

**Minutes of the
Nonparametrics Section Business Meeting
at the JSM in Vancouver, July 31 2018
Chair : Ingrid Van Keilegom**

1. Introduction of section officers

2. Election results :

Chair-elect : Runze Li, Penn State University, rzli@psu.edu

Program chair-elect : Yanyuan Ma, Penn State University, yanyuanma@gmail.com

Treasurer and secretary : Jelena Bradic, UC San Diego, bradic@ucsd.edu

Representative council : Aurore Delaigle, University Melbourne, aurored@unimelb.edu.au

3. Student paper awards :

- Best Student Paper awards :

Xiaowu Dai (University of Wisconsin) : ‘Optimal Estimation in Functional ANOVA Models with Derivatives’

Paromita Dubey (University of California - Davis) : ‘Frechet Analysis of Variance for Random Objects’

Jingshen Wang (University of Michigan) : ‘Inference on Average Treatment Effect with Repeated Data Splitting in High Dimensions’

- Other finalists for the award :

Cindy Zhang, Univ Berkeley

Xinlian Zhang, Univ Georgia

- In addition, Jingshen Wang (University of Michigan) won the best presentation prize.

4. NPS Section sponsored sessions (Lan Wang, program chair) :

- Five invited sessions (two through competition), we also co-sponsored 6 other invited sessions :

(1) Non- and Semiparametric Methods to Accommodate Dependency and Heterogeneity in Complex Data (organized by Naisyin Wang, U of Michigan)

(2) Quantile based modeling for a variety of heteroscedastic data (organized by Naveen Naidu Narisetty, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)

(3) High Dimensional Nonparametric Statistics (organized by Lingzhou Xue, Penn State University)

(4) Recent Advance of Nonparametric and Semiparametric Techniques with Complex Data Structure (organized by Jiwei Zhao, State University of New York At Buffalo)

(5) Recent advances in change-point detection and segmentation (organized by Piotr Fryzlewicz, London School of Economics)

- Five topic-contributed sessions (we also co-sponsored 5 other topic-contributed sessions) :
 - (1) Novel statistical methods for variable selection with applications (organized by Xiangrong Yin, University of Kentucky)
 - (2) Papers in Honor of Professor James R Thompson (1938-2017) (organized by David W Scott, Rice University)
 - (3) Section on Nonparametric Statistics - Student Paper Awards (organized by Howard D Bondell, University of Melbourne)
 - (4) New Frontiers of Functional Data Analysis (organized by Yehua Li, UC Riverside)
 - (5) New Advances in Semiparametric Modeling and Testing for Complex Data (organized by Li-Shan Huang, Institute of Statistics, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan)
- 5. Financial situation (Limin Peng, treasurer) : The finances of the section are in balance.
- 6. Conference New York : The NPS section joined the section on Statistical Learning and Data Science for a conference in New York City, June 4-6, 2018. See

<https://publish.illinois.edu/sldsc2018/>

for more details regarding the conference. The plenary speakers were Michael I. Jordan (University of California, Berkeley), Liza Levina (University of Michigan) and David Madigan (Columbia University), and the banquet speaker was Cathy O'Neil (ORCAA). There were 48 invited sessions, and about 250-300 people participated to this conference.

7. Organisation of the section :
 - In order to have a smoother transition between chairs and chairs elect and in order to make the work as chair more efficient, it is suggested that each chair is active not only the year that he/she is chair, but also the year before and the year after. In that way there will be permanently three people active with the chairing of the section, and this will give a smoother management of the section. As the charter of the section mentions the role of a past chair and of an executive committee consisting of the chair elect, the chair and the past chair, it seems that all that needs to be done is to change the culture and to apply the charter. It is decided that this will be done from now on.
 - It would be good to make the section more visible. Mentioned suggestions are the creation of a newsletter (once or twice a year), the creation of an award for a junior faculty member (in the form of a certificate without money), improved website, etc.

- At present there is a tradition to organise a conference every two years. This year it has been co-organised with the SLDS section. However, it is noted that the International Society of Nonparametric Statistics also organises every two years a conference, and that this is done in the same year as our conference. Therefore it seems useful to talk to their chair (Regina Liu ?), and to either shift one of the two conferences by one year or to organise the conference together with them.

8. News from the council (Wolfgang Polonik, council representative) :

- It has been decided at the council that every 3 years, a section can give an award to a section member who worked hard for the section. We are in the third group, so we still have time to think about this.
- It was recommended by the council to consider putting together a history statement on our website. ASA can help with this. X. He suggested that Doug Wolf and M. Hollander be contacted to help with this, as they were among the initiators of the section.
- The LIDA interest group wants to become a section and in addition they want to change their name to LIDS (Lifetime Data Science). Wolfgang asked for the opinion of our section on this issue in order to know how to vote at the next council meeting. After some discussion we decided that we are in favor of the promotion to section, but that we would prefer that the name does not change.
- ASA does not want sections to sit on their budget (budget needs to be used). However, after checking the balance of the section, we think that the budget of the nonparametrics section is OK.
- The charter of the council of sections will be rewritten. It's not clear which impact this will have.
- The council has decided that the questionnaire that needs to be filled out every year by each section will be put online, in order to inform other people of what has happened inside the section over the past year.
- Some suggestions :
 - Bigger award together with other section or other organisation
 - Nomination committee (inside the section) for ASA fellowship
 - Mentoring program for junior faculty