Report of ICORS-LACSC 2019

The 4th edition of the Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing (4th LACSC) took place on May 28-31, 2019 at ESPOL Polytechnic University in Guayaquil, Ecuador. For this year's edition, LACSC was jointly organized with the International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS), which is an important event worldwide in the field of robust statistics. ICORS-LACSC 2019 had 115 participants that came from 17 different countries. In total, 94 presentations were organized in 4 Keynote Sessions, 10 Invited Paper Sessions –one of them an IBIS-IPS, 17 Contributed Paper Sessions and Poster Session. The Keynote speakers of ICORS-LACSC 2019 were:

- Stefan Van Aelst (KU Leuven, Belgium),
- Dirk Eddelbuettel (University of Illinois, USA),
- Ana Bianco (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina) and
- Gareth James (University of Southern California, USA).

Among the Invited speakers we had:

- Xuming He (University of Michigan, USA),
- Vanda Lourenço (The New University of Lisbon, Portugal),
- Maria-Pia Victoria-Feser (University of Geneva, Switzerland),
- Verónica González-López (University of Campinas, Brazil),
- Martha Bohórquez-Castañeda (National University of Colombia),
- Daniela Rodríguez (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina),
- Klaus Nordhausen (TU Wien, Austria),
- Paulo Canas Rodrigues (Federal University of Bahia, Brazil),
- David Muñoz (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México),
- Nalini Ravishanker (University of Connecticut, USA),
- Francisco Louzada (University of São Paulo, Brazil), among others.

Several topics were covered during the conference that included advances in Bayesian Statistics, Stochastic Processes, Optimization heuristics, Robust and Clustering Methods in Time Series Analysis, Functional Data Analysis, Statistical Software, Parallel Computing, Deep Learning, Distribution Theory, Multivariate Statistics, Statistical Modeling, Statistical Inference, Spatial Statistics, Robust estimation and inference as well as applications to Economics, Finance, Quality Control, Social Sciences, Environmental Sciences, among others.

The Scientific Program Committee (SPC) of LACSC was chaired by Paulo Canas Rodrigues while the SPC of ICORS was chaired by Peter Rousseeuw (KU Leuven, Belgium). The Chair

of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) was Holger Cevallos-Valdiviezo (ESPOL Polytechnic University, Ecuador). ICORS-LACSC 2019 had the support of the Tourism Office of Guayaquil. In addition, 23 full and partial scholarships were granted to participants from developing countries, under the sponsorship of IASC. As in the past LACSC editions, the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing (LARS-IASC) organized the Best Paper Award and the Best Poster Award competition. This year, the winners were:

Best Paper Award:

"*On moments of folded and truncated multivariate extended skew-normal distributions*" authored by Christián Galarza, Larissa Matos and Victor Lachos.

"*A general dynamic factor approach to forecast conditional covariance matrices in high-dimensional data*" authored by Carlos Trucios Maza.

Best Poster Award:

"*Implications of assumptions verification in the means comparison tests*" authored by Pablo Flores and Jordi Ocaña.

"*Classification for geostatistical functional data using depth*" authored by Angie Navarrete, Rubén Guevara, Martha Bohórquez-Castañeda and Jan Bacca.

ICORS-LACSC 2019 was a unique opportunity for these two statistical communities to gather together. Participants from both communities had the opportunity to mingle during the conference itself and during the social events. The social events included a city tour to Guayaquil Downtown and the Conference Dinner. During the city tour, participants had the opportunity to visit the Iguana Park where the green iguanas were observed resting on trees and gardens, Guayaquil Cathedral, Malecón 2000 located next to the Guayas river, the hillside village

Dance performance at Guayaquil Historic Park

of "Las Peñas" with its colorful and Spanish architectural style houses, "La Perla" Ferris Wheel where the participants could have a panoramic view of the city, and the Artisanal Market. The conference dinner was held at "Casa Julián" restaurant in Guayaquil Historic Park. The conference dinner started with a guided tour around historical houses in the park where participants could learn about the lifestyle of Guayaquileneans during the colonial period and enjoyed traditional performances such as "Amorfinos" and typical dances of the Ecuadorian coastal region. Motivated by the atmosphere, some participants joined the performers and showed off their latin dancing skills. After the performances, a traditional Ecuadorian meal was served.

Opening Ceremony of ICORS-LACSC 2019

Juergen Symanzik, 2017-2019 IASC President-Elect, at the Opening Ceremony of ICORS-LACSC 2019

During a coffee break of ICORS-LACSC 2019. From left to right: Rodrigo Salas, Terezinha Ribeiro and Gustavo Di Giorgi, participants of ICORS-LACSC 2019

ICORS-LACSC 2019 was a successful conference. The Book of Abstracts, the full program and pictures containing great memories of the conference can be found at icors-lacsc-2019.com.

