



International Indian Statistical Association Newsletter



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Cover Image

Picture taken during the 2023 International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress in Ottawa, Canada. This is just after Prof. C.R. Rao's son and grandson received the 2023 International Prize in Statistics on behalf of him. Standing from left to right are Prof. Arup Bose (who received the 2023 Mahalanobis International Award at the same meeting), Prof. Snigdhansu Chatterjee, Prof. C.R. Rao's son Veera holding the plaque, Dr. Bivas Chaudhuri (ISS, Director General of the National Statistics Office of the Government of India), and Prof. C.R. Rao's grandson. Prof. C.R. Rao's daughter in law, Malini Rao, kindly shared this picture.

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From the Editor's desk December Newsletter is here

Dear IISA members,

As we bid farewell to 2023, it is with mixed emotions that we remember the profound contributions of one of the giants in our field, Prof. C.R. Rao. His pioneering work continues to inspire and shape the future of our discipline.

Prof. C.R. Rao's legacy transcends generations, his groundbreaking research spanning multiple domains from multivariate analysis to statistical inference, leaving an enduring impact on statistical theory and applications. His passion for education and research has left an indelible mark on countless students and scholars globally.

With a heavy heart, we also share the news of the passing away of Prof. R.V. Ramamoorthi. His innovative contributions to Bayesian statistics and stochastic modeling have enriched our understanding and opened new avenues for exploration.

Their absence leaves a void in our community, but their legacies will continue to guide and inspire us in our pursuit of excellence and innovation.

Amidst our reflections, we take pride in celebrating the achievements of our esteemed members. Their dedication and commitment have garnered recognition and accolades, underscoring the caliber of talent within our institute. Your accomplishments not only elevate the reputation of IISA but also serve as a testament to the strides being made in our field.

Moreover, I am delighted to announce an exciting addition to our newsletter. We have started a new feature column by our esteemed member and former Newsletter Editor, Dr. Jyotishka Datta. Hope you will enjoy his free-flowing writings. Starting in 2024, the IISA newsletter will feature a problem corner. We hope this will further enrich your reading experience and foster engaging discussions within our community.

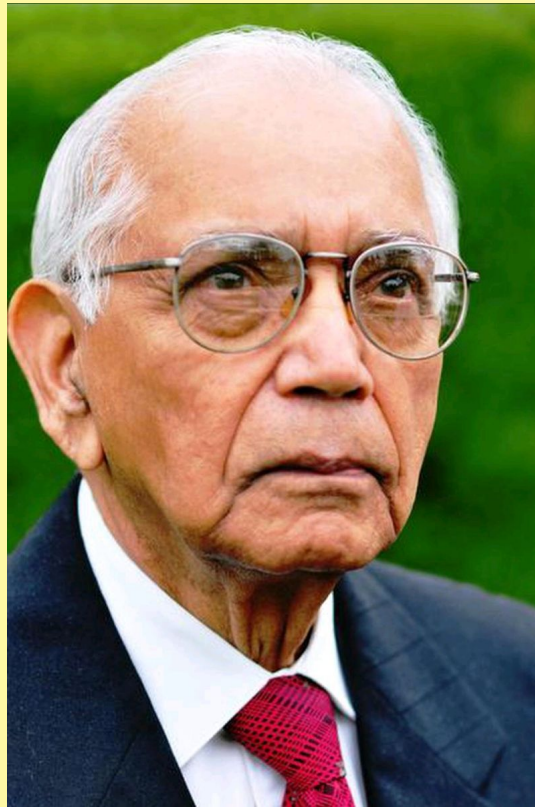
IISA has also launched a Career Advice Center, primarily to help students and young professionals with career advice. Details can be found in this newsletter.

In response to the evolving needs of our members, we are thrilled to announce that the IISA newsletter will now be published quarterly, beginning in 2024. This change aims to offer more frequent updates, insightful articles, and timely information, ensuring that our members stay at the forefront of the dynamic field of statistics and data science.

