

#### NEWSLETTER OF THE BERNOULLI SOCIETY FOR MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

# SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS ISSUE

Word from the president

David Kendall remembered

Bernoulli Society Committees

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#### Editors:

Eric Cator
Mathematical Institute
Delft University of Technology
Mekelweg 4
2628 CD Delft
The Netherlands

Fax: +31 15 278 7255 Email: e.a.cator@tudelft.nl Erik van Zwet Mathematical Institute Leiden University P.O. Box 9512 2300 RA Leiden The Netherlands

Fax: +31 71 527 7101

Email: evanzwet@math.leidenuniv.nl

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# **WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Since the previous Newsletter, no spectacular news has come up, but a number of decisions were taken during a fruitful joint meeting of the Executive Committee and of the Council, which was held in Aachen (Germany) in March.

Among those decisions, the most noticeable ones concern two points. One is a tentative collaboration with national mathematical or statistical societies. The objective is to enhance our visibility and attractiveness, at a time when actual membership to a scientific society is no longer perceived as important as it used to be. To begin with, only attempts toward a limited number of countries will be made, but if this succeeds, we might enlarge considerably the scope of these collaborations in the near future.

The second and I think most important point is the decision to support a project called "Distance Mentoring in Statistics" put forward by Arnoldo Frigessi, and whose aim is a web-based tutoring program for Ph.D. students in developing countries. This project is not yet completely finalized, especially as to the concrete form it might take, but the main idea is that Ph.D. students in statistics would, if wanted, have a tutor (a senior statistician or probabilist) in a developed country. This tutor will not do supervision in the traditional sense, but will help the student in finding and accessing relevant scientific material and software, in suggesting journals for publication and conferences or workshop to attend, and in giving information for CVs and the job market. This list is by no means exhaustive. If this project works out, as I strongly hope it will, then we shall need the collaboration of a number of senior people: there is, of course, no need to be a Bernoulli Society member to become a tutor, but we hope that many of our members will volunteer for this.

Another point is our relations with the IMS. I had several exchanges with Jianqing Fan, its present president, and furthermore, its present-elect. Nanny Wermuth has been invited to participate in a part of our meeting in Aachen, something that will probably be reciprocated in the future. These cross participations are, in my opinion, a concrete expression of the desire of both societies to tighten their relations and enhance their collaboration (which already is quite intense) in sponsoring the organization of meetings and publications. By no means, and this is clear in all the discussions we had so far with officials of the IMS, does this imply any sort of institutional link and a fortiori of tentative merge. It is quite clear that both societies are retaining their own characteristics and aims. It does imply, however, more collaboration for the benefit of the entire community of statisticians and probabilists.

For once, there is nothing really important to report about the publications done by or sponsored by our Society, except that the results of the first year of the Bernoulli Journal being produced by the IMS seems reasonably in accordance with the initial projection.

As you all know, our next (and big) Society event will be the World Congress in Probability and Statistics, in Singapore, July 14--19 (don't forget to register!): The program is very exciting, and I hope that I will see many of you on this occasion.

Jean Jacod

# **DAVID G. KENDALL REMEMBERED**



David Kendall has passed away on Tuesday, October 23, 2007, at the age of 89. David was heavily involved in the formation of the Bernoulli Society, and its activities were always a matter of great interest to him. The International Association for Statistics in the Physical Sciences (IASPS) had been conceived by Jerzy Neyman to systematically study statistical problems raised by applications in the physical sciences and in 1961, the association became a vital section within the International Statistical Institute (ISI). David's election in 1973 as President of IASPS was a clear sign of the worldwide recognition of his scientific contributions to the physical sciences. However, at that time, he could hardly know the role he would be playing in the creation of the Bernoulli Society. When David started his office, he quickly realized that it

was increasingly difficult for IASPS to constrain its activities purely to the physical sciences. Many other applications of stochastic thinking suggested the creation of an opening to the universal nature of this methodology. It was his dream to gear the society into this broader assignment.