LACSC contributed talk

A group of participants of ICORS-LACSC 2019 at Malecón 2000

Having a drink next to Guayas river at Malecón 2000

Poster session of ICORS-LACSC 2019

David Muñoz, LARS Chairperson, during his invited talk

Participants of ICORS-LACSC 2019

Report of 2nd LARS-IASC School on Computational Statistics and Data Science

THE 2ND LARS – IASC SCHOOL

The 2nd LARS-IASC School on Computational Statistics and Data Science was held at ESPOL Polytechnic University in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on May 26-27, 2019. This was a satellite event of ICORS-LACSC 2019. The school was organized by LARS-IASC and ESPOL Polytechnic University.

From left to right: Holger Cevallos-Valdiviezo (ICORS-LACSC 2019 LOC Chair), Stefan Van Aelst and Peter Rousseeuw (2nd LARS-IASC School instructors)

A 2nd LARS-IASC School session

Participants of the 2nd LARS-IASC School

The school theme of this edition was Robust Statistics. The instructors were Prof. Peter Rousseeuw and Prof. Stefan Van Aelst, both from KU Leuven (Belgium). The program included the following topics: introduction to robust statistics, robust multivariate methods, robust regression, robust PCA, advanced topics on robust statistics and recent developments. The School gathered 20 participants: 13 from Ecuador, 2 from México, 1 from Brazil, 1 from Chile, 1 from Ghana, 1 from Panama, and 1 from Venezuela. As for the conference, IASC supported 7 full scholarships and 1 partial scholarship for participants of the 2nd LARS-IASC School coming from developing countries.

Forthcoming Event: Fifth Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing LACSC 2020

The Department of Statistics and the Department of Industrial & Operations Engineering of the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) are proud to announce the V Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing (LACSC 2020) to be held in Mexico City from June 9 to June 11, 2020.

LACSC is the annual conference of the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing (LARS-IASC). The main purpose of LACSC is to foster the progress of the theory, methods and practice of statistical computing in Latin America. In 2020 we will have the 5th edition of LACSC in Mexico City, following its previous annual editions in Gramado (Brazil), Valparaíso (Chile), San José (Costa Rica), and Guayaquil (Ecuador). LACSC invites contributions on Statistical Computing, Data Science, Multivariate Statistics, Classification, Data Mining, Optimization, Modeling, Applications, Big Data, Optimization Heuristics, Machine Learning, among others.

Forthcoming Event: COMSTAT Conference, Bologna, 2020

The 24th International Conference on Computational Statistics will take place at the University of Bologna, Italy, 25-28 August 2020.

The website has been launched: www.compstat2020.org.

The following 3 keynote speakers confirmed their participation:

- Igor Pruenster (Bocconi University, Italy),
- Holger Dette (Ruhr-University of Bochum, Germany), and
- Jean-Michel Zakoian (ENSAE, France).

The conference will comprise 8 invited special sessions and 53 organized invited sessions. The organizers also encourage contributed talks and posters. The abstract submission deadline is 17 April 2020 for invited and organized sessions and 15 May 2020 for contributed talks.

Call for Contributed Talks and Posters for the 2019 IASC-ARS Conference – 2-5 December 2019, Hong Kong

The 11th IASC-ARS Conference (saasweb.hku.hk/conference/iasc-ars2019) will be held at the University of Hong Kong, China, on 2-5 December 2019. The theme of the conference is "Statistical Computing for AI and Big Data". The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for the discussion and exchange of ideas, new concepts and recent methods in statistics. Philip Leung-ho Yu from the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Hong Kong will be the General Chair of the conference.

This conference will provide a platform for researchers from academia and industry to share their latest findings, exhibit the latest studies and applications, and build up networks with peers in a variety of areas, including but not limited to, Bayesian computation, big data analytics, biostatistics, computer graphics, computer intensive inferential methods, data mining and machine learning, econometrics, graphical models, image processing and uncertainty quantification.

The conference will consist of keynote speeches, tutorials, invited talks, contributed talks and posters. The official language for all submissions is English.

Submission of abstracts for contributed talks and posters may be made via the online submission system (www.conftool.org/iasc-ars2019). The submission deadline is 31 May 2019. All submissions will be reviewed and selected by a panel of experts in the field. Authors will be notified of the review panel's decision by 30 June 2019. Click here for the poster of Call for Contributed Talks and Posters for the details.

Keynote Speakers: Wolfgang Karl Hardle, Jun Liu, and Qiwei Yao

Local organizer: Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Hong Kong

We look forward to seeing you in Hong Kong to attend the IASC-ARS 2019 conference and to experience the fusion of Chinese and Western cultures and beauty of Hong Kong!