As we conclude this year, let us carry forward the legacies of Prof. C.R. Rao and R.V. Ramamoorthi by embracing their spirit of intellectual curiosity, innovation, and commitment to excellence. Together, let us continue to advance the frontiers of statistics and data science, shaping a brighter future for our discipline and society at large.

Have a lovely Holiday season!

Warm regards,
Sayantan Banerjee
Editor-in-Chief



In the wake of the profound loss felt by the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) community, it is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of the esteemed Prof. C.R. Rao. His departure has reverberated across the realms of academia, leaving a void that seems insurmountable.

Prof. C.R. Rao was not merely a scholar but an emblem of excellence in the field of Statistics. His groundbreaking contributions and pioneering research have etched an everlasting mark on the landscape of statistical science. As a guiding light and mentor to many, his influence stretched far beyond the confines of his academic pursuits, shaping the very fabric of statistical theory and practice worldwide.

Within the IISA, Prof. Rao's presence was a source of immense inspiration and wisdom. His dedication to fostering a culture of rigorous inquiry and intellectual curiosity served as a guiding force for countless statisticians and researchers within our community. His loss is deeply felt, leaving an irreplaceable void that echoes within our collective hearts.

In commemoration of his extraordinary life and immeasurable contributions, the IISA newsletter will be dedicating a special obituary issue in March 2024. This edition will serve as a testament to his towering legacy, featuring heartfelt personal remembrances from individuals whose lives he profoundly influenced. It is an opportunity for us to come together, honoring his unparalleled impact and paying homage to a luminary whose brilliance illuminated the path for so many.

As we reflect on the profound loss we've suffered, let us also cherish the legacy Prof. C.R. Rao leaves behind—a legacy woven intricately into the very fabric of statistical thought and practice. His teachings and insights will continue to guide and inspire generations of statisticians and researchers, ensuring that his legacy remains eternal within the corridors of academia and beyond.

REMEMBERING PROFESSOR R. V. RAMAMOORTHY
JUNE 12, 1950 – NOVEMBER 13, 2023

by VIJAY NAIR, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, USA, B. V. RAO AND RAJEEVA KARANDIKAR, CHENNAI MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE, CHENNAI, INDIA



R.V. Ramamoorthi, Professor Emeritus, Department of Statistics and Probability, Michigan State University, passed away on November 13 at the relatively young age of 73. Known as RVR to many, he was on the faculty at Michigan State University for 37 years. He retired voluntarily in 2019 and moved with his wife Deepa (whom he married in 1985) to Bengaluru, India for personal reasons. He was receiving treatment at a local hospital in Bengaluru for respiratory problems and died from complications.

RVR was born in Palakkad, which is now in the state of Kerala in South India, but he was Tamil speaking. His father, R.A. Vaideeswaran, was an Administrative Officer with US AID, and his mother, Mangalambal, was a housewife. After finishing his Masters at Utkal University in Bhubaneswar, he joined the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata for his PhD. He completed his dissertation under the supervision of Professor Jayanta Ghosh and graduated in 1981. He spent a year as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Florida State before moving to Michigan State in East Lansing in 1982. He was on the faculty in the Department of Statistics and Probability from 1982-2019, first as a visitor, joining the tenure track faculty in 1984, and rising up through the ranks to Full Professor.

Over the course of his career, RVR held visiting appointments at several institutions, including Universities of Pavia, Rome, and Bocconi in Italy, ISI (Kolkata, Delhi, Bengaluru), Indian Institute of Science, and Chennai Mathematical Institute. He had served on several editorial boards; most notably, he provided extensive service to *Sankhya* in several capacities.

RVR's research interests were theoretical. He was an ardent Bayesian and was interested in the Foundations of Statistics throughout his career. His PhD dissertation was on Pairwise Sufficiency and Bayes Sufficiency in Undominated Experiments. He continued to study concepts of sufficiency, ancillarity, and Bayesian inference. He was active until the end, and he completed his last paper dealing with "Doob's theorem on posterior consistency" just a few weeks before he was hospitalized. He was preparing to teach a course next semester on Graphical Models at the Chennai Math Institute.