The desire of IASPS to broaden its interests was linked to the wishes of two other groups: firstly, the *European Statisticians* (ES) (Chair Jim Durbin) that had been active within the US-based *Institute of Mathematical Statistics* (IMS), but wanted to acquire more independence. Secondly, the *Stochastic Processes Committee* (CCSP) (Chair Jef L. Teugels), created in 1972 at the initiative of Julian Keilson that was looking for a more international umbrella for its activities. Kendall quickly realized that a transformation of IASPS would be among the best possible solutions for most, if not all, of these aspirations. Early in July 1974, he was ready with a first draft of the necessary changes to the IASPS statutes. After some cosmetic changes, Kendall's proposal was accepted by the CCSP in June 1974 by the ES in August 1974 and then by the ISI Bureau on September 4,1974. After the final approval by the membership of IASPS, the association ceased to exist on June 10, 1975, and was immediately reconstituted into the *Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability*.

I vividly remember how David Kendall transferred the presidential responsibilities to his successor David Blackwell during the ISI-session in September 1975 in Warsaw. Since he was very proud of his successful achievement, he often insisted that he should be referred to as the first President of the Bernoulli Society. David also remained a key person in the creation and the later activities of the *Committee for Statistics in the Physical Sciences*, started within the Bernoulli Society in Warsaw, to take care that the original interests of IASPS would not go astray within the broader mission of the Bernoulli Society.

Apart from his vital role in the above history, David will be often remembered for two other initiatives. In 1974, Kendall contacted Peter Ferdinand Bernoulli-Stiffler, a chemist living in Basel, Switzerland, with the request to the Bernoulli family to allow the society the use of elements of the Bernoulli family's coat of arms. This is the reason for the *argent* and *vert* colors on all of the Bernoulli stationery. Also, Peter Bernoulli offered a book to Kendall with the history and genealogy of the Bernoulli family. At the end of his/her presidency, the outgoing president signs the book and passes it on to the incoming president at the ISI-session. As David candidly remarked, there was an ample supply of blank sheets in the book, proving in a nutshell his wish for a bright and long future for a society that was very dear to his heart.

Jef Teugels

# **BERNOULLI SOCIETY COMMITTEES**

#### **CCSP Committee**

The new members for the Committee for Conferences in Stochastic Processes (CCSP) section are:

Marta Sanz-Solé SPAIN marta.sanz@ub.edu

(Chair, liaison with IMS special lectures committee)

**FRANCE** Jean Bertoin Mu-Fa Chen CHINA Rick Durrett USA **BRAZIL** Pablo Ferrari Hans Foellmer **GERMANY** Raya Feldman USA Tadahisa Funaki **JAPAN Dmitry Ioffe ISRAEL** Jean Jacod **FRANCE** Claudio Landim **BRAZIL** J-F Le Gall **FRANCE** James Norris UK Victor Perez Abreu **MEXICO Ed Perkins** CANADA

Alain-Sol Sznitman SWITZERLAND

Richard Sowers USA
Vladimir Vatutin RUSSIA
Ruth Williams USA

# Call for News of Members and Colleagues

If you hear of news about Bernoulli Society members and colleagues that ought to be shared widely, then please pass on the information to the Editors.

# **JOURNAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**





In 2007, Bernoulli was able to cut its library price by 40% to help libraries reduce their costs. To continue to make this possible, it is important that universities that use Bernoulli do indeed have a library subscription. You can help! Bernoulli is the only major journal, which publishes papers from all areas of stochastics and it is the main forum for papers, which straddle the boundaries between the different specialties of our science. Bernoulli is the official journal of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability. It publishes original and significant research contributions, review papers, and papers on the history of statistics and probability.

Bernoulli is highly selective, with an acceptance rate of 25%. Access to Bernoulli is indispensable for departments, which have a serious interest in stochastics. All members of the Bernoulli Society receive the journal.

