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Happy New Year from The World of Statistics!

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PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

Following is the latest news and information from statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics:

United Kingdom—Call for Papers for the 9th International Conference on Social Science Methodology (RC33) at the University of Leicester (United Kingdom)

Conference Date: September 11th – 16th, 2016

Submission Deadline for paper abstracts: 21st January, 2016

Session Topics

There will be sessions on a broad range of methodological topics ranging from the following topics:

1. Survey Methodology and other QUAN Approaches
2. QUAL Methods
3. Mixed Methods
4. New Data Types

5. Methods for Longitudinal and Comparative Research
6. Paradata, Metadata, Meta-Analysis and Harmonization
7. Methods for Substantial Research Fields

Please check the Conference Website for a full list of sessions

Conference Website

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/sociology/research/rc33-conference/rc33-conference>

Please find further information on ISA RC33 (Research Committee on Logic & Methodology of the International Sociology Association) on <http://www.rc33.org/>

How to Submit an Abstract

1. To submit a paper abstract for any session of the RC33 9th International Conference on Social Science Methodology, you should visit:

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/sociology/research/rc33-conference/rc33-conference>.

After landing on the homepage, navigate to 'Abstract Submission', which appears in the top left hand column of the webpage.

2. Complete the form in full. You may wish to cut and paste your abstract into the Abstract field from another document.

3. Choose the relevant session for your stream. To do so you will need to select the relevant lead session organiser from the drop-down menu highlighted in the image below. To check you are submitting to the correct session, you can view a table of sessions and session convenors by clicking the link entitled 'View the list of sessions and session convenors'. Once complete, click submit.

Ethiopia—Haramaya University, Department of Statistics will host the first international conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture from 25-27 March 2016. The conference is mainly intended to promote national and international exchange of statistical issues in agriculture among Statisticians, members of communities working in agricultural growth and development, practitioners in academia, and research institutions, and other stakeholders. It is expected to attract some 150-200 delegates over three days from these communities.

The conference will showcase the breadth and highlight the extraordinary opportunities for statisticians and agricultural researchers. It gives opportunity to discuss ideas and advancements in the application of statistics in agricultural fields. Beside these, the conference is expected to provide a worldwide experience for the local researchers, academicians and practitioners.

Agricultural research papers that have employed statistical methods such as agricultural survey methods, design and analysis of experiments, time series modeling, spatial and spatiotemporal modeling, multilevel modeling, Bayesian modeling, simulation and modeling and generalized linear models will be presented in the conference.

Major Items on the agenda of the conference include the following:

Keynote Speech Presentation: Distinguished professors from both Communities: Statistics and Agriculture will address the application of Statistics in Agriculture and the importance of such conference for these communities.

Plenary Discussion: A review of articles on "Applied Statistics in Agricultural Research in Ethiopian Context" will be presented and discussed at general audience.

Free public lectures which are intended at a general audience will be delivered on

- *Mixed Models Using SAS* by Professor Temesgen Zewtier (KwaZulu-Natal University, South Africa)
- *Teaching Statistics for Agricultural Scientists* by Professor Dellia North (KwaZulu-Natal University)
- *Optimal Design for Linear Mixed Models* by Professor Legesse Kassa Dabosho (University of Pretoria, South Africa)

Research Paper Presentations: Papers that are submitted by the authors will be selected for presentation after peer reviewed by expertise in Statistics and Agriculture fields for. All papers that are accepted for presentation will be published on 'East African Journal of Science'. For registering and uploading your abstract use www.statinagriculture.com.

Canada—The International Ottawa Hockey Analytics 2016 conference will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2016. Details can be found at <http://statsportsconsulting.com/ottanalytcs16/>.

Palestine—Ms. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), organized a celebration on the occasion of World Statistics Day (Better Data. Better Lives) on October 20th under the patronage of HE Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of Palestine, and in the presence of HE Dr. Rami Hamdallah, Prime Minister.

Visiting delegations included a number of heads of Arabic statistical and international bodies, Arab institutions, international and foreign organisations and international experts in the field of official statistics, research institutions, and members of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) & International Statistical Institute (ISI). Ms.Awad mentioned that the conference coincides with Palestine heading the IAOS, and an international move towards working with sustainable development indicators (SDG). Decision – and policy-makers were encouraged to use official statistics when monitoring the impact of economic and social policies on the various aspects of life in Palestine. The event aimed to increase awareness about the importance of impartial official statistics, especially to monitor and measure the achievement of development plans in various sectors of the State of Palestine. In 2017, Palestine will undertake its third "2017 Population, Housing and Establishment Census." PCBS will lead the nationwide process.