RVR's most well-known research contribution is his book *Bayesian Nonparametrics*, co-authored with JK Ghosh, and it is widely considered to be a tour de force. The book's reviewers noted that it presented a "comprehensive treatment" of the area with "theoretical underpinnings of nonparametric priors in a rigorous yet extremely lucid style ... It is indispensable to any serious Bayesian. It is bound to become a classic in Bayesian nonparametrics."

Despite his theoretical research, RVR had broad interests and was well informed about emerging directions in the field. He fully recognized the importance of applications and appreciated the need to recruit colleagues with diverse interests. RVR was an unusual academic in these days of "publish or perish" philosophy and emphasis on research funding. He marched to the beats of his own drummer, worked only on problems that interested him, and was selective in publishing. But he was a deep thinker, and his contributions were always significant and insightful.

On a personal level, RVR led a simple life and was very non-materialistic. In keeping with his disdain for ceremonies and rituals, he had asked that his body and organs be donated for scientific research. He was a voracious reader with very diverse interests, and he could carry a conversation on pretty much any topic. He also had a great

sense of humor. One of us [VN] will always remember the joke he heard from RVR: “The most interesting stories must be complex. They should have a real part and an imaginary part.” It was a lot of fun to spend an evening with him, a glass of whiskey in hand, sharing stories and talking about people and the profession. He was especially fond of his time as a graduate student at the ISI and the opportunities he had to meet with, and get to know, the distinguished faculty as well as the many legendary visitors. He was also a great mentor to students, served as Graduate Director, and supported the careers of many junior faculty members.

RVR leaves behind his wife Deepa, siblings, nieces, and nephews, both in India and the US. He will be dearly missed by all of them as well as his many friends.

R. V. Ramamoorthi: A personal obituary

by SUBHASHIS GHOSHAL, GOODNIGHT DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY



At the beginning of work on November 13, 2023, I got a shocking e-mail from my teacher, Professor B. V. Rao, who retired from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, several years ago. Professor Rao informed me that our beloved colleague and friend, Professor R. V. Ramamoorthi, had just passed away in a hospital in Bengaluru after a massive heart attack. He was popularly known among us as Rama or RVR. He was being treated for over a month in a hospital for multiple issues, but I was not fully aware of that. I had communications with him not too long before his death. On my request, he contributed a paper for a volume I am currently editing, which is to be published by Springer in the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) Series on Statistics and Data Science. RVR wrote a very thought-provoking paper on one of the earliest and most intriguing topics from Bayesian nonparametrics, called Doob’s theorem. The paper is based on his talk at the IISA Conference in Bengaluru last year, and is co-authored by Karthik Shriram and B. V. Rao. The shocking news of his death came while I was preparing an editorial report on his paper. Sadly, he could not see the published volume.

After finishing a Master’s degree in Mathematics from the Utkal University in Orissa, RVR joined the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, as a research scholar. He wrote a remarkable Ph.D. thesis on sufficiency under the advising of late Professor J. K. Ghosh, popularly known as JKG, and got his degree in 1982 from the ISI. RVR was a very classy mathematical statistician. During his stay at the ISI, David Blackwell, an all-time great mathematical statistician and game theorist from the University of California, Berkeley, was visiting the ISI. Blackwell got interested in RVR’s work and offered to collaborate with him, leading to a remarkable paper with a counterexample showing that Bayes sufficiency does not imply classical sufficiency. RVR also wrote several other exciting papers on sufficiency with ISI prodigy K. K. Roy and Japanese scholar S. Yamada, who visited the ISI. In the late seventies and early eighties, the ISI was a vibrant place for research on intriguing aspects of mathematical statistics. In 1981, RVR took a visiting position at Florida State University and subsequently moved to Michigan State University (MSU), East Lansing, with a tenure track job. He wrote over thirty articles and advised nine doctoral students. He retired from MSU as a full professor in 2019.

