

July 15-18, 2021

Scientific Report



Statistics 2021 Canada: 6<sup>th</sup> Decennial Canadian Conference in Applied Statistics

Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8 Canada

<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/events/statistics-2021.html>

# SCIENTIFIC REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE STATISTICS 2021 CANADA

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## 1 Introduction

Department of Mathematics & Statistics and Department of Supply Chain & Business Technology Management of Concordia University hosted the joint conference Statistics 2021 Canada: 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian Conference in Applied Statistics from July 15 to July 18, 2021 on a virtual platform under the coordination of Ms. Stephanie Croteau of the Office of Conference Services, Concordia University. This conference was organised as part of decennial conferences held at Concordia University starting from 1971. Since the 1991 conference, the two departments Department of Mathematics and Statistics and Department of Supply Chain & Business Technology Management at Concordia have collaborated in holding these conferences.

The conference featured plenary lectures, invited sessions, contributed sessions and graduate poster presentations. The presentations included major areas of statistical sciences. Additionally, the conference featured some invited talks in the area of Actuarial Science, in honour of Professor Jose Garrido, on his retirement from Concordia University. A special memorial lecture was also organized in honour of Professor T.D. Dwivedi, the founder of the series of applied statistics decennial conferences at Concordia that was sponsored by Professor Dwivedi Memorial Lecture endowment fund established at Concordia University through a generous donation from the Dwivedi Family.

In addition to the traditional theoretical/applied areas, the conference encouraged and promoted interdisciplinary research including major theme areas of Applied Statistics, Big Data, Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, Computational Statistics, Data Mining, Data Science, Demography, Econometrics, Health Statistics, Model Selection and Validation, Social Statistics, Supply Chain, Survival Analysis, Stochastic Methods in Ecology, Finance and Engineering.

The scientific sessions were scheduled starting on July 16, 2021, with a welcome/networking session on July 15, 2021. The conference opened with a welcome from the chair, acknowledging the venue of the conference to be located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka [Ganien-Gehaga] Nation was recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters which provided the backdrop of the virtual conference. Dr. Graham Carr (President, Concordia University), Don Estep (Scientific Director, CANSSI) and Erica Moodie (Director, CRM-StatLab) gave welcome addresses.

The concluding session on July 18, 2021 was organised to reflect on the conference organisation and its success. This session included a celebratory segment for Professor Jose Garrido on his retirement with felicitation from his students and colleagues, prize presentation for graduate posters and a vote of thanks. Melina Mailhot, Organiser, Graduate Poster announced the prize-winners of the posters: Mai Dao, University of Texas (First Prize) and Sophie Ma, University of Toronto (Second Prize). Cody Hyndman, Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics read the citation on the Award of Honor plaque presented to Professor Garrido by the Conference Organising Committee. Cody Hyndman also thanked the Conference Chair as a driving force behind the conference and all the session organisers and members of different committee on behalf of the department for a successful conference. The session concluded with vote of thanks delivered by the conference chair.

## 2 Financial Support and Sponsors

A major grant from the office of Vice President, Services and Sustainability, Concordia University had been awarded for covering the space charges required for in-person meeting that also engaged the services of Concordia Hospitality Services for the overall coordination of the organisation of the conference. However, it was realized around this time that 'in-person' meeting may not be feasible and 'plan B' was being considered. It was decided to go virtual in January 2021, as flights from many countries were banned. By this time, a major

commitment from CANSSI's sponsorship from its Workshop and Conferences program was also obtained as well as commitments from StatLab and QuantactLab of CRM. Office of the Vice President, Research & Graduate Studies (Concordia University) also provided funds for supporting plenary speakers and graduate students through its ARRE (Aid to Research Related Events) program and Pearson Canada contributed funds to sponsor graduate participation. The Statistical Society of Canada provided publicity for the conference through its online publication, *The Liaison*.

### 3 Scientific Activities and Academic Support

The conference attracted 230 participants in various fields of statistics from all over the globe. Current issues and topics in many fields dealing with Actuarial Science and Statistical Science were discussed. The presentations included 12 plenary talks (one hour each), 38 invited sessions (one and a half hours each) and 4 contributed paper sessions along with an additional contributed poster session for graduate students, as well as two special contributed paper sessions, one in Financial Engineering and the second in Statistical Modelling of Covid-19 Pandemic. These featured 12 plenary speakers, 117 speakers in invited sessions, and 34 contributions in contributed paper and poster presentations.