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Holger Rootzén, Editor Bernoulli

#### **ESAIM**

Back issues of the European Series in Applied and Industrial Mathematics: Probability and Statistics (**ESAIM P&S**) are now available freely on-line at <a href="http://www.esaim-ps.org/">http://www.esaim-ps.org/</a>.

### Statistics Surveys

The Bernoulli Society endorses **Statistics Surveys**, which is a new electronic. Statistics Surveys publishes survey articles in theoretical, computational, and applied statistics. The style of articles may range from reviews of recent research to graduate textbook exposition. Articles may be broad or narrow in scope. The journal may be reached at <a href="http://www.i-journals.org/ss/index.php">http://www.i-journals.org/ss/index.php</a>

#### SPA

Following the negotiations which took place during 2007, involving the Bernoulli Society, the Editorial Board of the journal Stochastic Processes and Their Applications (**SPA**) and Elsevier, advantageous changes regarding publishing and pricing policy have been agreed upon. Effective as of January 2008, the following will apply:

All ScienceDirect subscribers to the journal will have access back to 1995. This change will take effect automatically in January 2008. The reduced "alternative subscription" to the Journal will provide the same ScienceDirect access as the "standard subscription", including the new access back to 1995.

All papers published from 2008 will be made freely available to all readers, whether subscribers or not, four years after publication, via ScienceDirect -- delayed Access. Members of the Bernoulli Society will continue to have free online access back to Volume 1, Issue 1 -- a real benefit of Bernoulli Society membership. A low price print subscription is also available to members. More information can be obtained at the website of the Journal: www.elsevier.com/locate/spa.

# REPORTS ON RECENT MEETINGS

# Workshop on Stochastics in Turbulence and Finance at Sandbjerg Manor

The Workshop on Stochastics in Turbulence and Finance was held at Sandbjerg Estate, Denmark, January 29 through February 1, 2008. It brought together leading scientists from Mathematics, Physics, and Finance working on the stochastic analysis of the Navier--Stokes equations and the statistical analysis and stochastic modelling of turbulent flows and financial markets, thus providing a common forum for discussion of new and exciting developments in these areas. These apparently different disciplines share many similarities and have a great potential of mutual development. The presented talks and the lively interdisciplinary discussions during the workshop emphasized this fact.



The workshop was organized by the Thiele Centre for Applied Mathematics in Natural Sciences (<a href="www.thiele.au.dk">www.thiele.au.dk</a>) in cooperation with Creates, the Centre for Research in Econometric Analysis of time series (<a href="www.creates.au.dk">www.creates.au.dk</a>).

Jürgen Schmiegel

# First Canada-Mexico Statistics Meeting

The meeting took place on February 22--23, 2008 in the Center for Research in Mathematics (CIMAT) in the picturesque city of Guanajuato, Mexico. The conference's long-term objective was to foster research interactions, collaborations, and graduate student training between the statistical communities of Canada and Mexico. The meeting built on a number of successful previous and current research efforts leading to joint projects and publications, and training of graduate students involving the two countries. The meeting was a joint effort of the Asociación Mexicana de Estadística/Mexican Statistical Association (AME) and the Statistical Society of Canada/Societé statistique du Canada (SSC).



With 120 registered participants, the number exceeded our prior estimate of about 100 partakers. Senior and young statistics researchers as well as graduate students participated. The conference featured 7 plenary talks, 25 invited presentations and 28 contributed poster presentations. A variety of topics were covered, including Functional Data Analysis, Stochastic Processes, Inference, Industrial Statistics, Financial Statistics and Econometrics, Genetics Statistics, Biostatistics, and Survey Sampling. All sessions were very well attended and the

presentations from both sides were noted for their high quality. The complete program is posted at:

#### http://www.cimat.mx/Eventos/canada-mexico-SM/

The friendly atmosphere allowed for a good deal of interaction at coffee breaks and lunches. The poster session was very well attended and a good deal of feedback was passed on to the presenters who were mostly young statisticians. This fulfilled one of the Conference's objectives.