My association with RVR goes about thirty years back. I was a research scholar at the Stat-Math Unit of ISI-Kolkata. RVR was visiting the ISI on his sabbatical leave from MSU. He was delivering a series of lectures on Choquet capacity, which is used to quantify uncertainty imprecisely. RVR was one of the first students of my Ph.D. advisor JKG,

and a close friend of his. JKG invited RVR and me to work on a problem on posterior consistency for the location problem plagued by a riddle from a famous paper by Diaconis and Freedman. At that time, I submitted my thesis and I was waiting for my Ph.D. degree. This collaboration gave me my first exposure to Bayesian nonparametrics. This was when, through numerous discussions with JKG and RVR, I came to know about Schwartz's theorem, Polya trees, and Dirichlet process mixtures. JKG and RVR quickly figured out that the right way to address the inconsistency issue was by going through Schwartz's theorem. RVR came up with an idea for a test construction, a vital ingredient in the proof. We followed up with another important posterior consistency problem for Dirichlet process mixtures, a very promising method for Bayesian density estimation which just became computationally attractive due to the advances made in MCMC techniques. We continued writing a few more papers together, in all of which RVR had a very prominent role. JKG and RVR went ahead to write the only available book on the theory of Bayesian nonparametrics at that time. That three-way collaboration with JKG and RVR at the beginning of my career gave me a strong footing. Whatever successes I got in my career can be traced back to those years.

But RVR was a lot more to me than a collaborator. He was my friend, philosopher, and guide, in a quite literal sense. As JKG remained busy with many involvements, RVR was always there to give me helpful career advice. He arranged a visiting position for me at MSU, which unfortunately did not work. I accepted a post-doc position in Amsterdam, working with Prof. Aad van der Vaart. The following year, I attended the Purdue Symposium when RVR also came to West Lafayette. I planned to visit a friend in East Lansing, Michigan. RVR gave me a ride on that five-hour journey that had an instrumental role in shaping my career. RVR suggested that I apply for a tenure-track job in the US. He also arranged a talk by me at MSU. This was undoubtedly a helpful factor in getting a position when I later applied. RVR was, of course, one of the writers of my recommendation letters.

After reaching East Lansing, I had a great time. There, I also met Deepa di, RVR's wife. She prepared nice South Indian meals for me and some other guests. Years later, I saw her again at ISI, New Delhi, where both RVR and I were spending our sabbatical time.

Although RVR and I did not continue our collaboration much longer, RVR and I occasionally met at conferences. In 2015, I was the local organizer of the Bayesian nonparametrics conference at NC State University. RVR came to attend the conference and was also kind enough to come to visit my family at our house. Every time RVR and I had a conversation, I always benefitted from his profound advice and wisdom. He was close to JKG and, for me, a bridge between JKG and me. In September 2017, I got a message from him that JKG was terminally ill, and he asked me if I could visit him in West Lafayette before it was too late. I was visiting India at that time. After returning to the US, I went to JKG's nursing home and saw JKG for the very last time. RVR's timely message made this possible.

RVR retired from MSU in the year 2019. He was tired of grading papers. JKG's demise also made a significant impact on him. He briefly considered moving to the triangle region of North Carolina, where I live, as a place with a milder climate and a cosmopolitan place with a large Indian community. Ultimately, he decided to move back to India. He lived in Bengaluru for the next four years. He was relishing his move back to India and was joyful, as always so. His sudden death leaves a big vacuum for people who knew him closely. RVR was childless and is survived by his wife, Deepa Ramamoorthi. RVR was everyone's favorite because of his profound wisdom, sense of humor, kindness, and politeness. He had a deep connection with India and Italy. He took visiting appointments at University of Roma La Sapienza, Rome, Italy, University of Bocconi, Milan, Italy, various ISI campuses and the Chennai Mathematical Institute. He enjoyed associating with people all over these places and quickly became their personal friends. RVR leaves a legacy of a brilliant scholar who knew how to enjoy life and make friends.

