



International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

President: Krzysztof Jajuga

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Editor: Angelos Markos

The **International Federation of Classification Societies**, founded in 1985, is composed of:

Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, British Classification Society, Latin American Society of Classification and Data Analysis, The Classification Society, Classification and Multivariate Statistics Group of the Hungarian Statistical Association, GfKl Data Science Society, Greek Society of Data Analysis, Irish Pattern Recognition and Classification Society, Japanese Classification Society, Korean Classification Society, Moroccan Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, Multivariate Data Analysis Group of the South African Statistical Association, Multivariate Statistics and Classification Group of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research, Società Italiana di Statistica, Statistical Society of Slovenia, Vereniging voor Ordinatie en Classificatie and Section of Classification and Data Analysis of the Polish Statistical Society.

The IFCS is a non-profit, non-political scientific organization, the aims of which are to further classification research. Among other activities, the IFCS organises a biennial conference, and supports two journals:

Advances in Data Analysis and Classification and the *Journal of Classification*

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IFCS Homepage: <http://www.ifcs.info>

Announcement and Call for Papers

We are glad to inform you that the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) Conference 2026 will take place in Milan, Italy, from July 14 to 16, 2026. The conference will be hosted by the Department of Statistics and Quantitative Methods of the University of Milano-Bicocca and the Department of Economics, Management and Quantitative Methods of the University of Milan.

The conference will focus on topics including analysis of complex and non-standard data, machine learning and deep learning approaches to classification and clustering, and real-world applications across diverse scientific disciplines.

Scientific Program Committee

Francesca Greselin (Chair), Silvia Salini (Co-chair), Krzysztof Jajuga (IFCS), Rebecca Nugent (IFCS), Mark de Rooij (IFCS), Vladamir Batagelj (SSS), Paula Brito (CLAD), Sonya Coleman (IPRCS), Rosa Crujeiras, Jean Diatta (SFC), Luca Frigau (ClaDAG), Raeesa Ganey (MDAG), Stefano A. Gattone, Aurea Granè (SEIO-AMyC), Julien Jacques, Joanna Landmesser-Rusek (SKAD), Berthold Lausen (BDSS), Angelos Markos (GSDA), Agustín Mayo-Íscar, Raffaella Piccarreta, Riccardo Rastelli, Pieter Schoonees (VOC), Luca Scrucca, Piercesare Secchi, Gialuca Sottile, Yoshikazu Terada (JCS), Cristina Tortora (CS), Tom Wilderjans (VOC), Adalbert Wilhelm (GFKL).

We look forward to welcoming you to Milan.

Best regards,

the Local Organizing Committee

Francesca Greselin (Chair), University of Milano-Bicocca **Luca Brusa**, Catholic University of Milan **Andrea Cappozzo**, Catholic University of Milan **Alessandro Casa**, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano **Francesca De Battisti**, University of Milano-Bicocca **Francesco Denti**, University of Padova **Sónia Dias**, Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo **Andrea Marletta**, University of Milano-Bicocca **Maria Nai Ruscone**, University of Genova **Giorgia Zaccaria**, University of Milano-Bicocca

Mariangela Zenga, University of Milano-Bicocca

Satellite events will include a data challenge for students and young researchers, as well as tutorials. Further information will be released soon.

Important Deadlines

Submission of full papers	18 January 2026
Notification of acceptance	01 March 2026
Final version	15 March 2026
Early registration	04 May 2026
Standard registration	15 June 2026
Late registration	after 15 June 2026

More about IFCS 2026 at ifcs2026.unimib.it.

News from AMyC-SEIO

The [VI International Workshop on Proximity Data, Multivariate Analysis and Classification](#) took place on November 28 and 29 at the University of Girona, organized by the Working Group on Multivariate Analysis and Classification, AMyC-SEIO.

The scientific program of the workshop consisted of about eighteen talks, four of them plenary, given by professors Mia Hubert (Catholic University of Leuven) on Robust principal components by casewise and cellwise weighting; Michele Gallo (Univ. of Naples) on Tensor data analysis; Victor Elvira (Univ. of Edinburgh) on State-space models and graphs; Nirian Martin (Complutense University of Madrid) on Testing for complete independence in high dimensions through Rao's Score tests. Another fourteen presentations were given by professors and students from the working group, with the participation of about twenty-five researchers.

In addition to the scientific program, there was also time for a sightseeing tour of Girona Cathedral, a walk along the city walls, and a magnificent dinner at a restaurant in the old town. The relaxed atmosphere was used to strengthen ties between the group and the invited members.