The plenary speakers and invited speakers were chosen in consultation with the members of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC). The invited session organisers are experts in their respective areas, who worked with extreme efficiency in finalizing these sessions and assembled high calibre researchers which produced an academic conference of very high quality. The Session Chairs for the invited sessions were mostly the session organisers themselves. In other cases, the Chair of the Organizing Committee appointed them and all of them performed in a timely and flawless execution of their sessions. They are to be highly commended for their help and cooperation. The list of all the sessions with their organisers and chairs is given in Table 1 below.

<b>Table 1. Scientific Sessions</b>	
<b>Plenary Sessions</b>	
<b>Actuarial Science</b>	
PAS1	Speaker: Jun Cai, University of Waterloo Title: <i>Distributionally robust optimization under distorted expectations</i> Chair: Yi Lu, Simon Fraser University
PAS2	Speaker: Jose Garrido, Concordia University Title: <i>Bridging epidemiological and actuarial models: The case of COVID-19</i> Chair: Gord Willmot, University of Waterloo
PAS3	Speaker: Manuel Morales, University of Montréal Title: <i>A survey of applications of machine learning in banking and investment</i> Chair: Patrice Gaillardetz, Concordia University
<b>Statistical Science</b>	
PS1	Speaker: W. John Braun, University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus Title: <i>Iterated data sharpening in local regression</i> Chair: Jingjing Wu, University of Calgary
PS2	Speaker: Richard Cook, University of Waterloo Title: <i>Robustness and efficiency in two-phase designs of biomarker studies</i> Chair: Lisa Kakinami, Concordia University
PS3	Speaker: Christian Genest, McGill University Title: <i>A self-exciting marked point process model for drought analysis</i> Chair: Wei Sun, Concordia University
PS4	Speaker: Robert E. Kass, Carnegie Mellon University Title: <i>Specificity and flexibility in statistical modelling: the case of coordinated neural activity</i> Chair: Fasil Nebebe, Concordia University

PS5	T.D. Dwivedi Memorial Lecture Speaker: Serena Ng, Columbia University Title: <i>Factor-based imputation of missing data</i> Chair: Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University
PS6	Chair: Prosper Dovonon, Concordia University Speaker: J. Sunil Rao, University of Miami <i>Classified mixed model projections</i> Chair: Prosper Dovonon, Concordia University
PS7	Speaker: Nancy Reid, University of Toronto Title: <i>Likelihood theory for high-dimensional inference</i> Chair: Arusharka Sen, Concordia University
PS8	Speaker: Louis-Paul Rivest, Université Laval Title: <i>A spatiotemporal investigation of the cod stock in the northern Gulf of St-Lawrence</i> Chair: Dirk Douwes-Schultz, McGill University
PS 9	Speaker: David Stephens, McGill University Title: <i>Bayesian inference for partially specified models</i> Chair: Simon Bacon, Concordia University

#### Invited Sessions

##### Actuarial Science

1. IAS1: Advances in Actuarial Science - 1	Organiser: Yi Lu, Simon Fraser University, Patrice Gaillardetz, Concordia University and Manuel Morales, University of Montreal Chair: Manuel Morales, University of Montréal
2. IAS2: Advances in Actuarial Science - 2	Organiser: Yi Lu, Simon Fraser University, Patrice Gaillardetz, Concordia University and Manuel Morales, University of Montreal Chair: Jose Garrido, Concordia University
3. IAS3: Advances in Actuarial Science - 3	Organiser: Yi Lu, Simon Fraser University, Patrice Gaillardetz, Concordia University and Manuel Morales, University of Montreal Chair: Jun Cai, University of Waterloo
4. IAS4: Advances in Actuarial Science - 4	Chair: Shuanming Li, The University of Melbourne Organiser: Yi Lu, Simon Fraser University, Patrice Gaillardetz, Concordia University and Manuel Morales, University of Montreal
5. IAS5: Advances in Actuarial Science - 5	Organiser: Yi Lu, Simon Fraser University, Patrice Gaillardetz, Concordia University and Manuel Morales, University of Montreal Chair: Patrice Gaillardetz, Concordia University