This article also appears in the Indian Bayesian Society Newsletter, November 2023 issue.

IISA Election Results 2023

IISA is pleased to announce the successful completion of the 2023 Election Cycle.

Dr. Hiya Banerjee, Director of Biostatistics at Eli Lilly and Company, has been elected as IISA President-Elect 2024 (IISA President 2025, Past President 2026).

Prof. Nairanjana (Jan) Dasgupta, Boeing Distinguished Professor at Washington State University (WSU) has been elected as the newest Member of Board of Trustees (2024-2026).

Our heartiest congratulations to Drs. Banerjee and Dasgupta! Please see their short biographies below.



Dr. Hiya Banerjee holds a PhD in Applied Statistics from the University of California, Riverside, and Masters and Bachelors degrees in Statistics from the University of Calcutta. Currently, she serves as the Director of Biostatistics at Eli Lilly and Company, where she assumes a pivotal role in shaping the statistical approaches and methodologies used in clinical drug development, emphasizing the utmost rigor and precision. Dr Banerjee's expertise extends across various therapeutic areas, including Oncology and Diabetes, where her contributions to clinical research have led to significant advancements in patient care and

treatment. Her professional interests encompass survival analysis, multiple imputation techniques, causal inference, and their practical application in the context of drug development.

Dr Banerjee has actively participated in a diverse array of initiatives within both the IISA and the American Statistical Association Biopharmaceutical Section (ASA-BIOP). Over the past five years, she has fulfilled the role of executive administrator at IISA, while also undertaking various positions within ASA-BIOP. Her engagement in these organizations is driven by her fervent desire to inspire and empower young professionals, helping them uncover their purpose and unlock their full potential.



Dr. Nairanjana Dasgupta is a Boeing Distinguished Professor of Science and Mathematics and Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Washington State University (WSU), and the Director of the Data Analytics Program at WSU. An ASA fellow since 2018, Dr. Dasgupta is a part of the Advisory Board for Academic Data Science Alliance (ADSA) since 2020, the past-President for Caucus for Women in Stats (CWS) for 2022 and the Vice-Chair for the Committee for Women in Statistics (ASA) for 2024 and the Chair of the JEDI committee for WNAR. She has been a Faculty Fellow for Data Sciences at WSU since 2021. Dr. Dasgupta is vocal about lack of equity in Data Sciences and a passionate advocate for data literacy for all, and has been instrumental in organizing “data camps” in underserved communities to spread data literacy.

Dr. Dasgupta was trained as a mathematical statistician but has moved over time towards data related research. She received my BS in Statistics from Presidency College (now Presidency University) Kolkata, India, and her MS and PhD in Statistics from University of South Carolina. Washington State University has been her academic home since then. Dr. Dasgupta has an active research profile and has been funded by NIST, NSF, NIH and is currently co-PI on two funded grants (NIH) and two more by the state of WA. She has published more than 65 papers and has chaired 80 graduate student committees. Her current research is on using ranking selection ideas to look at large scale multiplicity related to ‘omics’ studies. She is also writing a book on analysis of ordinal data. Dr. Dasgupta serve on the editorial board of “The American Statistician” and served on ‘Journal of Statistical Computations and Simulations’ till 2016.