The [AMyC-SEIO Working Group](#) began organizing these workshops in 2014 in Granada, and they have been held every year and a half, except for the pandemic period. Their objective is to promote communication and collaboration among Working Group members, as well as between them and the invited researchers, in order to contribute to the development of Multivariate Analysis and

Classification, as well as other related topics and applications.

The workshop was superbly organized by the Research Group on Statistics and Compositional Data Analysis, and partly funded by the Spanish Society of Statistics, Operations Research and Data Science (SEIO), the University of Girona, the Department of Research and Universities (Generalitat de Catalunya), the National Research Agency and the Ministry of Science and Research, and European Union regional development funds.

Our colleagues at the University of Salamanca have already begun preparing the seventh edition of our workshop, which will be held on April 16 and 17, 2026. We look forward to seeing you!



Girona, 28th November 2024.

News from CLADAG

During the ClADAG-VOC Joint conference, voting took place for the renewal of the ClADAG Organizing Scientific Council.

The results were as follows:

- Vice President: Carla Rampichini (University of Florence)
- Advisors: Antonio Punzo (University of Catania); Maurizio Carpita (University of Brescia); Maria Brigida Ferraro (La Sapienza University of Rome)
- Under-40 Advisors: Alessandro Casa (Free University of Bolzano); Carlo Cavicchia (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Giovanni Porzio is now President of ClADAG, while Francesca Greselin serves as Past President.

The ClADAG representatives for IFCS for the

period Sept 2025 - Sept 2027 are Giovanni Porzio and Carla Rampichini.

ClADAG has a new website: <https://sites.google.com/view/cladag/about-cladag?authuser=0>

All the sister societies are asked, please, to update the links from their society websites accordingly.

ClADAG 2025 Scientific Meeting

The 15th edition of ClADAG was hosted by the University of Naples and took place from September 8 to 11, 2025, in the unprecedented format of a Joint Meeting with the Dutch and Flemish Classification Societies. The event fostered a lively atmosphere of scientific debate, bringing together approximately 300 participants, with five plenary presentations, 41 invited sessions, and 28 spontaneous sessions, for a total of 250 contributions, 125 of which were presented by international speakers. This was the most attended edition in ClADAG's 28-year history.

Collaboration with other SIS Sections and Groups resulted in invited sessions with y-SIS, GRASPA, SDS, and SVQS.

The ClADAG 2025 Scientific Committee, chaired by Michele La Rocca and Mark de Rooij, successfully assembled significant scientific contributions. The Local Organizing Committee, led by Antonio D'Ambrosio and composed of 17 members, made the event possible: we extend our heartfelt thanks to each of them for their dedication and for the excellent success of the conference.

The images below show a few moments from the conference.





The PhD Student/Young Researcher Best Paper Awards were awarded to the papers of Luca Coraggio, Sara Geremia, and Andrea Carta. Our heartfelt congratulations to each of them.

The Springer Book with the publication of the Proceedings is already available online: [link](#).

Two Special Issues are also planned in prestigious international journals: ADAC and Metron.

Information about upcoming meetings

Next ClaDAG Meeting will be held in Pescara (Italy), September 7-9, 2027.

ClaDAG organizes the ClaDAG School 2026 Statistics in Sports March 16-20, 2026 (University of Brescia). The school is targeted to PhD and young researchers, and is a joint venture with BDsports - Big Data analytics in sports (<http://bdsports.unibs.it/>)

The school will provide an overview of statistical methods and models useful for analyzing sports data. A variety of methodological approaches and applications will be presented.

Scientific and Organizing Committee

Coordinators: Marica Manisera and Paola Zuccolotto (Bdsports, University of Brescia)

Lecturers

Andreas Groll, TU Dortmund University
Dimitris Karlis, Athens University of Econ & Business
Christophe Ley, University of Luxembourg
Marica Manisera, University of Brescia
Ioannis Ntzoufras, Athens University of Econ & Business
Paola Zuccolotto, University of Brescia
(<https://bdsports.unibs.it/cladag-school-2026>)

Deadline for early registration: 16 January, 2026

Young Cladag members have a discount. It is easy to get such a membership (you need to become a young-SIS member, that costs 35 euros, see: <https://sites.google.com/view/cladag/membership-regulations?authuser=0>).

News from the Classification Society

1. Paul McNicholas reappointed Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Classification

The Classification Society is excited to announce that Professor Paul D. McNicholas will continue as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Classification* for a 5-year term covering July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030. Under his guidance, the *Journal of Classification* has improved in many facets. For example, from 2020 to 2025, the impact factor, CiteScore, and ranking within the *Mathematics, Interdisciplinary Applications* category

steadily increased. Further, Professor McNicholas has, and continues to, make many important contributions to The Classification Society, including, but not limited to, organizing an annual session on key themes from the preceding volume of the *Journal of Classification*.

