Call for Nominations:
The 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 2016 Award totals US$500 in book vouchers from Chapman and Hall/CRC and the winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special session at the 2016 Classification Society Annual Meeting, which will be held at the University of Missouri from June 1-4. The Classification Society will cover travel expenses to the 2016 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 dissertation contains innovative or impressive work in theory/methodology, or innovative or well-developed application(s); and (ii) 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 2015. Nominations may be made by the dissertation author, advisor/supervisor, or related person. 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 (e.g., 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 2016 Award Committee comprises:
• Kathleen Gates (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States),
• Herbie Lee (University of California, Santa Cruz, United States), and
• Paul McNicholas (McMaster University, Canada).

Nominations and external referee reports must be submitted to the chair of the Award Committee, Paul McNicholas, at paulmc ‘at’ mcmaster ‘dot’ ca, on or before **February 5, 2016**. Results will be announced approximately two months after this submission deadline.