Paradoxes

Readers of this column are surely familiar with Zeno and his paradoxes, for example, the one involving Achilles and the tortoise. If you are not, think of a regular morning, and you have to walk to the kitchen counter to grab a cup of coffee, the cup of coffee being your 'limit', but in order to get there you first have to walk half of the distance, then half of whatever is remaining, then half of that, and so on ad infinitum. In Aristotle's words, "in a race, the quickest runner can never overtake the slowest, since the pursuer must first reach the point whence the pursued started, so that the slower must always hold a lead." An analogous version was coined by ancient Chinese philosophers, "If from a stick a foot long you every day take the half of it, in a myriad ages it will not be exhausted." But surely Achilles will beat the tortoise and you, your cup of coffee, and given sufficient information, will be able to solve exactly when and where it happens. Still, many years back, when I was a little kid, with no idea of infinite series (or of infinity for that matter), this was the problem that piqued my interest in Mathematics, one that has never let me go. One can argue that this classic tale extends a little bit into the territory of philosophy, as philosophers argue that the central tenet of Zeno's paradox is not just the mathematical solution but the impossibility of ever reaching a 'final resolution'. And, anomalies and paradoxes play a role in scientific revolutions too, as Thomas Kuhn argued in his 'Structures of Scientific Revolutions', that the occasional paradigm shifts happen in science when accumulated paradoxes or anomalies outweigh the current paradigm of 'normal' science, despite the initial and often dogmatic resistance.

So, I thought, why not talk about a few of my favourite paradoxes in Statistics and Probability that have fascinated me ever since I learned about them? I should note here that these are not paradoxes in the strictest sense, as in, they don't expose logical inconsistencies in a paradigm but they do shed light on the slippery slopes and remind us to be cautious, and not depend too much on our intuitions, especially when hidden structures or infinite objects are at play.

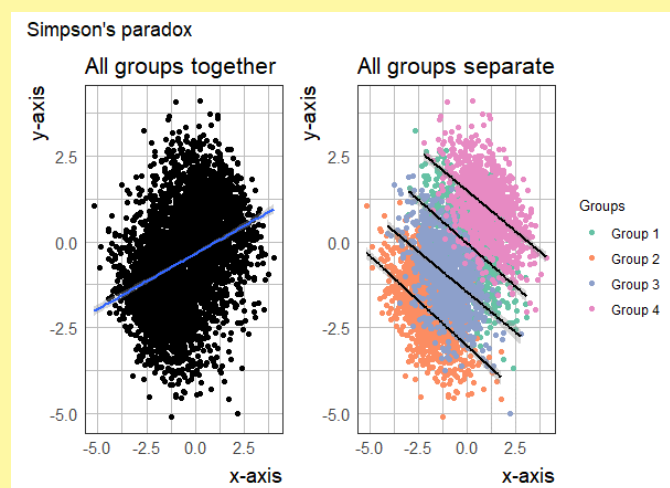


Figure 1

The first of this is perhaps one of the most well-known and yet often overlooked phenomena: the Simpson's paradox, that happens when a trend observed within individual groups reverses when the groups are combined (see Figure 1 for a simulated example inspired by [1]). A student of statistics usually learns this in their undergraduate curriculum and learns about the famous examples: the case of gender discrimination at Berkeley and the case of kidney stones. We also realize soon that it is not as paradoxical as the name suggests, it is rather a problem of ignoring a latent variable, a problem pervasive but well-understood, attracting comments that Simpson's 'isn't really a paradox at all' [2]. However, it is more commonplace than we tend to think, as we learned during the Covid-19 polycrisis that Simpson's paradox can strike whenever we look at grouped data and can still take us by surprise. One of the most striking examples of this is due to Prof. Jeff Morris who showed that for Israeli vaccine data, failure to stratify by age, which is a key factor in both vaccination status and risk of severe diseases, leads to a misleading picture of vaccine effectiveness [3]. The example or the analysis is much more nuanced than I can discuss here, and I would encourage readers to read the excellent blog by Prof. Morris [3] for a detailed discussion. This naturally

makes one wonder, how often do we see a misleading statement in research papers or media headlines because of an omitted variable bias?

