Classification Society

— Formerly the Classification Society of North America (CSNA) —

Paul McNicholas, President
Abby Flynt, President-Elect
Hans Friedrich Köhn, Newsletter Editor

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Editorial

Dear friends, dear members of the Classification Society:

This year’s annual meeting of the Classification Society will be hosted by our secretary/treasurer, Brian Franczak, at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from June 19–22, 2019.

Please, refer for further details to page 3 of this newsletter or the Classification Society’s website

https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting

Hope to see you all there!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and productive 2019!

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1. Looking Ahead: The Classification Society’s Annual Conference 2019

The 48th annual meeting of the Classification Society will take place from THUR, June 20 to SAT, June 22 2019 at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The meeting will be hosted by our current secretary/treasurer, Brian Franczak. He is chairing the organizing committee with Paul McNicholas, the current president of The Classification Society. Paul McNicholas is the chair of the Scientific Program Committee (SCP); other members of the SCP are Brian Franczak, Stephen France, and Abby Flynt.

The list of confirmed speakers is:

- **President’s Invited Address:**
  Claire Gormley, University College Dublin, Ireland;

- **Invited Lectures:**
  Brianna Heggeseth, Macalester College, St. Paul;
  Hans Friedrich Köhn, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign;
  Antonio Punzo, University of Catania, Italy;

- **Invited Session Speakers:**
  Guangliang Chen, San Jose State University;
  Brian Franczak, MacEwan University, Canada;
  Bei Jiang, University of Alberta, Canada;
  Rebecca Nugent, Carnegie Melon University, Pittsburgh;
  Irene Vrbik, University of British Columbia-Okanagan, Canada;
  Meredith Wallace, University of Pittsburgh;

- **Special Session in Honour of Professor Stanley Sclove:**
  Stanley Sclove, University of Illinois at Chicago;
  Stephen France, Mississippi State University;
  Herbie Lee, University of California, Santa Cruz;
  Paul McNicholas, McMaster University, Canada.

There will also be a special invited session for the Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Contributed abstracts for talks and posters are most welcome!

**Presentations:**
The organizing committee is now accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations. If you are interested in presenting your work at the upcoming meeting, please email a pdf file with a title and abstract containing no more than 300 words to Brian Franczak, franczakb@macewan.ca. Please indicate whether you would like to be considered for an oral or poster presentation.

**Deadlines:**
The submission deadline for contributed abstracts is March 31, 2019 The Early Bird Registration deadline is May 1, 2019.
Transportation:
Edmonton is accessible by air through Edmonton International Airport (YEG). YEG is approximately 32 kilometres from MacEwan University. From YEG, a number of options exist to get to the University and nearby hotels:

1. Edmonton Sky Shuttle (https://edmontonskyshuttle.com/);

2. Airport Taxi Service (flat rate available—http://www.airporttaxiservice.ca/);


Accommodation:
MacEwan University is located in the heart of downtown Edmonton. Accommodation is available at a number of nearby hotels:

1. MacEwan Residence Hotel (on campus; https://www.macewan.ca/wcm/CampusServices/GuestAccommodationServices/GuestRooms/index.htm);

2. The Sutton Place Hotel Edmonton (approx. 800m to campus; https://www.suttonplace.com/hotels/sutton-place-hotel-edmonton-edm);

3. Delta Hotels by Marriot, Edmonton Centre Suites (approx. 800m to campus; https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yegec-delta-hotels-edmonton-centre-suites/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2);

4. Matrix Hotel (approx. 1.1 km to campus; https://www.matrixedmonton.com/).

A number of other options are also available and can be found easily using a google maps search.

Further Information:
All these details and more can be found on the website of The Classification Society at https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting.
2. Looking Back: The Classification Society’s Annual Conference 2018 in Stony Brook, NY

Report from the 2018 Annual Meeting

by Hans Friedrich Köhn

The 47th annual meeting of The Classification Society was held at the campus of Stony Brook University, Long Island, New York, from Thursday, June 21 to Saturday, June 23 2018.

The meeting was hosted by former Classification Society president F. James Rohlf. The Scientific Program Committee (SCP) was chaired by Paul McNicholas, the current president of the Classification Society; other members of the SCP were Jeff Andrews, Brian Franczak, and Abby Flynt. The SCP had prepared an impressive conference program.

The President’s Invited Address was given by Charles Bouveyron, Université Nice Côte d’Azur, France, who discussed state of the art techniques for modeling and clustering network data with textual edges as they are generated by communications between individuals using, for example, social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Linkedin.

