IFCS Publication Officer

IFCS 2021 postponed to IFCS 2022

The 17th conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies, initially scheduled for August 2021, in Porto, has been postponed to 19-23 July 2022 due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. The IFCS 2022 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). Charles Bouveyron (Université Côte d'Azur, Nice, France), Dianne Cook (Monash University, Australia), and João Gama (University of Porto, Portugal) are already confirmed as keynote speakers. A pre-conference book of proceedings will be published in the Springer Collection "Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization". Special issues of international journals are arranged to be published after the conference. The Local Organizing Committee renews the invitation to all those interested in the broad area of Classification and Data Science to participate.

Do not forget to add IFCS 2022 to your agenda!

New submission deadlines:

Submission of full papers (invited and contributed papers): January 15th, 2022

Submission of Single Abstracts: March 31st, 2022

To learn more about IFCS 2022:

www.ifcs2022.fep.up.pt.

Contact: ifcs2022@fep.up.pt

Happy 2021!

Paula Brito

Obituary.

Jean-Paul Benzécéri, (1932, 2019)

Jean-Paul Benzécéri, who has died aged 87, developed a specific approach to data analysis. Scientists in disciplines as diverse as economics, sociology, linguistics, medicine, chemistry and biology, make constant use of approaches based on his work.

Jean-Paul Benzécéri was born in Oran (Algeria) in 1932, where his father was a doctor. In 1950, he was accepted as top ranked candidate in the competition for the ENS (*École Normale Supérieure*) in Paris (a selective higher education school that recruits annually only 900 students for all disciplines and yet produced 11 Field medals and 13 Nobel prizes). Leaving for the United States, he obtained a Ph.D. in differential geometry from Princeton University (under the direction of the mathematician Henri Cartan) and worked for a while at Bell Laboratories where he met the psychometrician R. N. Shepard.

His work in data analysis began in 1963 at the Faculty of Sciences in Rennes where he created a course in mathematical linguistics. One of his first students in 1965 Brigitte Escofier-Cordier, published a dissertation entitled "*Analyse Factorielle des Correspondances* (Correspondence Analysis)" with application to textual data. In 1965, Benzécéri, who became Professor at the Sorbonne, founded the Statistics Laboratory within the ISUP (at that time: Institute of Statistics of the University of Paris) and a School of Data Analysis, which was the basis of research conducted later under both names of "data mining" and "text mining".

He proposed in the early sixties to completely rethink statistics, based on computing, this new tool, considered by Benzécéri as a "mental tool":

after Aristotle's "*Organum*", and the "*Novum Organum*" conceived by Bacon, the computer will be then the "*Novius Organum*" (i.e. the newer tool). This attitude of favouring new exploratory instruments offered by computers, to the detriment of sometimes unrealistic modelling, did not receive immediate approval from all statisticians. Benzécri openly assumed a purely inductive approach, and often quoted the famous "*Hypotheses non fingo*" (I don't frame hypotheses) of Newton. In fact, like Tukey (1977), he has always balanced the usefulness and limitation of mathematical statistics.

He is most famous for the central place he has given to correspondence analysis (systematically complemented with clustering techniques) for analysing both large contingency and binary tables and some other kinds of data arrays after suitable transformation including lexical tables derived from raw texts. This approach is sketched in Benzécri (1969). Incidentally, Benzécri (1982) proposed a new algorithm (nearest-neighbor chain algorithm) for agglomerative hierarchical clustering. His main contribution was to show the full algebraic and geometric properties of the method. Testing the independence of rows and columns of a large data table is often stating the obvious: it is then much more interesting to describe and understand how data diverge from this hypothesis. Elementary, but fundamental in practice, is also the *a posteriori* projection of supplementary variables that provides the practitioner with new elements for interpretation. In fact, the projection of supplementary (or illustrative) variables onto the visualization planes, a principle that dates back to Gower (1968) and which was systematically studied by Cazes (1982), allows for testing hypotheses and for reintroducing a new statistical framework into a purely exploratory process. About the history of correspondence analysis, see: Hill (1974), Benzécri (1982), de Leeuw (1983), Lebart and Saporta (2014).

