STATS MATTERS & EVENTS

5 October 2023

As I have mentioned before, the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) thrives thanks to its many wonderful volunteers. For insurance purposes, we recently had to calculate how many volunteers we have as part of our support network and realised it's well over 100. Thank you to each and every one of them.

Today I want to pick out and thank one volunteer in particular: the SSA Honorary Secretary, Dr Doug Shaw. The reason why I'm writing about Doug is because I came across a document yesterday, showing that Doug has held the role of SSA's Secretary for 20 years. The anniversary of his appointment was in July this year and I'm sorry I wasn't aware of it then and made more of a fuss over it.

To those who don't know, being the Secretary of the SSA is not a volunteer job one just does "on the side". It involves more than just reading the reports for the monthly Executive Committee meeting, attending the meeting itself and then enjoying peace and quiet for another month. Doug deals with SSA matters most days of the week. There are emails to read, decisions to make and tasks to follow through with. Doug is a human encyclopedia of anything to do with SSA. He has SSA's Rules and Regulations fully memorised and knows SSA's history in and out. When a question about something which happened in

the past comes up, it's always easier to simply ask Doug, rather than work your way through the archive.

Doug calls me every workday to check in on matters pertaining to SSA, giving me the opportunity to raise issues, or to share my exuberance over something that has gone well. He always shows patience and kindness and I could not work for a better boss. Doug made it clear early on that he was calling for my benefit. Not only do his calls give me the opportunity to ask questions or update him on certain matters, but the daily conversations with Doug provide human interaction which this job does not have a lot of. We have worked together for over fifteen years and Doug's support and involvement are very much appreciated.

I should mention that while Doug has been SSA's Secretary for twenty years, he held other volunteer positions for SSA before then. His life is closely entwined with SSA and the Society would not be what it is today without him.

Thank you for your very significant contribution, Doug, and your ongoing support of SSA.

[Marie-Louise Rankin](#)
Executive Officer

Read newsletter in your [browser](#)

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News from SSA's Mentoring Program Committee

The SSA mentoring program committee recently wrapped up the 2023 SSA Mentoring Program. Once again, they received generally positive feedback from program participants; with respondents reporting high enjoyment and achievement, and almost all participants recommending the program!

This is also a great opportunity to highlight the wonderful contribution from SSA's mentors to the program over the years. The program has been made possible with the participation of a total of **57 mentors** since the pilot program in 2020. **Seventeen** of these mentors have participated in the program over multiple years, and **four** mentors have mentored in all four years of the program.Thanks to all mentors, a total of **81 mentees** have been able to participate in the program over its four years so far.

Curious how you can get involved? Are you an early or mid-career statistician looking for support to grow and develop your career? Or are you a more experienced statistician looking to share your skills and experience with a new generation of statisticians? This program may be for you!

Applications for the 2024 SSA Mentoring Program are now open!

The committee will be looking for up to 20 mentor-mentee pairs to participate in the 6-month mentoring program starting in March 2024. Training for the 2024 program will involve two group sessions on the 22nd and 23rd of February 2024 with facilitator Dr Shane Huntington OAM.

Applications for the 2024 program will close on Monday 30th October. The application form is available via the [SSA Mentoring website](#).

Successful applicants will be notified in January 2024.

If you have any questions about the mentoring program, please email the [SSA Mentoring Committee](#).

SSA Mentoring Program Committee

Karen Lamb (Program Co-Chair), Lizzie Korevaar (Program Co-Chair), Nicole White, Andrea Peng, Julie Simpson and Taya Collyer

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SSA NSW Travel Grant recipients announced!

SSA NSW Branch is pleased to announce the recipients of the Travel Grant to

the Australian Statistical Conference 2023:

1. *Mohammad Javad Davoudabadi, University of Sydney*
2. *Jackson Zhou, University of Sydney*
3. *Yunwei Zhang, Macquarie University*
4. *Monique Jordan, University of Wollongong*
5. *Don Rajitha Malshan Athukorala, University of Sydney*
6. *Xiaotian Zhenga,University of Wollongong*
7. *Coralie Williams, University of New South Wales*
8. *Qian Jin, University of New South Wales*

Congratulations to the above students and early-career researchers, and we hope that your attendance at ASC2023 will be both academically rewarding and professionally enriching!

Statisticians' wages in decline

This week, Microsoft Start shared an article by Jessica Lindsay, listing the best and worst jobs for getting a pay rise in the UK. Ms Lindsay based her article on figures published by RIFT, a UK based company issuing tax refunds. You may not like where they placed the profession of "statistician".