In his presidential address, Paul McNicholas, McMaster University, Canada, provided an in-depth review of current approaches of mixture-based modeling to a variety of key problems in classification such as the analysis of longitudinal data and three-way data, or the detection and handling of outliers.

Keynote lectures were given by Tanzy Love, University of Rochester, USA, on outlier detection in model-based cluster analysis; by Volodymyr Melnykov, University of Alabama, USA, on matrix mixture modelling within a model-based clustering framework; and Katrijn Van Deun, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, on statistical methods for multi-source high-dimensional data.

The Distinguished Dissertation Award 2018 of The Classification Society had been awarded to Yang Tang, McMaster University, Canada, and Michael Fop, University College Dublin, Ireland. Both recipients presented their research during a special invited session.

Invited sessions were also held on recent advances of clustering and applications of classification, with speakers Sanjeena Dang, Binghamton University; Stanley Sclove, University of Illinois at Chicago; Stephen France, Mississippi State University; and Justin Gross, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2019 meeting in Edmonton!
3. Call for Nominations: The 2019 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award

Each year, the Classification Society offers a Distinguished Dissertation Award (the Award, hereafter) for an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation on the theme of clustering, classification, or related areas of data analysis, encompassing associated theory and/or applications. The 2019 Award totals US$500 in book vouchers from Chapman and Hall/CRC. The winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special session at the 2019 Classification Society Annual Meeting, which will be held at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, from June 20–22, 2019. The Classification Society will cover travel expenses to the 2019 Annual Meeting of at most US$1,000 for a North American-based Award winner or at most US$1,500 for an Award winner based elsewhere.

Criteria for nomination for the Award include: (i) the main topic of the dissertation is in classification, clustering, or a closely related area; (ii) the dissertation contains innovative work in theory/methodology, or innovative and well-developed application(s); and (iii) the literature review is thorough. To be eligible for nomination, a Ph.D. dissertation must have been successfully completed—including successful defense—within the calendar year 2018.

Nominations may be made by the dissertation author, advisor/supervisor, or a related person, and must be sent by email. A nomination must include contact information for the nominator and nominee (if different), a URL where an online copy of the dissertation can be accessed by the members of the Award Committee, and an electronic (i.e., scanned) cover letter, written and signed by the nominator, stating the date of completion of the Ph.D. dissertation and outlining why the dissertation merits the award. The nominator must also arrange for two external referee reports to be sent directly to the chair of the Award committee. If possible, the referees should be arms length from the dissertation author and their supervisor.

Cover letters should include full bibliographic details for any published papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material that has arisen from the dissertation. For non-English language dissertations, nominators are requested to provide an extended abstract in English and, where relevant, to highlight any papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material associated with the thesis that has been published in English.

The award committee consists of Prof. Volodymyr Melnykov (chair), Prof. Katrijn Van Deun, and Prof. Hans Friedrich Kœhn. Nominations and external referee reports must be submitted to the chair of the Award Committee, Prof. Volodymyr Melnykov, Department of Information Systems, Statistics, and Management Science, University of Alabama at vmelnykov@culverhouse.ua.edu on or before 11.59pm (EST) on February 1, 2019. Results will be announced approximately two months after this submission deadline. (Please, see The Classification Society website for further details: https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Dissertation-Award)
4. Important Conference Dates

(1) SIAM International Conference on DataMining, 
**May 2–4, 2019**; Calgary, Alberta, Canada; 
[https://www.siam.org/Conferences/CM/Main/sdm19](https://www.siam.org/Conferences/CM/Main/sdm19)

(2) 2019 Classification Society Annual Conference, 
**June 19–22, 2019**; MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; 
[https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting](https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting)

(3) EcoSta 2019, 3rd International Conference on Econometrics and Statistics, 
**June 25–27, 2019**; National Chung Hsing University (NCHU), Taichung, Taiwan; 

(4) IMPS 2019, International Meeting of the Psychometric Society, 
**July 15–19, 2019**; Santiago, Chile; 
[https://www.psychometricsociety.org/content/imps-2019](https://www.psychometricsociety.org/content/imps-2019)

(5) JSM 2018, Joint Statistical Meeting, 
**July 27–August 1, 2019**; Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO; 
[https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Meetings/Joint-Statistical-Meetings.aspx](https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Meetings/Joint-Statistical-Meetings.aspx)

(6) IFCS 2019, 16th Conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies, 
**August 26–29, 2019**; Thessaloniki, Greece; 
[https://ifcs.gr/](https://ifcs.gr/)