Two treatises of data analysis published in 1973 by Dunod ("*Analyse des Correspondances*" and "*La Taxinomie*"), synthesize the first works of Benzécri's laboratory.

They were followed by numerous dissertations, a new quarterly journal, "*Les Cahiers de l'Analyse des Données*" (Data Analysis Notebooks)" published for twenty-one years, from 76 to 97, and several other handbooks devoted to applications in

linguistics and lexicology, in economics and medical applications.

Benzécri has published little in English. In 1992, one of his handbooks for practitioners (translated by T.K. Gopalan) was published by Marcel Dekker, but his two large treatises have never been translated. His choice of tensor notation (instead of the popular matrix-vector notation), motivated by purely mathematical considerations, was perhaps likely to discourage or scare both publishers and readers. However, several textbooks in English have been published by his former students of the first generation: Greenacre (1984, 1993), Lebart et al. (1984, 1998), Leroux and Rouanet (2004), Murtagh (2005), Husson et al. (2011), Bécue-Bertaut M. (2018), who disseminated and extended his research. Since 1991, the series of CARME conferences (Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods) created and animated by M. Greenacre and J. Blasius, extend and update the original "*Analyse des Données*" paradigm. They have regularly given rise to a series of carefully edited books.

Jean-Paul Benzécri's perfect mastery of a dozen living or dead languages, his encyclopaedic culture fueled by an insatiable scientific curiosity have marked all of these publications which remain a reference in terms of interdisciplinarity.

Jean-Paul Benzécri has received several scientific awards and prizes, including the Montyon Prize for Statistics from the French Academy of Sciences in 1968, the Prize for French-language Statistician from the *Société de Statistique de Paris* in 1983. His wife, Françoise, a mathematician, assisted him in numerous works.

Ludovic Lebart (www.lebart.org)

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News from MDAG

MDAG online workshop

MDAG presented a series of online workshops for the StatCon 2020 conference which was hosted by the South African Statistics Association (SASA). The workshops were free, but registration was required to gain access to the recorded presentations.

The workshop material was available between 9 November and 2 December and live question sessions for workshop participants were held on 1 December. The following workshops were presented:

- Web scraping in R: A practical application (Thomas Farrar – University of the Western Cape)

- Classifying yield spread movements in sparse data through triplots, plus other biplot developments (Carel van der Merwe – Stellenbosch University)
- Automating fault detection and classification of Photovoltaic panels (Chantelle Clohessy, Warren Brettenny and Edward Westraadt – Nelson Mandela University)
- A classification challenge in the wine industry (Niël le Roux – Stellenbosch University)

The annual general meeting for MDAG will take place on December 10 via the Microsoft Teams platform.

Prof. Sugnet Lubbe has been re-elected as the chairperson of MDAG for the 2019-2023. We look forward to another successful term.

Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel

News from CLAD

JOCLAD 2020

The XXVII Annual Meeting of the Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, JOCLAD 2020, was held online from October 22 – 24, 2020, at the Universidade Lusófona de Lisboa. Participants included researchers, teachers, students and users, working with Classification and Data Analysis and other Data Science related areas. There were 70 participants and 55 papers were presented. The conference program included 2 plenary invited lectures, 4 thematic sessions, 6 parallel sessions and a poster session. A short course took place on October 22 morning. Further information is available at the conference website: <http://www.joclad.ipt.pt/joclad2020/>, as well as at CLAD's website <http://www.clad.pt/>.

First programmed for April 2 – 4, 2020, the JOCLAD2020 meeting was postponed to October, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, turning it into a web-conference with the same program.

CLAD's Book Series

Authors of research papers presented at recent JOCLAD meetings are invited to submit full papers for publication in the next book CLADMAp IV, the fourth issue of CLAD's Book Series "Classificação e Análise de Dados.

Métodos e Aplicações”. Online copies of the previous three books are available on CLAD’s website.

Helena Bacelar-Nicolau

News from GfKL

80th Birthday of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Hermann Bock

The GfKL-Data Science Society congratulates whole-heartedly its Honorary President Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Hermann Bock on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

We wish him good health and zest for life, time for and with his family, further new findings in statistics and data analysis and hope that we will soon be able to meet him again personally at a classification conference.