In their research, RIFT discovered that more than 60 professions experienced a decline in wages in recent years. Interestingly, those at the lower end of the pay scale often fared better on an annual basis.

Among these professions, authors, writers and translators faced the most significant salary reduction, with their incomes dropping by 17.6% compared to the previous year, amounting to a reduction of over £6,000. Managers working in the creative industries also experienced a substantial decline of 17.1%, bringing their annual earnings down from £48,438 to £40,170.

Notably, actuaries, economists and statisticians came in third place, suffering a pay decrease of 15.2%, equivalent to £8,670. They were followed by travel agent owners and managers, insurance underwriters and legal professionals.

Hopefully this is a UK based trend only.

Read the full article [here](#).

The worldwide picture of wealth inequality

If you have a thing for numbers, check out these:

Credit Suisse's and UBS' Global Wealth Report 2023 analyses the household wealth of 5.4 billion people across the globe. According to the report, the top 1% of the world's population possesses 43% of the planet's wealth, whereas the least affluent 50% controls a mere 1% of global assets. These figures underscore a substantial disproportion in wealth distribution on a global level.

Some of the key findings of the report are:

- Measured in current nominal USD, total net private wealth fell by USD 11.3 trillion (–2.4%) to USD 454.4 trillion at the end of 2022.
- Wealth per adult also declined by USD 3,198 (–3.6%) to reach USD 84,718 per adult at the end of the year.
- Much of this decline comes from the appreciation of the US dollar against many other currencies.
- Financial assets contributed most to wealth declines in 2022 while non-financial assets (mostly real estate) stayed resilient, despite rapidly rising interest rates.
- Global wealth is expected to rise by 38% over the next five years, reaching USD 629 trillion by 2027.
- Growth by middle-income countries will be the primary driver of global trends.
- The authors estimate wealth per adult to reach USD 110,270 in 2027 and the number of millionaires to reach 86 million while the number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) is likely to rise to 372,000 individuals.

Read the full report or an executive summary of the report here.

Monash EBS PhD Contest

We are excited to announce a special session organised by the Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics at Monash University in celebration of the International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science (10 October 2023).

The department is inviting all female PhD students in Statistics and Data Science to submit abstracts of their research projects for consideration. This is a unique opportunity to share your work with a global audience of professionals, academics, and fellow students.

They are offering a cash prize of 500 AUD to the participant who delivers the

best presentation during the session. This award is intended to recognise and support the outstanding contributions of female PhD students.

A panel of three experts from their department, each with extensive experience in Statistics, Econometrics, and Actuarial Science, will carefully review the submitted abstracts based on the quality, relevance, and innovation of the research.

The top 3/4 submissions will be selected for presentation during the session at the conference.

Interested participants should submit their abstracts (maximum 300 words) along with their full name, university affiliation, and contact details to **hamza.hanbali@monash.edu** by 8 October 2023, 6pm AEDT.

For inquiries or further information, please contact **hamza.hanbali@monash.edu.**

Nominations open for the Rousseeuw Prize for Statistics

Statistics is a cornerstone of science, health, industry, economics, government and more, and benefits society as a whole. The Rousseeuw Prize for Statistics awards pioneering work in statistical methodology. The prize recognizes a statistical innovation, that is, an outstanding contribution or tool that has had significant impact and found wide application in statistical practice, with relevance to society.

The biennial Rousseeuw Prize for Statistics is awarded by the King Baudouin Foundation, a large public utility foundation in Belgium. The prize is named after its sponsor, the statistician Peter J. Rousseeuw. The prize focuses on the innovation rather than on a single individual. This allows recognition of several individuals who made significant contributions to it. One of the goals of awarding the people who created such an innovation, is to promote awareness of the important role and intellectual content of statistics and its profound impact on human endeavors.

The first prize was awarded in October 2022, and the next prize will be awarded in 2024. The award amount is one million US dollars, to be split over awardees if there are several, which it is hoped will typically be the case. The award ceremony is scheduled in the fall of 2024 at the University of Leuven, Belgium.

The 2022 prize went to a topic in biostatistics: *Causal inference with*

applications in Medicine and Public Health. The laureates were James Robins, Andrea Rotnitzky, Miguel Hernan, Thomas Richardson and Eric Tchetgen Tchetgen. They carried out this research mainly in the United States.

In 2024 the prize can be awarded in any of the other four subfields of statistics: (1) general statistical methodology, (2) computational statistics and data science, (3) statistics in the physical sciences and industry, and (4) statistics in economics and humanities. To ensure geographic diversity over time, the 2024 prize cannot go to work carried out in the United States, Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, or the United Kingdom.