There were also opportunities for interactions at professional levels. A pleasant lunch meeting between the Mexican Statistical Association and the Statistical Society of Canada Executive Committees took place where information was exchanged about our societies and ideas discussed on future joint ventures. It was agreed to consider organizing a follow-up meeting in about two years (2010), likely in a Canadian location. In terms of impact at the national and international level, this meeting was prominent. It was the first time that both statistics groups (Mexican and Canadian) joined their efforts to get together and made this meeting possible.

Thanks to the photographic efforts of the Dean-Hall family, we have about 53 great pictures from the Conference posted in the SSC's portion of flickr at:

### http://www.flickr.com/photos/ssc\_liaison/sets/72157604061341167/

The members of the International Organizing Committee were as follows. From the Statistical Society of Canada/Societé statistique du Canada: Aurélie Labbe (Université Laval), Richard Lockhart (Simon Fraser University), Salomón Minkin (Ontario Cancer Institute), and Román Viveros-Aguilera (McMaster University). From the Asociación Mexicana de Estadística/Mexican Statistical Association: Eduardo Castaño (Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro), Graciela González Farías (Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas, AC), Eduardo Gutiérrez Peña (Instituto de Investigaciones en Matemáticas Aplicadas y en Sistemas, UNAM), and Manuel Mendoza Ramírez (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México).

# **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

#### Fifth Samos Conference on Actuarial Science and Finance









KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial – Financial Mathematics of University of the Aegean is pleased to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Samos Conference. Detailed information can be found on the website:

#### http://www.actuar.aegean.gr/samos2008/

This event, jointly organized with the *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*, the *Université Catholique de Louvain* and the *Københavns Universitet*, provides a forum for state-of-the-art results and the latest advances in the area of actuarial science and finance. The meeting is open to people from Universities, Insurance Companies, Banks, Consulting Firms, or Regulatory Authorities interested in actuarial--financial mathematics.

#### Topics:

- Extremes and Large Deviations in Actuarial Science (Chair, H. Drees)
- Measuring Risk in Non-Life Insurance (Chair, H. Schmidli)
- Integrated Risk Management (Chair, Th. Zariphopoulou)
- Modelling Dependence in Multivariate Risk (Chair, G. Samorodnitsky)
- Mortality Risk Management in Life, Health, and Pension Insurance (Chair, M. Steffensen)
- Risk and Stochastic Control (Chair, S. Asmussen)

#### **Invited Speakers:**

- Armelle Guillou University of Strasbourg, France
- Alfred Müller Heriot-Watt University, United Kingdom
- Patrick Brockett University of Texas at Austin, USA
- Jan Rosinski University of Tennessee, USA
- Biffis Enrico City University, United Kingdom
- Andreas Kyprianou University of Bath, United Kingdom
- Rama Cont Columbia University, USA

A **short course** will take place before the conference (September 1--3) under the title:

Subexponential Tails in the World of Dependence, by Q. Tang

#### Scientific Committee:

Mikosch Thomas Goovaerts Marc Samorodnitsky Gena Asmussen Steffensen Mogens Soeren Guillen Montserrat Morettin Pedro Drees Holger Konstantinides Ng Kai Wang Teugels Jef Papaioanou Takis Verrall Richard Foss Serguei **Dimitrios** Zariphopoulou Frangos Makov Udi (Chair) **Nicolaos** Marceau Etienne Thaleia Gerber Hans

# Flexible Modelling: Smoothing and Robustness

The International Workshop on "Flexible Modelling: Smoothing and Robustness" (FMSR 2008), is to be held at Leuven, Belgium, November 12--14, 2008. The general theme of the workshop is semi- and nonparametric analysis and robust statistical methods. More specific themes are, among others, flexible smoothing and penalization, model selection, nonparametric functional estimation, modelling dependencies and inference for copulas, robust multivariate outlier detection, and semi-and nonparametric methods in time-series analysis. There will be invited talks, contributed talks, and poster sessions. The workshop will be followed by a short course for doctoral students.