Prof. Bock studied in Karlsruhe, Paris and Freiburg and received his doctorate in 1968 while working as an assistant to Prof. Morgenstern in Freiburg with a thesis on cluster analysis. In 1978 he was appointed to a professorship for applied statistics at the Institute for Statistics and Mathematical Economics at the RWTH Aachen University, where he taught until his retirement in 2005. Prof. Bock has received a number of honors as he holds an honorary doctorate of the University of Cracow, is an Honorary Member of the Belarusian Statistical Association, the Honorary President of GfKL and the first holder of the IFCS Research Medal.

In order to honor Prof. Bock, it is necessary to mention his research, his international lecturing activities, his organizational talent and his international relations. He was an active founder and founding member of scientific societies and scientific publications which have proven to be sustainable. He is a founding member of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) and was its first president from 1985 to 1989. In 1977 he founded the German Classification Society (GfKL) and served as its president from 1986 to 1995. He was co-founder and long-time editor of the scientific series "Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization" and the now highly respected Springer journal "Advances in Data Analysis and Classification".

Prof. Bock was and is a prominent participant, speaker and section chair and organizer at conferences. His summaries and questions after presentations of other conference participants are illuminating. Especially at the biennial conferences of the IFCS he cultivates his international relations with colleagues from Europe and around the world. Again and again, he has been a welcomed guest at various international universities during research semesters and between teaching periods. Everyone benefits from his extensive knowledge in statistics and data analysis.

Prof. Bock has made fundamental contributions to cluster analysis and other areas of statistics. It all started in the second half of the 1960s when he became interested in the field of cluster analysis and wrote his PhD thesis "Statistical models for single and double classification of normally distributed observations". This topic was a stroke of luck and, as we can see today, very farsighted at the time. Now, half a century later, this can be seen in the current importance of cluster analysis, its applications to most fields of knowledge, its ramifications in "Data Mining" and "Unsupervised Learning", and its economic importance.

Ad multos annos!

European Conference on Data Analysis ECDA 2021

As many other conferences this year ECDA 2020 which had been scheduled for Naples, Italy, had to be cancelled and has been shifted to 2021. The 2021 edition of ECDA will be held as a joint event with DSSV 2021 as a satellite event for the ISI World Statistics Conference. DSSV-ECDA 2021 will be organized by the Erasmus School of Economics and run under the auspices of IASC, GfKL, EuADS, and VOC. Current planning is for an online event with potentially a small scale physical attendance in Rotterdam and maybe some other hubs depending on the further Covid-19 development.

Short report on the formation of the new working group “AG MARKETING”

At the end of 2019, the working group „Data Analysis and Classification in Marketing (AG MARKETING)“ (under the umbrella of the Data Science Society) was founded by Friederike Paetz (Assistant Professor for Marketing, Clausthal University of Technology, Germany) and Daniel Guhl (Assistant Professor of Consumer Behavior,

Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany). With our annual meetings, we foster the dialogue between practitioners and academic researchers from quantitative fields of management, marketing, market research etc.

AG MARKETING focuses on quantitative marketing research and bundles the competencies of scientists and practitioners from the marketing sector. In particular, modeling approaches, the development of advanced quantitative methods for data analysis in the marketing context, and applying such methods to solve relevant practical problems form the core content of the AG MARKETING.

We highly welcome new members! More information about the aims and scopes of the working group can be found here:

<http://www.gfkl.org/working-groups/data-analyses-and-classification-in-marketing/>

OpEd about artificial intelligence and statistics

The Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Statistik (DAGSTAT) has published an opinion paper on the role of statistics in artificial intelligence. An English version of it has been submitted to ADAC and is available as a preprint [here](#).

