



**ISBIS News**  
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**Editor:**

Werner G. Müller  
Department of Applied Statistics,  
Johannes-Kepler-University of  
Linz, Altenbergerstraße 69,  
A-4040 Linz, Austria,  
Tel. +43-732-2468-5880, E-mail:  
[werner.mueller@jku.at](mailto:werner.mueller@jku.at)

**Contributing Editors:**

Paulo Canas,  
Fabrizio Ruggeri,  
Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi.

**ISBIS website:**  
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President Elect: Vijay Nair  
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VP-Membership: Yulia Gel  
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**Editorial**

Again a little belated due to the long summer I can now present you the third issue of this years ISBIS News. There has been much development over the past months, particularly of course a change of presidency and executive council. Please take your time to read the column of our new president on the right as well as bio sketches of our new exec-council members Yulia Gel and Paulo Canas.

Although this newsletter now features a new column from our young members section y-BIS, there would be still plenty of space available for your contributions. As always I am therefore soliciting to submit all relevant information you have on

- member news,
- book reviews and alerts, particularly from members,
- software reviews,
- letters to the editor

for inclusion in the next issue planned for end of the year.

Please take also another note of our regular column about news from our journal ASMBI as well as a recent call for papers.

Do not forget to read more news on ISBIS, including reports from our successful conferences, in the latest ISI newsletter on

<http://isi.cbs.nl/newsltr.htm>

Best regards

Werner G. Müller

Editor ISBIS News

**President's column**



It is with a deep sense of honor but also with a great pleasure that I am

looking forward to my coming two-year presidency. Our first presidents, Abraham Bovas (2005-2007) and Nick Fischer (2007-2009) have successfully moved ISBIS forwards at a great speed and they deserve many thanks for their work. I do hope I will succeed in keeping up the momentum they manage to give to ISBIS. Especially the last two years were marked by a number of achievements, which Nick commented in our last Newsletter.

During the past few months many conferences took pace, where ISBIS played a significant role. They include:

- in June EURISBIS'09 in Cagliari, Italy. This was an European Regional Meeting of the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics. You will find read a summary of the conference our website [www.isbis.org](http://www.isbis.org) under 'past conferences' ([/doc/Report\\_Euribis09.pdf](#)).

- in August the 57th Session of the ISI in Durban, where ISBIS had organized or co-organized a number of excellent invited speaker sessions (Thanks here to Vijay Nair who has been acting as our contact person with ISIS to organize the ISBIS invited paper meetings).

- also in August the Stellenbosch Statistical Symposium sponsored by ISBIS and held as a Satellite Meeting to the ISI Session. You can read more on this fantastic meeting and the great location of Stellenbosch in the report written by Riaan de Jong our council member from South-Africa which



is also available on our web site under 'past conferences'.

- finally in September the 6th International Conference on Partial Least Squares, PLS'09, in Beijing, China. A report will be written and posted on the ISBIS web site soon.

During the ISI Session ISBIS held its annual administrative meetings (executive committee, council and general assembly). The ISBIS Report to the ISI General Assembly 2009 is by the way available on our website (under the executive and council tab under

[www.isbis.org/executive.html](http://www.isbis.org/executive.html)). To gain in efficiency the ISBIS administrative meetings were held together with the outgoing and incoming officers. This gave also the opportunity to the new ISBIS officers to meet the outgoing executive and council members. However the meetings were greatly overlapping in terms of attendees and discussed topics, therefore we may even go further in the future and hold executive and council meeting together. The general assembly must remain separate as it is a public meeting. The next officers meeting will take place during the biennial ISBIS Symposium next year in Portoroz, July 6-9, 2010, Slovenia ([www.action-m.com/isbis2010](http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010)).

In a nutshell here are the main priorities set up by the new executive:

1) membership and recruitment:

we want to increase membership and to this end a number of measures will be taken. In particular we will soon develop a leaflet which will be downloadable from our website describing ISBIS goals and membership benefits. Also the member registration process will be evaluated and improved.

2) y-Bis:

the establishment of y-Bis will start by setting up a website for y-Bis within the ISBIS website. Our Webmaster George Michaelidis and the Vice-President for y-Bis Paulo Canas Rodrigues have started working on this. Many more ideas are being put forward by Paulo and I hope to be able to report further on our progresses in the next Newsletter.