List of Invited Speakers: Anestis Antoniadis (Grenoble, France), Graciela Boente (Buenos Aires, Argentina), Jianqing Fan (Princeton, USA), Peter Hall (Melbourne, Australia), Xuming He (Urbana-Champaign, USA), Bruno Rémillard (Montréal, Canada), Qiwei Yao (London, UK), Bernard Silverman (Oxford, UK)

Information: Irène Gijbels, Dominik Sznajder E-mail: dominik.sznajder@wis.kuleuven.be Website: wis.kuleuven.be/stat/fmsr2008.php

# Fifth Colloquium on Mathematics and Computer Science, Algorithms, Trees, Combinatorics and Probabilities

The Henry-Fabri-Institute in Blaubeuren will host during the week September 22--26, 2008 an international Fifth Colloquium on Mathematics and Computer Science Algorithms, Trees, Combinatorics, and Probabilities.

#### http://www.math.uni-kiel.de/mathinfo08

The main topic of the meeting is the analysis of algorithms with probabilistic and combinatorial tools. The main purpose of the meeting is to join forces in mathematics and in computer science for the mathematical analysis of algorithms.

### **EURANDOM** jubilee in 2008



In September 2008, EURANDOM will exist 10 years; the first postdocs and Ph.D. students arrived in September and October of 1998. EURANDOM is an international Research Institute in the areas of probability, statistics, and stochastic operations research, located on the Technical University of Eindhoven (TU/e) campus. The scientific staff of EURANDOM consists of about 25 postdocs from Europe and abroad, guided by senior scientists, mainly coming from Dutch universities, including TU/e. The research is fundamental as well as application oriented. Some of the application areas

are: physics, biology, image analysis, and communication and risk management. Many postdocs find tenured positions after their period of research at EURANDOM at Dutch or international universities and/or at research positions in industry, including banks. EURANDOM is known for its workshops and visitor programs: around 10 workshops per year, with around 400 participants and around 40 visitors a year visit the institute during periods of a few days up to several months. The 10th anniversary will be celebrated with a conference on August 27 and 28, 2008. During this conference the founders of EURANDOM, former postdocs, and keynote speakers from science and industry shall reflect on 10 years of EURANDOM and will look forward to new developments. More information will be given later on <a href="https://www.eurandom.tue.nl">www.eurandom.tue.nl</a>. For the moment, we would like to suggest making a reservation in your agenda for these dates.

# Current Trends and Challenges in Model Selection and Related Areas

The workshop on Current Trends and Challenges in Model Selection and Related Areas will be held on July 24--26, 2008, University of Vienna, Austria. It will provide a forum for presentation and discussion of current trends and challenging problems in model selection and related shrinkage methods. Invited speakers include Yannick Baraud (Université de Nice Sophia-Antipoli), Rudy Beran (UCC Davis), Ed George (The Wharton School), Patrik Guggenberger (UCLA), Ching-Kang Ing (Academia Sinica), Paul Kabaila (LaTrobe Univ.), Gabor Lugosi (Pompeu Fabra Univ.), Alexander Tsybakov (Paris 6), and Yuhong Yang (Univ. of Minnesota).

Contributed presentations are welcome! For further details, see

http://www.univie.ac.at/workshop modelselection/.

# XII th Brazilian School of Probability

The XIIth Brazilian School of Probability will be held at Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil August 3--9, 2008.

There will be minicourses by Professors A. Dembo, A. Montanari, E. Scoppola, and A. Gaudilliere. A list of plenary speakers can be found on <a href="https://www.mat.ufmg.br/ebp12">www.mat.ufmg.br/ebp12</a>

# JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

**Message from the Treasurer.** You are welcome to advertise jobs in *Bernoulli News*. The cost is currently EUR 50 per advertisement. The advertisement should contain no more than 300 words and should be emailed as plain text (ASCII or ISO8859-1) to the Editor. — **Ursula Gather (Bernoulli Society Treasurer)**.