News from JCS

(I) The 39th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society

The 39th Annual Meeting was held both online and onsite at Doshisha University, Kyoto, on November 7th and 8th, 2020. To prevent transmission of COVID-19, various infection control measures were implemented with keeping distance, and avoiding crowds and enclosed spaces. The chairperson of the organizing committee was Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University). The speakers and the titles of their talks were as follows:

STUDENT SESSION 1

- Towards the pattern analysis of script composition in Manzai, Jion Fujimoto and Akihiro Kawase (Doshisha University)
- Verification of Katsura Shijaku's Narrative Structures in Rakugo, Megumi Matsuyama and Akihiro Kawase (Doshisha University).
- Willingness to Engage in Advance Care Planning among Community Dwelling People, Three Regions Comparative Study; with focus on question related to COVID-19, Erika Nakanishi, Kuniyoshi

Hayashi, Nobuhisa Nakajima, Kohei Kamiya, Keita Tanoue, Tokiwa Motonari, Akemi Naito and Tatsuya Morita (St. Luke's International University, Graduate School of Public Health)

- The Effectiveness of Maximal Information Coefficient in Real-world Classification Tasks, Chen Yanru, Zheng Wanwan and Jin Mingzhe (Doshisha University)
- Clarification of criteria for periodisation in Beethoven's compositional style, Daisuke Miki and Akihiro Kawase (Doshisha University)

STUDENT SESSION 2

- Pliable Lasso based on power normal distribution, Yusuke Echizenya and Kensuke Tanioka (Doshisha University).
- Multinomial choice model based on quantile regression, Koki Matsuoka (Doshisha University), Masaaki Okabe (Doshisha University) and Jun Tsuchida (Tokyo University of Science).
- A Proposal of a Compensatory Explanatory Cognitive Diagnostic Model, Yoshito Tan, Tetsuro Ito and Kensuke Okada (University of Tokyo).
- Outcome-Adaptive Lasso considering importance of variables in propensity score model with application to real data, Ryuichi Fukushima, Shuji Ando, Jun Tsuchida and Takashi Sozu (Tokyo University of Science).
- Estimation of sensitivity and specificity in the absence of a gold standard test for data with rare positive frequencies, Tasuku Inao, Kazufumi Okada, Yichi Yang and Isao Yokota (Hokkaido University)

SPECIAL SESSION

- Development of a scale to measure experience of being praised for nursing students, Yu Hidaka (Kyoto University)
- Evaluation of the Case-Only Approach for Identifying a Treatment Effect Predictive Marker, Kentaro Ueno and Shiro Tanaka (Kyoto University)
- An analysis case of gene expression data using orthogonal nonnegative matrix factorization based on nonparametric Bayesian method, Hiroyasu Abe (Kyoto University)

SESSION 1

- Development of statistical matching method for corporate data and improvement of its accuracy, Isao Takabe

(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) and Satoshi Yamashita (The institute of statistical mathematics)

- Speaker attribution using transcription data, Yejia Liu and Mingzhe Jin (Doshisha University)
- Consideration on player classification using the seasonal change of called strike probability by GAM, Kazuki Konda (Tokai University), Fumitake Sakaori (Chuo University) and Yoshiro Yamamoto (Tokai University)
- An Analysis of People's Environmental Consciousness based on Open-ended Question, Chen Yanyan (Fukuoka Institute of Technology)

SESSION 2

- LINE survey - public nationwide on symptoms of the COVID-19 virus- and Data Science, Hiroko Tsunoda (Nihon Wellness Sports University) and Fumi Hayashi (Toyo Eiwa University)
- Classification of fall risk in palliative care wards, Hideyuki Kashiwagi (Iizuka Hospital), Kuniyoshi Hayashi (St. Luke's International University), Masanori Mori (Seirei Mikatahara General Hospital) and Hiroyuki Otani (St. Mary's Hospital)
- Impact on survey results by effective reproduction number (Rt) of COVID-19, Misaki Yano and Kuniyoshi Hayashi (St. Luke's International University)

SPECIAL LECTURE

- Survival Analysis in Medical Research, Ryuzi Uozumi (Kyoto University)

SESSION 3

- Data fusion using generalized estimating equations under nonmonotone missing data settings, Kazuhisa Kishimoto (Okayama University) and Michio Yamamoto (Okayama University, AIP, RIKEN)
- Semiparametric Estimation Method for ordinal categorical regression model with heterogeneous threshold, Mariko Takagishi (Osaka University) and Tomoyuki Sugimoto (Shiga University)
- Model order selection in nonnegative matrix factorization to zero-inflated and overdispersed count data based on variational inference, Hiroyasu Abe (Kyoto University)
- Oblique rotation method based on Gini coefficient, Jun Tsuchida (Tokyo