2. The Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award Winners

The Classification Society would like to congratulate the winners and those who received an honourable mention in the 2022 – 2025 Distinguished Dissertation Award competitions:

2022

Winner: Dr. Francesco Sanna Passino (Imperial College London)

Honourable mention: Dr. Daniel Kottke (Kassel University)

2023

Winner: Dr. Cristina Molero-Rio (École Polytechnique)

2024

Winner: Dr. Michael Pearce (University of Washington)

Honourable mentions:

- Dr. Alexander Sharp (University of Waterloo)
- Dr. Jason Hou-Liu (University of Waterloo)

2025

Winner: Dr. Sphiwe Skhosana (University of Pretoria)

Honourable mentions:

- Dr. Belen Pulido (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)
- Dr. Kat Clark (McMaster University)

3. The 2026 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award

Each year, the Classification Society (CS) offers a Distinguished Dissertation Award (DDA) for an outstanding PhD dissertation on the theme of clustering, classification, or related areas of data analysis, encompassing associated theory and/or applications. The CS DDA is supported by Springer. Click [here](#) for more details.

The 2026 Award totals 500 USD in book vouchers from Springer and the winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special session at the 2026

Classification Society Annual Meeting.

The Classification Society will cover travel expenses to the 2026 Annual Meeting of at most 1,500 USD for a North American-based Award winner or at most 2,000 USD for an Award winner based outside North America.

Criteria for nomination for the Award include:

- the main topic of the dissertation is in classification, clustering, or a closely related area;
- the dissertation contains innovative work in theory/methodology and/or innovative or well developed application(s); and
- the literature review is thorough.

Eligibility

To be eligible for nomination, a Ph.D. dissertation must have been successfully completed – including successful defense – within the calendar year 2025. Nominations may be made by the dissertation author, supervisor, or 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 (e.g., scanned) cover letter, written and signed by the nominator, stating the date of final 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 have 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 dissertation that have been published in English.

Nominations

Nominations and external referee reports must be submitted to the chair of the Award Committee on or before 11:59pm (EST) on February 1, 2026.

4. Report on Annual Meetings

The Classification Society would like to thank all those who attended and helped organize the 2022 through 2025 Classification Society Annual Meetings.

The 2022 Classification Society Annual Meeting

Location: Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario Canada

Dates: June 15 – 18, 2022

Local Organizer: Sunny Wang

The 2023 Classification Society Annual Meeting

Location: University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, USA

Dates: June 14 – 17, 2023

Local Organizer: Tanzy Love

Student Award Winners:

- Kat Clark (McMaster University)
- Tommy Flynn (McMaster University)
- Yiran Zhang (McMaster University)
- Mackenzie Neal (McMaster University)

The 2024 Classification Society Annual Meeting

Location: University of British Columbia – Okanagan Campus, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

Dates: June 18 – 20, 2024

Local Organizer: Jeff Andrews

Student Award Winners:

- Mackenzie Neal (McMaster University)
- Xiaoke Qin (Carleton University)
- Claire Cui (Dalhousie University)
- Brynn O'Connell (MacEwan University)

The 2025 Classification Society Annual Meeting

Location: Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Dates: June 17 – 29, 2025

Local Organizer: Sanjeena Dang

Student Award Winners:

- Xiaoke Qin (Carleton University)
- Alexa Sochanivsky (McMaster University)
- Babak Fathollahi Dehkordi (University of British Columbia – Okanagan)
- Yasmin Yaccoub (McMaster University).

4. The 2026 Classification Society Annual Meeting

The 2026 Classification Society Annual Meeting will be held at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada between June 16 – 18, 2026. The meeting is being organized by Orla Murphy. A welcome reception will be held in the evening of June 16th with all talks taking place on June 17th and 18th. The meeting will conclude with a banquet dinner on June 18th. The Classification Society will offer financial support to all student presenters and offer prizes for both poster and oral presentations. A call for abstracts will come out in early 2026.

We hope you will join us at the 2026 Classification Society Annual Meeting in Halifax!