##### Statistical Science

1. IS1: Advances in Copula-Based Inference	Organiser & Chair: Arusharka Sen, Concordia University
2. IS2: Advances in Inference in Directional Data	Organiser: Ashis SenGupta, Indian Statistical Institute Chair: Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University
3. IS3: Applications of Survival Analysis	Organiser: Yogendra Chaubey and Arusharka Sen, Concordia University Chair: Satyaveer Chauhan, Concordia University
4. IS4: Bayesian Applications	Organiser: Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University Chair: Fasil Nebebe, Concordia University
5. IS5: Big Data in Agriculture	Organiser: Abhishek Rathore, ICRISAT and Murari Singh, Concordia University

	Chair: Abhishek Rathore, ICRISAT
6. IS6: Clustering and Classification in Data Science	Organiser: Paul McNicholas, McMaster University and Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University Chair: Frédéric Godin, Concordia University
7. IS7: Counting, Tracking and Mapping: Advances in Spatial Modelling in Fisheries Science	Organiser: Eric Pedersen, Concordia University Chair: Eric Pedersen, Concordia University Co-Chair: David Miller, University of St Andrews
8. IS8: Design and Analysis of Longitudinal Studies	Organiser & Chair: Sanjoy Sinha, Carleton University
9. IS9: Ecological Statistics: Opportunities and Challenges	Organiser & Chair: Pedro Peres-Neto, Concordia University
10. IS10: Environmental Statistics	Organiser: Fateh Chebana, INRS, Montreal and Abdel El-Shaarawi, Cairo University Chair: Fateh Chebana, INRS, Québec
11. IS11: Financial Engineering	Organiser: Frédéric Godin, Concordia University Chair: Cody Hyndman, Concordia University
12. Functional Data Analysis	Organiser: Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University and Nancy Heckman, UBC-Vancouver Chair: Arusharka Sen, Concordia University
13. IS13: Inference in Survival Data	Organiser: Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University and Isha Dewan, Indian Statistical Institute Chair: Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University
14. IS14: Latent Variables and their Applications	Organiser & Chair: Frédéric Godin, Concordia University
15. IS15: MCMC and Computational Statistics	Organiser: Mylène Bédard, University of Montreal Chair: Salim Lahmiri, Concordia University
16. IS16: Modern Approaches to Infectious Disease Modelling	Organiser & Chair: Alexandra M. Schmidt, McGill University
17. IS17: Moment Condition Models: Identification Issues and inference	Organiser & Chair: Prosper Dovonon, Concordia University
18. IS18: New Developments in Survey Sampling and Missing Data Problems	Organiser & Chair: Sixia Chen, University of Oklahoma
19. IS19: Novel Bayesian Adaptive Clinical Trial Designs for Precision Medicine	Organiser & Chair: Ying Yuan, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
20. IS20: Recent Advances in Adaptive Treatment Strategies	Organiser: Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University and Erica Moodie, McGill University Chair: Erica Moodie, McGill University
21. IS21: Recent Advances in Analysis involving Misclassification	Organiser & Chair: Hua Shen, University of Calgary
22. IS22: Recent Advances in Econometrics	Organiser & Chair: Taoufik Bouezmarni, University of Sherbrooke
23. IS23: Recent Advances in Semi-Parametric Mixture Models	Organiser & Chair: Matthieu Marbac, ENSAI-France
24. IS24: Recent Developments in Cure Rate Model	Organiser & Chair: Suvra Pal, University of Texas at Arlington
25. IS25: Risk Modeling	Organiser: Johanna Neslehova, McGill University and Mélina Mailhot, Concordia University Chair: Johanna Neslehova, McGill University
26. IS26: Small Area Estimation	Organiser: Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University and J.N.K. Rao, Carleton University Chair: Jean-Francois Beaumont, Statistics Canada