University of Science) and Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University)

(II) Awards and Fellows of JCS in 2020

In 2020, award winners of contribution award, paper award, encouraging award and fellows of JCS were selected as follows:

- Distinguished Career Award: Hideo Miyahara, M.D. (Yakuzenkai Medical Corporation Tsukuba International Clinical Pharmacology Clinic)
- Young Researcher Award: Hiroyasu Abe (Kyoto University)
- Fellows: Ryozo Yoshino (Doshisha University)

Kensuke Tanioka

News from The Classification Society

(I) Professor Paul McNicholas named Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Classification

The Classification Society would like to thank Dr. Douglas L. Steinley for serving as the third Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Classification. On July 1, 2020, Prof. Paul McNicholas was named the fourth Editor-in-Chief of the Classification Society. McNicholas previously served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Classification as well as several other statistics journals. McNicholas is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at McMaster University, holds the senior Canada Research chair in Computational Statistics, and is a E.W.R Steacie Memorial Fellow.

(II) Report on the 2020 Annual Meeting of The Classification Society

The 49th annual meeting of The Classification Society was scheduled to be held from Thursday, June 18 to Saturday, June 21, 2020 at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. The meeting was organized by the president of The Classification Society, Dr. Abby Flynt. The scientific programming committee was comprised of Abby Flynt (chair), Brian Franczak, Meredith Wallace, and Tanzy Love. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 annual meeting was cancelled. Instead, an online meeting was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020. This online meeting featured a presentation by the president-elect of the Classification Society, Dr. Tanzy Love on model selection for mixture of factor analyzer models.

(III) The 2021 Annual Meeting of The Classification Society

The 50th annual meeting of The Classification Society is tentatively scheduled to be held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA, from Thursday, June 17 to Saturday, June 20, 2021. The meeting is being organized by the president of The Classification Society, Dr. Abby Flynt. The scientific programming committee is comprised of Abby Flynt (chair), Brian Franczak, Meredith Wallace, and Tanzy Love. Confirmed invited speakers include Samrachana Adhikari (New York University), Lucas Mentch (University of Pittsburgh), David Banks (Duke University), Dave Friedenbergl (Battelle), Rachael Hageman Blair (SUNY Buffalo), Teague Henry (UNC Chapel Hill), and Suzu Zhang (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Keefe Murphy (2020 DDA Winner, Maynooth University). Abstract submission will open on The Classification Society website in early March 2021. Please see <https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting> for details. We hope you will join us at Bucknell!

(IV) The 2021 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 2021 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award

The 2021 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 2021 Classification Society Annual Meeting, which will be held at Bucknell University from June 17 - 20, 2021. The Classification Society will cover travel expenses to the 2021 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);

- 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 2020. 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 2021 Distinguished Dissertation Award Committee

The 2021 Award Committee comprises:

- Dr. Sanjeena Dang (chair)
- Dr. Cristina Tortora
- Prof. Volodymyr Melnykov

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, 2021 (see also <https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Dissertation-Award>).

Results will be announced approximately two months after this submission deadline. See <https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Dissertation-Award> for more information.

Brian Franczak

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

June 2021

Annual meeting of The Classification Society, Lewisburg, USA, June 17-20, 2021, <https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting>.

July 2021

Joint virtual conference DSSV-ECDA, Rotterdam, Netherlands, July 7-9, 2021, <https://iasc-isi.org/dssv-ecda2021/>.

September 2021

Virtual IFCS event, online, September 7, 2021.

July 2022

IFCS 2022, Porto, Portugal, July 19-23, 2022, www.ifcs2022.fep.up.pt.

Looking Ahead to IFCS Newsletter Number 62

Contributions for the forthcoming issue of the IFCS newsletter should be sent to Katrijn Van Deun, IFCS Publication Officer, at k.vandeun@uvt.nl by March 19.

Plain text or Word files are preferred. Thanks!

Katrijn Van Deun
IFCS Publication Officer