Nominations, including letters of recommendation, are to be submitted by 29 **February 2024** on the website which contains all information about the prize and nomination procedure.

For the organizers,

Mia Hubert and Stefan Van Aelst

Cyber Risk Management Essential Tips and Must Haves!

Members of SSA get special rates with KBI. Find out more.

Cyber Risk Management: Essential Tips & Must Haves

Multifactor Authentication

Cyber Security Framework

Zero Trust Architecture

Vendor Risk Management Programme

Effective Incident Response Plan

Undertake Security Awareness Training for Staff

Engage Regular Penetration Testing Schedule

Reliable Data Backup Process and Plan

SSA Events

Statistical Consulting Network Monthly Meet-Up

27 October 2023, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM AEDT, held online

Come along with your thinking cap, maybe a problem, and some lunch!

The Statistical Consulting Network invites you to their monthly meet-up, a virtual lunchtime meeting where statisticians help each other out with problems that they aren't sure how to deal with. This virtual meeting is held on Zoom at lunchtime on the last Friday of each month, 12:30-1:30 PM (AEDT). We start each meet-up with announcements, or occasionally a special topic discussion, then discuss problems that attendees have brought along with them.

We also have a Slack workspace where members of the consulting network can communicate between meetings, or post problems or relevant materials

they would like to discuss during a meeting.

Zoom link

Password: 660145

Slack Workspace link

Canberra Branch Meeting -- Bayesian Inference for Construction of Inverse Models from Data

10 Oct 2023, 5:45 PM – 7:00 PM (AEDT), In-person and online via Zoom

SSA Canberra invites you to its September (technically first October) branch meeting of 2023, which is joint with the ABS, and will feature **Robert Niven from UNSW Canberra** present on the topic of **"Bayesian Inference for Construction of Inverse Models from Data"**

This talk considers the inverse problem **y** =f(**x**), where **x** and **y** are observable parameters, in which we wish to recover the model f. Examples include dynamical systems or combat models with **y**=d**x**/dt and **x**=parameter(s), water catchments with **y**=streamflow and **x**=rainfall, and groundwater vulnerability with **y**=pollutant concentration(s) and **x**=hydrological parameter(s). Historically, these have been solved by many methods, including regression or sparse regularization for dynamical system models, and various empirical correlation methods for rainfall-runoff and groundwater vulnerability models. These can instead be analyzed within a Bayesian framework, using the maximum a posteriori (MAP) method to estimate the model parameters, and the Bayesian posterior distribution to estimate the parameter variances (uncertainty quantification). For systems with unknown covariance parameters, the joint maximum a-posteriori (JMAP) and variational Bayesian approximation (VBA) methods can be used for their estimation. In this seminar, the Bayesian theoretical foundations are first explained, and the method is then demonstrated for a number of dynamical and hydrological systems.

If you are interested in attending the dinner, please let the Canberra Branch know by **5pm Monday 9 October** by entering your details at SSA Canberra Branch dinner attendance sheet or contacting Warren Muller (warren.muller@csiro.au ; 0407 916 868).

SSA Vic & Tas Belz Lecture

Join us for the SSA Vic & Tas branch's annual Belz Lecture, where we'll hear

from Professor Inge Koch in her talk titled "Mathematics, Gender and Statistics". Following the talk in-person attendees are invited to join us for dinner to be held at University House The Woodward

Tuesday 17th October, 5:45pm - 7:15pm AEDT, The University of Melbourne or online via Zoom

Registration

followed by the

SSA Vic & Tas Belz Lecture Dinner

The Victorian and Tasmanian Branch of the Statistical Society of Australia warmly invites members and guests our to premier social event of the year, the Belz Dinner. The Belz Dinner will be held at University House at the Woodward from 7:30PM. Join us for a three-course dinner and beautiful views.

Tuesday 17th October, The Woodward, University House, The University of Melbourne

Registration

SA Young Statistician Career Event

18 Oct 2023, 5:00 PM – 7:15 PM (ACDT), Seminar Room 214, The Braggs Building, The University of Adelaide

If you are beginning your career in statistics and would like to meet employers and other statisticians in SA, this event is for you! The event is open to members and non-members of The Statistical Society of Australia.

You will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss the following topics:

- Which organisations employ statisticians in South Australia
- What type of technical skills employers look for in a statistician
- Key points to consider to get job-ready and some pearls of wisdom from seasoned professionals!

For a list of Employer representatives and to register on Eventbrite click here.