#### Vacancy at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

At the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (K.U.Leuven), Department of Mathematics, a full-time tenured academic position in statistics is available.

The candidate is expected to have a strong research record in mathematical statistics or stochastics, and to have an open mind for applications and statistical consultancy. He/she will be part of the Section of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics (non-parametric and semi-parametric

statistics, financial, and actuarial stochastics, see <a href="http://wis.kuleuven.be/stat">http://wis.kuleuven.be/stat</a>) and will work in close cooperation with Leuven Statistics Research Centre (<a href="http://lstat.kuleuven.be">http://lstat.kuleuven.be</a>).

Applications for this faculty position are accepted until September 30, 2008. Starting date is October 1, 2009. More information and application forms are available at:

http://www.kuleuven.be/personeel/jobsite/vacatures/science.html.

# "WHO IS WHO" IN THE BERNOULLI SOCIETY

OFFICE	OFFICE BEARER	LOCATION	EMAIL
President	Jean Jacod	Paris, France	jj@ccr.jussieu.fr
President Elect	Victor PerezAbreu	Guanajuato, Mexico	pabreu@cimat.mx
Past President	Peter Jagers	Göteborg, Sweden	jagers@math.chalmers.se
Scientific Secretary	Arnoldo Frigessi	Oslo, Norway	frigessi@nr.no
Membership Secretary	Josef Steinebach	Köln, Germany	jost@math.uni-koeln.de
Treasurer	Ursula Gather	Dortmund, Germany	gather@statistik.uni-dortmund.de
Executive Secretary	Daniel Berze	Voorburg,The Netherlands	dbre@cbs.nl
Council Member 2005-2009	Wilfrid Kendall	Coventry, UK	w.s.kendall@warwick.ac.uk
Council Member 2005-2009	Eva Vedel Jensen	Aarhus, Denmark	eva@imf.au.dk
Council Member 2005-2009	Alison Etheridge	Oxford, UK	etheridge@stats.ox.ac.uk
Council Member 2005-2009	Rajeeva Karandikar	New Delhi, India	rlk@isid.ac.in
Council Member 2005-2009	Anton Wakolbinger	Frankfurt am Main, Germany	wakolbinger@math.uni-frankfurt.de
Council Member 2008-2012	Maria Eulalia Vares	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	spa1@cbpf.br
Council Member 2008-2012	Claudia Kluppelberg	Munich, Germany	cklu@ma.tum.de
Council Member 2008-2012	Philip Protter	Cornell, USA	pep4@cornell.edu
Council Member 2008-2012	Alexander Novikov	Sydney, Australia	Alex.Novikov@uts.edu.au
Council Member 2008-2012	Peter Spreij	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	spreij@science.uva.nl
Council Member 2008-2012	Adam Jakubowski	Torun, Poland	adjakubo@mat.uni.torun.pl
Chair, Publication Committee	W. R. van Zwet	Leiden, The Netherlands	vanzwet@math.leidenuniv.nl
Co-Chair, BS/IMS Liaison Committee	W. R. van Zwet	Leiden, The Netherlands	vanzwet@math.leidenuniv.nl
Co-Chair, BS/IMS Liaison Committee	Ole E. BarndorffNielsen	Aarhus, Denmark	oebn@imf.au.dk
Chair, Committee for Conferences on Stochastic Processes	Marta Sanz-Sole	Barcelona, Spain	marta.sanz@ub.edu
Committee of Stochastic Science Institutes	Frank den Hollander	Leiden, the Netherlands	denholla@math.leidenuniv.nl
Chair, European Regional Committee	Adelchi Azzalini	Padova, Italia	azzalini@stat.unipd.it
Chair, Committee on Probability and Statistics in the Physical Sciences	Wojbor A. Woyczyński	Cleveland, USA	waw@po.cwru.edu
Chair, Latin America Regional Committee	José León	Caracas, Venezuela	jleon@euler.ciens.ucv.ve
Chair, East-Asian and Pacific Regional Committee	Tim Brown	Canberra, Australia	tim.brown@anu.edu.au
Editor, <i>Bernoulli</i>	Holger Rootzén	Göteborg, Sweden	rootzen@math.chalmers.se
Editor, Bernoulli News	Eric Cator Erik van Zwet	Delft, The Netherlands Leiden, The Netherlands	e.a.cator@tudelft.nl evanzwet@math.leidenuniv.nl
Editor, Journal of Stochastic Processes and Their Applications	Maria Eulália Vares	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	spa1@cbpf.br
Editor, International Statistical Review	Eugene Seneta	Sydney, Australia	eseneta@maths.usyd.edu.au
Bernoulli Society Web Editor	Björn Böttcher	Marburg, Germany	boettcher@mathematik.uni- marburg.de

