



2014 TIES North America Regional Report

Regional Representatives: Bruno Sansó, Krishna Jandhyala (Regional Representatives); with input from Yulia Gel (Board Member)

Activity and Focus Since Last Meeting

- Organised an invited session titled, “Novel Approaches and Applications in Bayesian Spatial Environmetrics” for TIES 2014.
- Invited Alix Gtelman, Chair of the Statistics and the Environment Section of ASA, to organize an Invited Session for TIES 2014. Alix responded positively. With his initiative, the Invited Session titled, “Issues in non-continuous spatial and temporal data” is organized by Dr. Edward Boone of Virginia Commonwealth University for TIES 2014.
- Invited Hao Zhang, Purdue University, to organize an Invited Session at TIES 2014. Hao agreed to do so and a session titled, “Spatial Statistics and Extremes” is one of the Invited Sessions (organized by Hao) at TIES 2014.
- Prepared a Conference Proposal, which is ready for submission to NSF. Variants of this proposal will be submitted to DOD/NIH. The Conference Proposal is to celebrate the 25th anniversary of TIES at TIES 2015.
- Invited Stergios Fotopoulos, Washington State University, to organize an Invited Session for TIES 2015 in Brisbane, Australia. Stergios has agreed.
- The publication of a special issue of *Environmetrics* with presentations at TIES 2015 was discussed at the latest TIES Board meeting.
- Ways of honouring Dr. Ian B. MacNeill, Founding Vice President of TIES and one of the Founding Editors of *Environmetrics* have been discussed at the TIES Board Meeting. Elena Naumova, Yulia Gel and Krishna Jandhyala will together interview Dr. MacNeill in order to record his life story as an academician, administrator, as well as founder of TIES. His past experiences and his views for the future of statistics and environmental sciences will be important lessons for current and future generations of academicians and practitioners alike.
- Another way of honouring Dr. MacNeill is to institute a TIES award on his name. Elena Naumova, Yulia Gel and Krishna Jandhyala will discuss ways of moving forward with this idea.

Planned Activity and Focus Going Forward

- Invite several other potential experts in the field quantitative environmental sciences to organize invited sessions at TIES 2015.
- Contact the organizers of the 13th International Meeting on Statistical Climatology to explore co-sponsoring possibilities.
- Elena, Yulia and Krishna will meet with Dr. MacNeill in May 2015 and video record the interview with him. They will then write-up an article for consideration to publication in *Environmetrics*.



2014 TIES European Regional Report

Regional Representatives: Giovanna Jona Lasinio and Ron Smith

Activity and Focus Since Last Meeting

- TIES 2015 regional meeting in Bari, constant collaboration with the organizing and scientific committee:
 - sessions organization in progress;
 - planning streaming broadcast of keynote speakers with questions returned by skype or tweeter. (no interactive streaming available at the conference venue). Still in progress
 - Conference web site continuously updated (<http://meetings.sis-statistica.org/index.php/graspa2015/graspa2015>)
- UK activity focussed on encouraging attendance at the TIES 2015 conference in Brisbane with proposals for sessions, suggestions for short courses, and supporting activities to secure funding for travel.

Planned Activity and Focus Going Forward

- Look for sponsors for both the regional meeting (in progress) and the 25th TIES conference in Australia - to allow students to attend it.
- To financially manage TIES membership at regional meetings we link the ISI registration form on the conference web page.
- Initial planning for the 2016 conference in Glasgow.
- Application to the Royal Statistical Society for an environmental study of relevance to both the RSS and TIES regional activities.



2014 TIES “Other Regions” Regional Report

Regional Representatives: Erin Peterson and Quanxi Shao

Activity and Focus Since Last Meeting

- **Organising short courses for TIES 2015 meeting in Brisbane.** Two sets of short courses will be offered for the TIES meeting, with the goal of offsetting costs for the conference to ensure that we do not operate at a loss.
 - Two three-day short courses will be offered on February 2-4, 2015 at Queensland University of Technology (QUT):
 - Advanced R for Environmental Modelling: Dr. Bill Venables (CSIRO) [confirmed]
 - Bayesian Networks: Kerrie Mengersen (Queensland University of Technology) [confirmed]
 - Approximately four one-day short courses will be offered immediately prior to the TIES 2015 conference on June 28th:
 - Bayesian Networks: Kerrie Mengersen [confirmed]
 - Spatio-temporal modelling: Noel Cressie (University of Wollongong) [in negotiation]
 - Flexible Regression Methods: Marian Scott (University of Glasgow) [in negotiation]
 - Rooms at QUT have been reserved for all short courses.
 - Power Point slide advertising the TIES 2015 meeting sent to all board members to help promote TIES and conference attendance.

Planned Activity and Focus Going Forward

- **Next steps for organising short courses for TIES 2015 meeting in Brisbane.**
 - Start advertising for the two February short courses.
 - Coordinate, negotiate, and confirm all four short courses for June 29th.