Important Dates:

31 May 2019	Deadline for submission of abstracts of invited talks/contributed talks/posters
30 June 2019	Notification of acceptance of contributed talks/posters
31 July 2019	Early bird registration closes
2-5 December 2019	Conference

Centennial Campus of the University of Hong Kong

Avenue of Stars at Tsim Sha Tsui

Chinese traditional theatre (Xiqu) Centre at the West Kowloon Cultural District

Report of DSSV 2019

The 2019 edition of the IASC organised conference on Data Science, Statistics, and Visualisation (DSSV 2019) took place on August 13-15, 2019, at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan, as a satellite meeting of the 62nd ISI World Statistics Congress. The conference had 216 attendants from fifteen countries. Several state-of-the-art presentations were given covering these fields. Among these were the three keynote speakers of DSSV-2019: Di Cook (Monash Univ., Australia), Kwan-Liu Ma (Univ. of California, USA), and Richard Samworth (Univ. of Cambridge, UK). In addition, there were four invited talks that were presented by Genevera Allen (Rice Univ., USA), Yongdai Kim (Seoul National Univ., Korea), Hidetoshi Shimodaira (Kyoto Univ., Japan), and Huixia Judy Wang (George-Washington Univ., USA). Nine invited sessions with a total of 23 talks were organised by, amongst others, the Japanese Statistical Society, the Japanese Society for Computational Statistics, and the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS). There were eighteen contributed paper sessions, with a total of 59 presentations and 37 poster presentations.

The scientific program committee (SPC) was chaired by Peter Filzmoser (TU Wien, Austria) and the local organising committee had chairman is Kohei Adachi (Osaka Univ., Japan) and vice chairman is Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University). The conference was cosponsored by the Japan Statistical Society (JSS), the Japanese Society of Computational Statistics (JSCS), and the Institute of Statistical Mathematics. Special attention at in the opening ceremony was given to the newly established open access IASC Journal of Data Science, Startistics, and Visualisation (jdssv.org) where Patrick Groenen (Erasmus Univ. of Rotterdam, Netherlands) announced a call for papers.

The well attended welcome-reception was held at a restaurant close to the Yasaka pagoda. The reception started with a traditional Japanese ceremony "Kagami-Wari", in which a wood barrel of Japanese Sake is opened by cracking the lid of the barrel with wooden hammers. The conference dinner took place at a restaurant at the Kamo river bank and Gojo street. A traditional Japanese meal was served and dances were performed by traditional Kyoto Geishas.
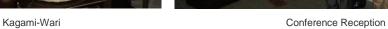
We can look back at a successful edition of DSSV. More details and a full program of DSSV 2019 can be found at dssv2019.iasc-isi.org. The next edition will take place at Duke University, Durham NC, USA from July 29-31, 2020, see dssv2020.iasc-isi.org.

Invited Talk

Lunch

Kagami-Wari

Conference Reception

Conference Dinner

2017-2019 IASC President-Elect Juergen Symanzik, Kohei Adachi (LOC Chairman), one of the performers, and Michael Schimek (left to right) during the conference dinner

2017-2019 IASC President Wing Kam Fung (Left) introducing Hidetoshi Shimodaira (right)

2017-2019 Past IASC President Patrick Groenen introducing DSSV 2020 in North Carolina, United States

News from the IASC Executive Committee (October 2019)

After the joint meeting of outgoing and incoming members of the IASC Executive Committee (EC) at the ISI WSC in Kuala Lumpur on August 19, 2019, the new EC started its discussions via Loomio in September.

Core Officers of the IASC 2017-2019 EC are (visit iasc-isi.org/executive-committee for photos):

- President: Jürgen Symanzik (United States)
- President-Elect: Christophe Croux (France)
- Past President: Wing Kam Fung (Hong Kong)
- Scientific Secretary: Abbass Sharif (United States)
- Treasurer: Sugnet Lubbe (South Africa)
- Webmaster: Han-Ming Wu (Taiwan)
- Executive Director: Ada van Krimpen (ex officio) (The Netherlands)
- ARS Chairperson: Philip Leung-ho Yu (ex officio) (Hong Kong)
- ERS Chairperson: Peter Winker (ex officio) (Germany)
- LARS Chairperson: David F. Muñoz (ex officio) (Mexico)
- Chair of the CS-DMv KD Committee: Ali Serhan Koyuncugil (ex officio) (Turkey)

Other officers of the 2017-2019 EC are:
- ISI WSC Conference Officer: Anne Ruiz Gazen (France)
- ISI Nominations Officer: Rosaria Lombardo (Italy)
- Publication Officer: Paulo Canas Rodrigues (Brazil)
- Summer School Officer: Francisco Louzada (Brazil)
- Young Statisticians Representative: Yoshikazu Terada (Japan)
- Membership Officer: Ying Chen (Singapore)
- Data Analysis Competition Officer: Zdenek Hlavka (Czech Republic)
- Outreach Officer: Luis Firinguetti (Chile)
- IASC Statutes Review Officer: Berwin Turlach (Australia)

Some of the first topics discussed among the new EC members were the ending of the World Bank funding that supported some IASC projects in the past, the use of potential donations to IASC, and how to support students at an upcoming IASC School in Mexico City in 2020.

2017-2019 IASC President Wing Kam Fung and 2017-2019 Scientific Secretary Ying Chen at the IASC EC Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Aug 19, 2019.

Incoming and outgoing members of the IASC EC at the IASC EC Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Aug 19, 2019: Patrick Groenen, Philip Yu, Thomas Yee, Francisco Louzada, Paulo Canas Rodrigues, Berwin Turlach, Jaeyong Lee, and Han-Ming Wu (clockwise around the table, starting at the bottom left)