Of course the continuous development of our website is also of primordial importance. I take here the opportunity to ask all ISBIS members to send me or to George Michaelidis ([gmichail@umich.edu](mailto:gmichail@umich.edu)) suggestions for improvement or concerning the content of the website, e.g. new materials that you think might be useful to the ISBIS community.

As another point in relation to the website, I would like to remind you that all registered ISBIS members have free access to our journal Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI) via the 'Members Only' area on the ISBIS homepage. To enter this area you need your id (which is the full email address that you gave when registering for ISBIS) and a password (which is the part of your email address before the @-sign). After entering the "Members Only" area a new tab for ASMBI appears at the bottom of the button list on the left-hand side. (Please refer as well to Newsletter 2/2009 concerning the registration as Wiley Inter-science User). We are currently improving the updating process of the registered ISBIS members list but please note there may still be some delay between the time when member registration is activated and the accessibility to the member only area. Please contact the Vice-President for Membership Yulia Gel if you have difficulties with the registration process.

Finally let me conclude by mentioning the next ISBIS Regional Meeting which will take place in Venezuela, University of Carabobo in Valencia, from the 25th to the 29th of October 2009. The main

theme will be Industry and Environment. Please visit [www.ing.uc.edu.ve/ebcv2009/index.php](http://www.ing.uc.edu.ve/ebcv2009/index.php) for more information on this interesting conference (or look under "upcoming conferences" on [www.isbis.org](http://www.isbis.org)).

Sincerely,

Yves-Laurent Grize,

ISBIS President

### Bio sketch

Yulia R. Gel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Waterloo, Canada. She got her PhD degree in Mathematics from Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia. She held visiting positions at the University of Washington, George Washington University and University of California, Berkeley, USA.

Her main research interests concern time series analysis and spatio-temporal modeling, with applications ranging from weather and climate forecasting to legal statistics. Professor Gel is an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and Vice President Membership and Outreach of the International Society on Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS).





# International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics

Newsletter of the

A Section of the International Statistical Institute (<http://isi.cbs.nl/>)

## ISBIS Conferences

**6th Meeting Colombia Venezuela on Statistics:** Valencia, Venezuela, 25-29 October 2009



This meeting will take place at the University of Carabobo, the main theme this year will be Industry and Environment. Please visit:

[www.ing.uc.edu.ve/ebcv2009/indexe.php](http://www.ing.uc.edu.ve/ebcv2009/indexe.php)

**International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS-2010):** Portorož (Portorose) - Slovenia, July 6-9, 2010



The next biennial International Symposium for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS-2010) will now be held at an excellent venue in Slovenia, rather than Croatia, due to the unavailability of a suitable venue in Croatia.

ISBIS-2010 will be held at St. Bernardin Adriatic Resort & Convention Center located in lovely little coastal town Portorož (Portorose) in Slovenia, during 6-9 July, 2010, preceded by a Workshop day on 5 July. Apart from its broad coverage of topics, ISBIS-2010 will feature two particular areas of activity: industrial applications of Image Analysis (for which Professor Jean Serra, co-founder of Image Analysis and Mathematical Morphology is already confirmed as a Keynote Speaker), and current and future developments in handling large and complex data sets. There will also be sessions of particular interest to younger members of the statistical profes-

sion, organised by the ISBIS Young Statisticians group, y-BIS.

Stefan Steiner from the University of Waterloo (Canada) will chair the scientific program committee ([shsteine@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:shsteine@uwaterloo.ca)).

More details are available on the conference website:

[www.action-m.com/isbis2010](http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010)

**The 58th Biennial Session of the ISI** to be held in *Dublin, Ireland*, August 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2011.



The Programme Committee has now produced a draft list of invited sessions. Thanks to your submissions it was possible to select 5, which are now tentatively in the programme, running under ISBIS lead.

These are “Current Developments in Healthcare Engineering” organized by Ronald Does, “Boundary Crossing Probabilities and their Applications” by Liquan Wang, “New Applications of System Signatures in Reliability” by Frank Samaniego, “Sequential Computer Experiments” by Luc Pronzato, and “The Statistical Perspective to Social Network Analysis” by Giuseppe Giordano.