RSVP required by COB Monday, 16 October.

ECSSN and NZSA October Webinar: An academic journey in pursuing

the art of statistics - Dr Emi Tanaka

26 Oct 2023, 3:00 PM (AEDT), online

Statistics can be considered both an art and a science.

The science of statistics is concerned with the mathematical, computational, or formal methods to abstract procedures or proofs related to extracting targeted information from theoretical or empirical data. This scientific approach is characterised by rigour, precision and exactness, ensuring that statistical analyses and conclusions are based on sound principles and valid methodologies.

The art of statistics involves the creative and interpretive elements of working with data. It includes the human judgement, intuition and understanding in the statistical process or communication that ultimately feeds in as input for conducting the "science". Concrete examples include making (informed) decisions for data pre-processing, defining data structure for study designs, and interpretation of the statistical results.

In practice, we require both the art and science of statistics to be effective. However, research and teaching of statistics is skewed towards the science, and there is little formal or systematic training for the art of statistics. In this talk, Emi will share her academic journey and demonstrate some of her research that leans towards the art of statistics through reforming the approach to statistical software as cognitive tools that enable the science.

To register click here.

Australian Statistical Conference (ASC) and Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics (OZCOTS)

Program available [here](#).

ASC and OZCOTS 2023 Social Events

Early Career and Student Statisticians Network ASC Social on 12 December 2023, held at the Illawarra Brewery's outdoor terrace at WINN stadium. The ECSSN is organising a social get-together during the ASC2023! They are inviting students, early career and more senior statisticians to join them a lovely beach view and network with like-minded people you might not see very often, plus have some fun, nibbles, and drinks!

Statistical Conference Dinner on 13 Dec 2023, at the Grand Ballroom at the Sage Hotel. Just minutes from the beach, come and join us for a three-course dinner. (You register on the same page as the conference registration page)

[OZCOTS 2023 Social](#) on 14 Dec 2023, at Lucia's by the Sea, next to the Novotel Hotel. The OZCOTS committee invites you to come and join them for a lovely meal and catch-up at a beautiful beach front venue.

Other events

Value of Networking and Mentoring to Achieve Your Best:

Do you have to be a Superwoman to be Successful?

A free webinar, presented by the ISI Committee on Women in Statistics (CW-ISI) and proudly sponsored by SSA.

Registrations opening soon.

8 November 2023, 23pm-24:00 AEDT

Speaker: Professor Ayse Aysin Bilgin

Abstract: What does a statistician do as part of her job whether she is an academic or working in industry? She works in teams and almost never alone. Therefore, the skills that facilitate working together are as important as the knowledge of statistics to be successful. Are you able to identify opportunities to become an integral part of your workplace? What is important? What is not? How can you create more time to deal with all interesting opportunities? Have you ever considered becoming a mentor or have you ever needed a mentor? How can you benefit from a mentor-mentee relationship? Do you have to be a superwoman to be successful? Are you able to value your own work? Some of these questions raised has been part of many research projects in workplaces, some in literature too. Come alone so that we can answer the questions together. I hope that you will be armed with more positive expectations of future possibilities and notice that how important to appreciate and acknowledge your own work and achievements.

Short Biography: Prof Ayse Aysin Bilgin

BEng., MBA, MMaths, PhD, PostGradDip HE (L&T), MHE (L&M)

Ayse is an Associate Professor in the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at Macquarie University. She is the Past-President of the [International Association for Statistical Education](#)(IASE) and an elected

Member of the [International Statistical Institu](#)te (ISI). Ayse's research explores applications of statistics in health sciences and learning and teaching in statistics. Ayse is an academic who uses her statistical knowledge to improve health and wellbeing as well as improving learning and teaching of statistics.

Digital Society: Social science perspectives for a better future, presented by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Tickets are now on sale now!

Join us at the National Library of Australia in Canberra for a national symposium exploring critical issues surrounding our current and future digital world on Friday 24 November 2023.

Engage with experts from diverse social science fields as we explore lessons learned from past experiences with technology and artificial intelligence and apply these to today's rapidly changing landscape. Dive into conversations on digital inclusion, accessibility, equity, and the risks associated with the transition to a global digital society.

This symposium will tackle the pivotal policy and social questions that demand our attention as we navigate the path forward.

Who should attend?

This is a must-attend event for anyone wanting to understand and shape the digital landscape of tomorrow. Whether you're an academic, researcher, policymaker, industry professional or work at the intersection of technology and society, this symposium offers a unique platform to delve into critical issues surrounding our evolving digital world.