# **2008 MEMBERSHIP OF**

# THE BERNOULLI SOCIETY FOR MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

The Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability is a section of the International Statistical Institute. It is an autonomous society which seeks to develop and improve statistical and stochastic methods and their applications through the promotion of international activity and cooperation.

Members of the Society receive the following publications free of charge: Bernoulli, Bernoulli News, and the International Statistical Institute Newsletter. International Statistical Review is available for EUR 11 (online) or EUR 27 (online and hardcopy). (All prices are per annum.) Reduced rates are available for Stochastic Processes and Their Applications, Journal of Time Series Analysis, Biometrika, Chance, Probability Theory and Related Fields, Scandinavian Journal of Statistics, Statistical Science, and American Journal of Mathematics and Management Sciences. Kluwer offers a 20% discount on their books, if ordered directly.

Bernoulli Society members also profit from low registration fees for conferences organized or sponsored by the Society.

**Regular membership dues for 2008** are EUR 70. Regular members who are members of the IMS can apply for joint BS-IMS, or BS-IMS-ISI membership (elected ISI members only), offering a reduction in dues.

Certain members can apply for a 50% dues reduction, rounding upward to the nearest integer (only one reduction possible!). These members receive full benefits of memberships and include

- all new members in 2008:
- students and post docs until two years after graduation (proof of student or post doc status is required);
- > retired persons:

Date

- > couples (only one receives publications); and
- members from developing countries (including eastern and central Europe).

Alternatively, permanent residents of the above countries can apply for membership with 'extraordinary' status. There are no annual dues, but an entrance fee (given below) is charged to cover administrative costs of membership, but otherwise

extraordinary members will enjoy the usual benefits of individual membership of the Bernoulli Society such as voting rights, eligibility to offices of the Bernoulli Society, lower registration fees at conferences of the Bernoulli Society, and reductions to journal subscriptions. However, members with extraordinary status will not receive the publications of the Bernoulli Society free of charge, but may subscribe to publications of the Bernoulli Society at special rates: for example, the annual subscription price for *Bernoulli* for 2008 is EUR 19.

Entrance fee for extraordinary membership in 2008 is EUR 19

Students can apply for the same type of membership but do not pay an entrance fee (proof of student status required).

Applications for reduced membership fees or extraordinary status should be sent to:

J.Steinebach (Membership Secretary)
Mathematical Institute Köln University

Weyertal 86-90

D-35931 Köln tel +49 221 4702891 GERMANY fax +49 221 4706073

e-mail: jost@math.uni-koeln.de

Applications for regular BS and joint BS-IMS membership should be sent to:

Margaret de Ruiter--Molloy (Membership Officer)

c/o ISI

428 Princes Beatrixlaan

P.O. Box 950

2270 AZ Voorburg tel +31 70 337 5726 THE NETHERLANDS fax +31 70 386 0025 e-mail: mmly@cbs.nl

An application form for a joint BS-IMS membership is available on **isi.cbs.nl/bern\_ims-form.htm**, and for a joint BS-IMS-ISI membership on **isi.cbs.nl/bern\_ims\_isi-form.htm**.

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