The second paradox is one that I first read in one of the most popular probability textbooks, “A First Course in Probability”, by Sheldon M. Ross. This is also known as the Ross-Littlewood paradox or the ping-pong ball problem. A simplified version is as follows:

Imagine you have an bottomless vase and an infinite bag of balls, labeled with the natural numbers 1, 2, 3, and so on. Starting at 1 minute to noon, every $(1/2)^n$ minute you add ten more balls to the vase, and then you remove one ball. The process is as follows: At minute 1, you add balls 1 to 10 and remove ball numbered 10. At minute 1/2, you add balls 11 to 20 and remove ball 20. At minute 1/4, you add balls 21 to 30 and remove ball 30. ... and so on. The question posed is: how many balls are left in the vase at noon? The answer is clearly infinity since all balls numbered anything other than $10n$ would be there. But, if you change the way the balls are drawn: at minute 1 to noon, you add 1-10 and draw 1, at 1/2 minute you add 11-20 and draw 2, and so on, ad infinitum. But, now, paradoxically the vase must be empty at noon because for any ball number ‘ n ’, there’s an epoch, viz. $(1/2)^{(n-1)}$, when it must have been drawn. What if you draw a randomly selected ball at every epoch? Using Boole’s inequality, Ross showed that with probability 1, the vase will be empty at noon .

Apart from the apparent simplicity of this problem statement, another reason I like it is that different philosophers, mathematicians or logicians, favor different solutions that are completely different, and it led to a long discussion on forums like StackExchange [4] and other places. One of these views is that this is an ill-posed problem, as James Meyer writes, it “is an infinite unending process that is not completed” [5], or, to hark back to Zeno’s paradox, we have to complete an infinite number of steps before noon, and ‘noon’ is never reached.

My wrist-watch says it’s 11 in the morning, and as I make plans for lunch in this lovely weather, I know Achilles will eventually beat the tortoise and noon will always be reached.

After all, we live in a paradoxical world.

References:

- 1 <https://www.r-bloggers.com/2020/11/simpsons-paradox-and-misleading-statistical-inference/>
- 2 Coronavirus vaccines work. But this statistical illusion makes people think they don’t. - The Washington Post
- 3 Israeli data: How can efficacy vs. severe disease be strong when 60% of hospitalized are vaccinated?
- 4 <https://stats.stackexchange.com/questions/315502/at-each-step-of-a-limiting-infinite-process-put-10-balls-in-an-urn-and-remove-one>
- 5 <https://www.jamesmeyer.com/paradoxes/balls-in-the-urn-paradox>



Meet our author, Jyotishka Datta!

Introducing our new feature column, ‘Datta’s Data Dives’. A relaxed way to dive into the intricacies of the data world.

Prof. Bhramar Mukherjee, University of Michigan



It is our pleasure and honor to announce that Prof. Bhramar Mukherjee, John D. Kalbfleisch Collegiate Professor of Biostatistics, Chair, Biostatistics, and Professor, Epidemiology at University of Michigan, has been awarded the University of Michigan's highest professorship of Distinguished University Professor. For her professorship, Dr. Mukherjee has selected the John D. Kalbfleisch Distinguished University Professor. Read more here: <https://sph.umich.edu/news/2023posts/bhramar-mukherjee-named-distinguished-university-professor.html>

The NISS Board of Trustees established the Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research in 2000 to honor Sacks' service as the founding director of NISS. The annual prize of \$1,000, presented at the NISS JSM Reception, recognizes sustained, high-quality cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences. Bhramar was named the 2023 Sacks Award winner, "For excellence in cross-disciplinary research, for leadership in developing methodology for genetic epidemiology, and contributions to our profession, for being an outstanding mentor, who has significantly advanced biostatistics, and public health with a worldwide impact on policy." Read more here: <https://www.niss.org/about/awards/jerome-sacks-award-outstanding-cross-disciplinary-research#:~:text=The%20annual%20prize%20of%20%241%2C000,the%202023%20Sacks%20Award%20winner.>

Bhramar has also been honored with the 2023 Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society, recognizing her commitment to and accomplishments in biostatistics on a global scale. Read more here: <https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2023/10/02/2023-karl-e-peace-award/>

On behalf of the entire IISA Community, a big Congratulations to Bhramar!

Dr. Himel Mallick elected as member of the International Statistical Institute

Congratulations to Dr. Himel Mallick, our esteemed life member, on being elected as a member of the International Statistical Institute!



Dr. Debashree Ray wins the 2023 Emerging Leader Award

Dr. Debashree Ray has received the 2023 Emerging Leader Award from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in recognition of her work in public health, including statistical methodologies for genetic epidemiology and for leading and collaborating on timely research and scientific communication on COVID-19 in India.



Dr. Antar Bandyopadhyay becomes Head of ISI, Delhi

Dr. Antar Bandyopadhyay has become the Head of the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Centre from May 01, 2023 for a four years term.



Dr. Amarjot Kaur receives the ASA's Founders Award

IISA is glad to announce that IISA lifetime member, Dr. Amarjot Kaur from Merck Research Labs, recently received the American Statistical Association's Founders

Award at the 2023 Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto. This award honors those select few ASA members with "longstanding and distinguished service to the association and its membership." To be eligible for the award, candidates must have served the organization over an extended period in a variety of volunteer leadership roles and made significant impact.

Arvind K. Shah and Amarjot Kaur amongst winners of ASA's 2023 SPAIG Award

The ASA's 2023 SPAIG (Statistical Partnership Among Academe, Industry, and Government) Award was presented at the recent JSM to the research partnership among UNC/UConn/GWU, Merck, and NCI. Arvind K.

Shah has managed and led Merck's external research collaborations for the last fifteen years. The other Merck collaborators are Amarjot Kaur, Jianxin Lin and Bill Wang. The partnership has produced important methodological research leading to many publications while partially supporting some faculty members and their graduate students. The award was established to recognize outstanding collaborations among organizations, while recognizing key individual contributors.

IISA inaugurates Career Advice Center

IISA is starting a career advice forum, primarily to help students and young professionals with career advice. Anybody needing help or advice can reach out to this forum, and we will identify experienced IISA members to respond to the queries within a short span of time. Topics of interest may be about choices of courses to enroll in for particular career choices (for example, government statistics jobs in India or biopharmaceutical jobs in the USA), options for higher studies in different countries, internship opportunities, collaborators for grant proposals or particular research projects, and so on. These examples are for illustration purposes only, and this forum will go into whatever topics IISA members want to delve into, where some IISA members can help out others.

While this is primarily directed towards students and young professionals and researchers, there is no restriction on who may pose a query.

The most efficient way of posting a question, or responding to one is to use the Slack workspace for IISA, accessible here: https://join.slack.com/t/international-ale1861/shared_invite/zt-mlu6xyfb-nek4crzVZFhxQj3B9K6muQ. Once you have installed Slack (in case you are not using it already), please join in the #career-advice channel, and post your questions there. You may also take the opportunity to join other IISA-related slack channels you'll find under the same workspace. An alternative to using Slack is to post your questions using this google form: <https://forms.gle/MY5HNMZgC2XaNbFn9>. We will periodically collect the queries coming to the google form, and post them to the Slack channel.

Responses to the queries will be posted on the Slack channel first. Then selected queries and their responses will also be posted on the IISA newsletter.

Follow us on LinkedIn!

Follow the official LinkedIn
account of IISA.



Get regular updates.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-indian-statistical-association/>

Aren't you a member of IISA yet?



Join Us!

Become a Member of our Exclusive Community

Are you ready to be a part of something extraordinary?

We are thrilled to announce that membership is now open for IISA! As a member, you'll have access to a wide range of benefits and opportunities. Join us and be a part of the extraordinary Statistics community!

Student membership is FREE!

Whether you are a professional looking for networking opportunities, an enthusiast passionate about Statistics, or someone seeking personal growth and development, our community welcomes you with open arms.

Don't miss out on this incredible chance to make a difference!

Visit our website at www.intindstat.org to learn more about our organization, the membership benefits, and how to join. Together, let's create a brighter future!

Join now and be part of something extraordinary!

Volunteers needed!

IISA is actively looking for volunteers to serve across various committees. In particular, we are looking for at least one member volunteer for the IISA Newsletter committee. Please reach out to newsletter@intindstat.org if you wish to serve in the committee.