ISBIS is further cosponsoring a yet undetermined number of sessions and is thus well represented in the programme.

Topic contributed sessions can now be proposed directly to the local organizers via

[www.isi2011.ie](http://www.isi2011.ie)

and I am sure that they will be happy receiving further high-class ISBIS submissions.

Werner G. Müller

Programme Committee member

## The y-BIS column

the Young People's group in ISBIS

The y-BIS is now established as well as the founding y-BIS Executive Committee: Paulo Canas Rodrigues (Portugal) – Chair, Claudio Conversano (Italy) - Scientific Program Coordinator and Rafal Kulik (Canada) - Web Person.

Currently, our main priority is to set up our official web page to start the recruitment of y-BIS members. So far we have been developing the y-BIS social networking architecture on

- y-BIS Google Groups - <http://groups.google.com/group/y-bis?pli=1>

- for now this group is accessible by everyone but in a meddle term it will be only accessed by members (y-BIS and ISBIS), and will be the main social network used by y-BIS. Here the information will be always actualized and: (i) it includes a forum where different discussions can be created; (ii) it provides a mailing list - [y-bis@googlegroups.com](mailto:y-bis@googlegroups.com).

- We would like to ask not only to Young but also to Senior Statisticians to join us in this group in order to have higher level discussions in our forum.

- y-BIS facebook - [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=59908714019&ref=nf](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=59908714019&ref=nf)

- this group will be accessible by anyone and will act as a advertisement to attract new members to y-BIS.

Why to join y-BIS? We are planning to provide an interesting set of products and services to our group. Namely:





- “Ask y-BIS” - which aims to promote and exchange knowledge in business, financial and industrial statistics among young and senior statisticians;
- a jobs network - with jobs offers all over the world;
- statistical resources - (i) statistical papers databases; and (ii) statistical software;
- have a kind of “Mentorship” - interaction between a young researcher and a experienced one in order to get some help to (i) improve a paper before the final submission; (ii) write grant and projects applications; etc;
- organize special meetings for y-BIS;
- organize Invited Sessions and take part in Special Social events during the biennial ISBIS conferences.
- and... it's free for the first two years if you are a full time student!

As a short time plan we will take an important role during the next ISBIS conference to be held in Portorož (Portorose) - Slovenia, July 6-9, 2010. In this meeting we are planning to organize a few Invited Sessions and a Special Invited Session with an open discussion with Editors of different Journals where you can ask all those questions you couldn't ask before. In this meeting we will award the best papers by Young Statisticians.

Paulo Canas Rodrigues

Chair of the Founding y-BIS

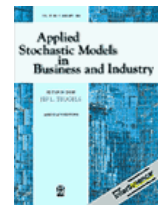
### **Bio sketch**

*Paulo Canas Rodrigues has made his graduation in Applied Mathematics by Nova University of Lisbon. After finishing his master studies in Statistics, by Instituto Superior Técnico - Technical University of Lisbon, he became a PhD student of Mathematics (speciality of Statistics) in Nova University of Lisbon under the supervision of Stanislaw Mejza and João Tiago Mexia.*

*The main focus of his PhD Thesis is Applied Statistics in Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Genetics. Besides these studies, he has some extra projects in Time Series and applications to Business and Industrial Statistics. Currently he is a Visiting Fellow and Teaching Assistant at Biometrics, Wageningen University, The Netherlands.*



### **What's new in ASMBI?**



Two new issues of ASMBI have been published (and a third is due very soon) since the previous ISBIS Newsletter. Continuing the “new” tradition of discussion papers, the third issue (May/June) contained the paper Model selection for generalized linear models with factor-augmented predictors by Tomohiro Ando and Ruey S. Tsay, whereas the forthcoming fifth issue (September/October) will present the paper Post-Financial Meltdown: What Do the Services Industries Need From Us Now? by Roger Hoerl and Ron Snee. The fourth issue (July/August) was entirely devoted to papers from the ISBIS conference in Azores in 2007 and Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi acted as Guest Editor for such issue. We are still waiting for the revision of two papers and then we will be ready to publish an issue devoted to papers presented at the ISBIS conference in Prague in 2008.