News from JCS

(I) New Executive members of JCS

President: Yoshiro Yamamoto (Tokai University)

Auditors: Koji Kurihara (Kyoto Women's University), Masahiro Mizuta (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics)

Executive Committee Members: Kohei Adachi (Kyoto Women's University), Hiroyasu Abe (Wakayama Medical University), Fumio Ishioka (Okayama University), Tadashi Imaizumi (Tama University), Tatsuo Otsu (National Center for University Entrance Examinations), Akinori Okada (Rikkyo University), Yutaka Kano (Doshisha University), Takafumi Kubota (Tama University), Fumitake Sakaori (Chuo University), Mika Sato-Ilic (University of Tsukuba), Akinobu Takeuchi (Jissen Women's University), Kensuke Tanioka (Doshisha University), Jun Tsuchida (Kyoto Women's University), Yoshikazu Terada (The University of Osaka), Makoto Tomita (Yokohama City University), Atsuko Nakayama (Tokyo Metropolitan University), Atsuhiko Hayashi (Jissen Women's University), Kuniyoshi Hayashi (Kyoto Women's University), Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University), Michio Yamamoto (The University of Osaka), Satoru Yokoyama (Aoyama Gakuin University)

Secretariat Members: President: Yoshiro Yamamoto (Tokai University), Secretary: Atsuko Nakayama (Tokyo Metropolitan University); General Affairs: Hiroyasu Abe (Wakayama Medical University), Fumio Ishioka (Okayama University) and Takamitsu Funayama (Bunri University of Hospitality); Treasurer: Akinobu Takeuchi (Jissen Women's University), Makiko Oda (National Defense Medical College) and Sanetoshi Yamada (Tokai University); Public relations: Naoto Yamashita (Kansai University) and Jun Tsuchida (Kyoto Women's University); The

other members are Yuki Toyoda (Hosei University), Kuniyoshi Hayashi (Kyoto Women's University), Hiroyuki Tsurumi (Yokohama National University), Mika Sato-Ilic (University of Tsukuba), Fumitake Sakaori (Chuo University), Makoto Tomita (Yokohama City University), Takafumi Kubota (Tama University), Yoshikazu Terada (The University of Osaka), Tatsuo Otsu (National Center for University Entrance Examinations) and Satoru Yokoyama (Aoyama Gakuin University).

(II) Report of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society

The 44th Annual Meeting was held online and at Akita Alve, Akita, Japan, on May 31st and June 1st, 2025. The organizing committee was chaired by Atsuhiko Nakayama (Tokyo Metropolitan University). The program of the meeting comprised 15 presentations in all. There were three contributed sessions and two student sessions. The program was shown as follows.

STUDENT SESSION I

- Characterization of Simultaneously Detected Bacteria Using Electronic Medical Records of Patients with Infectious Diseases -Toward Optimizing Antimicrobial Selection-, Hiroto Kubomatsu*, Sanetoshi Yamada, Tadashi Imanishi, Yoshiro Yamamoto. (*Tokai University).
- On Item Response Theory for Tests Containing Questions with Cluster Structure, Yuto Hamanaka*, Masaaki Okabe, Hiroshi Yadohisa. (*Doshisha University).
- JS-DiVE: A Dimensionality Reduction Method to Reveal Latent Cluster Structures, Takumi Nishimura*, Yoshikazu Terada. (*The University of Osaka).
- Robust Synthetic Control Method for Observational Data with Missing Values, Riku Yamashita*, Kensuke Tanioka, Hiroshi Yadohisa. (*Doshisha University).

CONTRIBUTED SESSION I

- The Cumulative Impact of Shadow Education on Educational Attainment: A Causal Mediation Analysis, Sanada Teruki*. (*Mukogawa Women's University).
- Utilizing Question and Access Log Data to Support Statistics Learning for Humanities Students, Akinobu Takeuchi*. (*Jissen Women's University).

CONTRIBUTED SESSION II

- Regularized Matrix Decomposition Structural Equation Modeling, Naoto Yamashita*. (*Kansai University).
- On the Representation of the Loss Function in Matrix Decomposition Factor Analysis, Yoshikazu Terada*. (*The University of Osaka/RIKEN AIP).
- Orthogonal Semi-Nonnegative Matrix Factorization with Stick-Breaking Process for Analyzing Qualitative and Quantitative Data, Hiroyasu Abe*. (*Wakayama Medical University).

CONTRIBUTED SESSION III

- Analyzing Asymmetric Relationships of National Sentiments between Asian Nations, Akinori Okada*, Satoru Yokoyama. (*Rikkyo University).
- Nonparametric Classification in Diagnostic Classification Models for Multiple-Choice Items, Kentaro Fukushima*, Kensuke Okada. (*The University of Osaka).
- Asymmetric MDS with Variable Selection Using Group Lasso, Kensuke Tanioka*, Hiroshi Yadohisa. (*Doshisha University).