United States—Larry Lesser’s statistics song parody “The Gambler” was judged one of the winning songs in the fall 2015 math song contest conducted by the US National Museum of Mathematics. Winning writers performed to a full house at the Museum (<https://in.momath.org/civicrm/event/info?id=498&reset=1>; <http://momath.org/home/the-open-set/>) and an attendee captured this footage from Larry’s performance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0_BR-LyKAY. “The Gambler”, the “Best Online Submission” in the 2014 ASA’s Got Talent competition, is part of Larry’s broader efforts in educating about lotteries (<http://www.math.utep.edu/Faculty/lesser/lottery.html>) as well as using music as a way to motivate mathematics/statistics (<http://www.math.utep.edu/Faculty/lesser/Mathmusician.html>).

Statisticians who have not yet visited North America’s only major mathematics museum may appreciate its Edge FX exhibit in which a quincunx (Galton board) interactively explores binomial distributions and when they are approximated well by normal distributions, and includes a lever allowing the visitor to adjust the probability of each ball going to the left each time it falls.

Nigeria—The Federal University, Lafia, Nasarawa State, has appointed its first professor and graduated six first-class students from among its 199 pioneer students. The university’s Vice-Chancellor, (V-C) Prof. Ekanem Braide, announced this earlier this month at the inaugural lecture in Lafia delivered by the newly appointed Professor Mbe Egom-Nja. Egom-Nja is a statistician.

Details are available at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201512171354.html>

Australia—The National Institute for Applied Statistics Research Australia (NIASRA) at the University of Wollongong will be hosting [StatsWeek@UOW 2016](#) from 1 to 5 February on the Wollongong Campus.

StatsWeek consists of the following three courses:

(1) High-Dimensional Data Analysis, A short course with Olivier Thas (Ghent University)

Monday and Tuesday, 1-2 February 2016
\$800, \$700 SSAI Members, \$400 Students

High-dimensional data are generated by modern high-throughput technologies that have emerged in many disciplines such as genomics, brain imaging and the environmental sciences. Dimension-reduction is often required to analyse such data and it is important to select a method appropriate for the research question. This course offers practical intermediate-level coverage of the analysis of high-dimensional data with examples drawn from genomics, medicine, and the environmental sciences.

(2) Multi-Level Models for Social Network Analysis, A short course with Mark Tranmer (University of Manchester)

Wednesday, 3 February 2016

\$400, \$350 SSAI Members, \$200 Students

Social network analysis investigates connections (ties) between units (e.g. individuals, organisations) and the association of attributes of these units with their connections. Multilevel modelling is a well established method for the analysis of educational and geographical data – less so for social network data. This course explains how multi-level (mixed) models can be useful for social network analysis for ego-nets and network nodal attributes (see below).

(3) Social Network Analysis with Statnet, A short course with Pavel Krivitsky (University of Wollongong) and Martina Morris (University of Washington)

Thursday-Friday, 4-5 February 2016

\$800, \$700 SSAI Members, \$400 Students

This course will provide a practical introduction to social network analysis and modelling using R and the statnet suite of packages. It covers analytical methods for both cross-sectional (snapshot) and dynamic (temporally evolving) networks, including methods for egocentrically-sampled data. Practical examples focus on epidemiological applications such as HIV transmission dynamics.

You can register for one, two or all three courses. A 10% discount applies for multiple courses. Please visit the [NIASRA webpage](#) and click the StatsWeek link for more information and to register online. Places are limited and registrations will be processed in the order they arrive.

The City of Wollongong is located just 80km south of Sydney on a spectacular stretch of the southern New South Wales coast. Wollongong's natural environment offers pleasant summer weather and includes pristine beaches and a great network of walking/biking trails and dazzling views of the coastline along the escarpment to the west.

StatsWeek is sponsored by NIASRA and the University of Wollongong. If you have any questions, please contact Anica Damcevski at anica@uow.edu.au.

JOIN THE WORLD OF STATISTICS

If your organization or an organization you know of isn't yet participating in The World of Statistics, encourage them to join today. Joining is easy; just ask a representative of the group to go to www.worldofstatistics.org and click on the "Join" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official participating organization in The World of Statistics. Participation is valuable and is absolutely free!

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