Register [here](#)to access early bird discounts before Friday 6 October (that's tomorrow!).

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4 - 7 January 2024
Melbourne, Australia

IMS - Asia Pacific Rim Meeting 2024 - Melbourne, Australia

Abstract submission is now open for talks in contributed sessions.

Sessions will be organised into general themes. Each talk will be a total of 20 minutes in length (about 15-16 minutes for the talk and allow for 4-5 minutes of questions).

Early career researchers and PhD students are particularly encouraged to submit abstracts to present their work at the conference.

Once your abstract is submitted, the Committee will notify acceptances on a rolling basis. You should expect a notification with the outcome within approximately 2-3 weeks of submission. Once your abstract is accepted, you will be provided with further instructions on finalising your registration for the conference.

Please submit your abstract via Oxford Abstracts through the link at https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/6093/submitter

Details: https://ims-aprm2024.com/submissions/

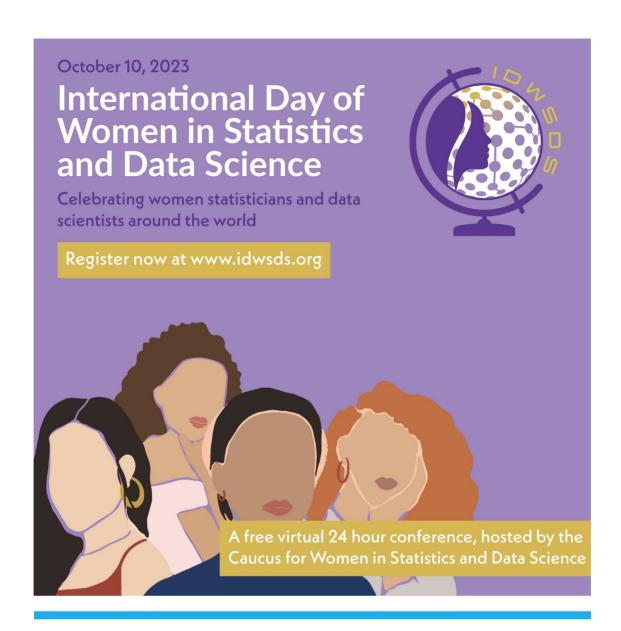Early bird ticket price is extended until October 14. Register here!

We are still calling for Contributed Talks, please submit here. Deadline for abstract submission is 31 October.

Three Plenary Speakers: Ruth Williams (University of California – San Diego), Bin Yu (University of California – Berkeley), Jianqing Fan (Princeton University)

International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science

Don't miss this year's International Day of Women in Statistics and Data Science event, celebrated on 10 October 2023. Running over 24 hours, it features speakers from all over the world, including "our very own" Associate Professor Ayse Aysin Bilgin.

Read Ayse's abstract here.

Bayes on the Beach 2024

2023 International Biometric Society Australasian Region conference,
27 Nov 2023 – 1 Dec 2023, Bay of Islands, NZ

AMSI Summer School
8 January - 2 February 2023, Canberra

Current Vacancies in SSA's Career Centre

Senior Accountant - HYBRID

Tampa, FL

Taylor White

Terrific client company is continuing to expand ...

[Senior Analyst FP&A](#)

Tampa, FL

Taylor White

Dynamic client company has created a new high-profile ...

[Corporate Controller](#)

Tampa, FL

Taylor White

We have an expanding real estate client that ...

[Accounting Manager - Special Projects](#)

Tampa, FL

Taylor White

We are working with a global market leader to ...

[External Financial Reporting Manager - HYBRID](#)

Tampa, FL

Taylor White

Are you a stellar financial reporting professional ...

[Internal Revenue Agent (Examiner) - DIRECT HIRE (12 MONTH REGISTER)](#)

Multiple Locations (See Description)

Internal Revenue Service

Summary: Positions under this announcement are ...

[0110379 Lecturer/Senior Lecturer (Teaching and Research) - Business Analytics](#)

New South Wales

The University of Sydney

Full time continuing teaching and research postJoin ...

[Statistical Consultants](#)

New South Wales

Stats Central UNSW

Work type:Full Time / Part Time Location:Sydney, ...

[Lecturer in Applied Statistics](#)

Western Australia

Curtin University

A new role for a statistician to teach data science ...

[Statistician](#)

New South Wales

Nursing Research Institute

Join a vibrant team of researchers and clinicians ...

[View All Jobs](#)

If you have news from the Australian statistical community to share in Stats Matters and Events, please get in touch [with us](#)! We love getting feedback too.