CONTRIBUTED SESSION IV

- Research on The Classification of The Prediction of The Probability of Developing Lifestyle-related Diseases due to Aging, Toshio Shimokawa*. (*Wakayama Medical University).
- Incident Prediction based on Quality Control Indicators and Logistic Models, Isao Takabe*. (*Rissho University).
- Analysis of Virtual Households Using the National Survey of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth, Mikio Suga*, Isao Takabe. (*Hosei University).

In Memoriam: Professor Edwin Diday (1939-2023)

Edwin Diday passed away on April 28, 2023 at the age of 83. He was Professor Emeritus of Exceptional Class at the prestigious University of Paris-Dauphine (Ceremade - Decision Mathematics Research Laboratory). He left a considerable body of work, with nearly 200 publications, including 14 books as author or editor. He directed no less than 58 doctoral theses.

Edwin Diday had a profound impact on data analysis, both in France and internationally. His name remains associated with the dynamic clustering method that he developed in 1971 and that opened the way to local models. In the eighties of the 20th century, Edwin Diday launched another paradigm, pyramidal clustering, now extending classical hierarchical clustering, and allowing for the representation of

overlapping classes. His insatiable curiosity and his will to explore new paths has then led him to approach Machine Learning researchers, a movement where he was clearly ahead of his time. From these collaborations, he got the inspiration for yet another new paradigm: Symbolic Data Analysis, to which he devoted his last two books (Technip, 2018 and Wiley, 2019). Symbolic Data Analysis provides a framework allowing representing data with variability, extending the classical forms of variables to intervals, distributions, classes, etc. The recent raise of the “Big Data” paradigm just proved how far-sighted Edwin Diday was, understanding early in time that data volume and complexity would require a new approach.

Edwin Diday’s commitment with the Classification community goes without saying. Before IFCS even existed, the Data Analysis conferences he organised in Versailles (1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985; Proceedings published by North-Holland) were a meeting point for researchers in Classification and Data Analysis from all over the world. Edwin Diday has integrated the committee that prepared the formation of IFCS, together with Ph. Arabie, H.-H. Bock, J.D. Carroll, G.W. Furnas, J.C. Gower, L.J. Hubert, M. Jambu, and P. Richy. He has been a co-founder of the Francophone Classification Society (SFC) in 1977, of which he has been President in the 1990’s; during his presidency, the Annual Meetings of the SFC started, as well as the publication of the SFC Newsletter. In 1993 Edwin Diday organised in Paris the 3rd Conference of IFCS (Proc. published by Springer Verlag). In July 2022, he received in Porto, Portugal, the International Medal for Outstanding Research Achievements in Classification, awarded by the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS).

Edwin Diday has been an outstanding researcher, having dedicated his life to Classification and Data Analysis, whose development he has influenced for generations to come. Until his last days he remained active, often regretting that he was no longer allowed to supervise new Ph.D. students while he still had so many projects. His colleagues and friends will greatly miss Edwin Diday, in France and around the world.

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

March 2026

ClaDAG School 2026 Statistics in Sports, March 16-20, 2026, <http://bdsparts.unibs.it/>

April 2026

VII International Workshop on Proximity Data, Multivariate Analysis and Classification, AMyC2026, April 16-17, 2026 Salamanca (Spain), <https://wamyc26.usal.es/>

June 2026

11th International Workshop on Compositional Data Analysis, Coimbra (Portugal), June 1-5, 2026, <https://www.coda-association.org/en/codawork2026/>

The 2026 Classification Society Annual Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada), June 16 – 18, 2026

Data Science, Statistics & Visualisation (DSSV) 2026 Conference, Trento (Italy), June 29, 2026 – July 1, 2026,

<https://datascience.maths.uninnt.it/dssv2026/>

July 2026

IFCS 2026, Milan (Italy), July 14-16, 2026, ifcs2026.unimib.it

August 2026

COMPSTAT 2026, August 25-28, 2026, Athens (Greece) <http://www.compstat2026.org/>

September 2026

European Conference on Data Analysis, Stralsund (Germany), September 9-11, 2026,

<https://www.hochschule-stralsund.de/host/fakultaeten/wirtschaft/veranstaltungen/ecda2026/>

Looking Ahead to IFCS Newsletter Number 65

Contributions for the forthcoming issue of the IFCS newsletter should be sent to Angelos Markos, IFCS Publication Officer, at amarkos@eled.duth.gr

Plain text or Word files are preferred. Thanks!

Angelos Markos
IFCS Publication Officer