Another fruitful result of the cooperation between ASMBI and ISBIS is given by the ASMBI discussion paper sessions at ISBIS meetings; the most recent one, during the ISBIS regional meeting in Stellenbosch (South Africa) has seen a lively discussion by Nozer Singpurwalla and myself of the paper Understanding the Shape of the Mixture Failure Rate (with Engineering and Demographic Applications) by Maxim Finkelstein. The paper will be published in the sixth issue of ASMBI this year and we plan to start 2010 with the paper Data Analytics and Stochastic Modeling in a Semiconductor Fab by Ramesh Natarajan and five coauthors at IBM, followed in the second issue by a paper George



Michailidis few days ago agreed to write.

We are always looking for discussion papers and ISBIS members are kindly invited to suggest topics and possible authors (including themselves). In particular, we are looking forward to present a case study (always welcome at ASMBI!) in the ASMBI discussion paper session at the ISBIS conference in Portorose (Slovenia) in 2010.

Many interesting papers can be found in the recent issues and under the "Early View" section of the ASMBI web page. Listing all of them here would be very lengthy, so that I invite you to go the ASMBI webpage [www.interscience.wiley.com/journal/asmbi](http://www.interscience.wiley.com/journal/asmbi)

and look by yourselves (and I remind you that ASMBI can be accessed freely by ISBIS members).

Finally, I would like to inform you of the recent Call for papers on Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk which can be seen at the column to the right of this Newsletter.

As usual, I am looking forward to receiving your suggestions and best papers.

Fabrizio Ruggeri,

Editor-in-Chief, ASMBI  
([fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it](mailto:fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it))

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI)

Special issue of ASMBI on Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk

The objective of the special issue is to introduce a new theme, the use of game theory and decision theory in reliability analysis and risk analysis. In so doing, the special issue aims to bring together novel research from disciplines that have a lot to contribute to this theme, including economics, engineering, finance, mathematics, medical sciences, probability, and statistics.

The issue will not only consider papers presented at the 1st Symposium on Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk which was held at The George Washington University on May 27-28, 2009, but will also be open to public for submission of papers relevant to the theme.

The deadline for submission of papers is January 31, 2010. The papers should be submitted at

[mc.manuscriptcentral.com/asmbi](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/asmbi)

following the ASMBI author submission guidelines given on [www.interscience.wiley.com/journal/asmbi](http://www.interscience.wiley.com/journal/asmbi)

The editor of the special issue is:

Refik Soyer  
Department of Decision Sciences  
The George Washington University  
Washington, DC 20052  
Tel: +1-202-994 6445  
Fax: +1-202-994 2736  
Email: [soyer@gwu.edu](mailto:soyer@gwu.edu)

## ISBIS website ([www.isbis.org](http://www.isbis.org))

The address of the official ISBIS website is [www.isbis.org](http://www.isbis.org). This is the place to look for up-to-date information on the activities of ISBIS including a member-only zone with electronic access to the ASMBI-Journal, list of members, papers from past conferences and much more.

For further information on the website, or suggestions for its content, please contact Yves Grize (ISBIS President Elect) at: [yves-laurent.grize@baloise.ch](mailto:yves-laurent.grize@baloise.ch)

(Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi)

## ISBIS Membership

ISBIS membership is open to all individuals and organizations with a professional interest in any aspect of business, financial and industrial statistics. There are individual, institutional, and student memberships. Details and application forms can be obtained from the ISBIS website

([www.isbis.org](http://www.isbis.org))  
or contact Yves-Laurent Grize ([yves-laurent.grize@baloise.ch](mailto:yves-laurent.grize@baloise.ch))  
or Yulia R. Gel ([ygl@math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ygl@math.uwaterloo.ca)).

If you are already a member of the ISI and one of its sections, you can add ISBIS to your membership for a small fee by sending a mail to Margaret de Ruiter-Molloy in the ISI office ([mmly@cbs.nl](mailto:mmly@cbs.nl)).

You can now renew your ISBIS membership electronically by using the form on: <http://isi.cbs.nl/intro-payment.htm>

(Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi)