

Editorial

“Mathematics mediates between spirit and matter”

—Hugo Steinhaus

In 2005/2006, four issues of the first volume of *Model Assisted Statistics and Applications* (MASA), published by IOS Press, The Netherlands, were successfully completed. They comprised thirty-four papers on various statistical philosophies and applications, written by authors from fifteen countries. We are happy that the journal has gained so much interest in the statistical community.

MASA authors' range of interests, reflected in the papers already published as well as being considered for publication, is very broad. They write about survey sampling, computational statistics, statistical methods for economy, hypothesis testing, estimation, experimental design, application of statistical methods for various fields of science, and many other, neither less interesting nor less important, topics. We do encourage our contributors to submit both theoretical and application papers on model assisted statistics – we think both these types of works are of importance for the development of statistics: theory is the essence of statistics, its beauty, but applications are where statistics finds its audience. Besides, who will dare say that statistical applications do not show the beauty of statistics?

As the Guest Editor for the second volume of *Model Assisted Statistics and Applications*, we would like to welcome Professor María del Mar Rueda from the Department of Statistics and Operational Research, the Faculty of Sciences, the University of Granada, Spain. We are happy to have Professor Rueda's support in our daily work on developing the journal.

“Mathematics mediates between spirit and matter.” These words of Hugo Steinhaus, which are inscribed (in Polish) on his tombstone [1], should always be kept in mind by mathematicians. And statistics, one of the fields of mathematics, also mediates between spirit and matter. Let us never forget it.

Marcin Kozak
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In this issue

Models give a bridge from what can be collected in a systematic way to “knowledge of the world.” Where not enough is known to make unconditional inference (the most common situation encountered in practice), a model expressed in mathematical language provides the means to link data collected in controlled circumstances and prior or collateral knowledge of the phenomenon under study. The model, although invisible to the intended audience, anchors the analyst's claim to precision, efficiency in design or estimator optimality, and thus merits thoughtful attention.

The first issue of MASA Volume 2 illustrates three preoccupations: survey design (papers by Ramasubramanian et al.), estimation (Loveleen et al., and Lipovetsky), and innovation in experimental design (Singh et al.). The issue opens and closes on an application theme with papers by El Maache and Le Page and Shanmugam et al., rounding out MASA's promised coverage. This does not exhaust the topic of model assistance: we look forward to consolidating these themes and venturing into new themes in future volumes.

Stephen Horn
Managing Editor

Reference

- [1] H. Steinhaus, *Mathematics mediates between spirit and matter*, PWN, 2000 (in Polish, with foreword of J. Lukaszewicz).