27. IS27: Some Recent Advances in Statistical Inference	Organiser & Chair: Jingjing Wu, University of Calgary
28. IS28: Some Recent Advances in Survival Analysis	Organiser & Chair: Shahedul Khan, University of Saskatchewan
29. IS29: Statistical Genetics in Canada	Organiser & Chair: Angelo Canty, McMaster University
30. IS30: Statistical Methods for Health Administrative Data	Organiser & Chair: Eleanor Pullenayegum, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
31. IS31: Statistics and Deep Learning	Organiser: Tamanna Howlader, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh Chair: Debaraj Sen, Concordia University
32. IS32: Stochastic Methods in Finance	Organiser & Chair: Federico Severino, Université Laval
33. IS33: Survival Analysis and Causal Inference Applied to Forest Fire Data	Organiser & Chair: Thierry Duchesne, Université Laval

Contributed and Poster Sessions	
1. CS1: Contributed Paper Session 1	Chair: Xiaowen Zhou, Concordia University
2. CS2: Contributed Paper Session 2	Chair: Satyaveer S. Chauhan, Concordia University
3. CS3: Contributed Paper Session 3	Chair: Éric Marchand, Université de Sherbrooke
4. CS4: Contributed Paper Session 4	Chair: Mylène Bédard, University of Montréal
5. GP: Graduate Student Poster Session	Chair: Melina Mailhot, Concordia University
6. SCS1: Special Contributed Paper Session- Financial Engineering	Organiser & Chair: Frédéric Godin, Concordia University
7. SCS2: Special Contributed Paper Session: Statistical Modeling of COVID-19 Pandemic	Organiser & Chair: Yogendra Chaubey, Concordia University

#### 4. Conference Committees and Credits

Below we present the members of the Local Organising Committee, International Advisory Committee and the Scientific Programme Committee. The Scientific Programme Committee helped in suggesting themes of academic sessions and plenary speakers whereas the members of the international Organizing Committee provided guidance in selecting the thematic topics and general directions of the conference.

**Table 2. Committees and Credits**

Local Organizing Committee	
<b>Suchit Ahuja</b> <i>Supply Chain &amp; Business Technology Management</i>	<b>Cody Hyndman</b> <i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>
<b>Simon L. Bacon</b> <i>Health, Kinesiology &amp; Applied Physiology</i>	<b>Lisa Kakinami</b> <i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>
<b>Yogendra P. Chaubey (Chair)</b> <i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>	<b>Salim Lahmiri</b> <i>Supply Chain &amp; Business Technology Management</i>
<b>Satyaveer Chauhan</b> <i>Supply Chain &amp; Business Technology Management</i>	<b>Melina Mailhot</b> <i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>
<b>Prosper Donovan</b> <i>Economics</i>	<b>Fassil Nebebe (Co-chair)</b> <i>Supply Chain &amp; Business Technology Management</i>
<b>Patrice Gaillardetz</b> <i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>	<b>Lea Popovic</b> <i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>
<b>Frédéric Godin</b> <i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>	<b>Arusharka Sen (Co-Chair)</b> <i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>

**Xiao Huang**  
*Supply Chain & Business Technology Management*

**Debaraj Sen**  
*Mathematics and Statistics*

**Lisa Kakinami**  
*Mathematics and Statistics*

**Mahesh Sharma**  
*Supply Chain & Business Technology Management*

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### International Advisory Committee

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**Prof. John Braun**  
University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus  
Kelowna, BC Canada

**Prof. Christian Genest**  
McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

**Prof. Rob Kass**  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Prof. J.N. K. Rao**  
Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, Canada

**Prof. Nancy Reid**  
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

**Prof. Louis-Paul Rivest**  
Université Laval, Québec, QC, Canada

**Prof. David Stephens**  
McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

**Prof. Pranab K. Sen**  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA

**Prof. Rob Tibshirani**  
Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

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### Scientific Program Committee

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**Taoufik Bouezmarni**  
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**Sixia Chen**  
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**Sanjoy Sinha**

School Of Mathematics and Statistics  
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**Jingjing Wu**

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University of Calgary

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#### 4. Acknowledgement and Thanks

The original planning of the conference started in December 2018, with setting up of the Local Organizing Committee from the Department of Mathematics & Statistics (Faculty of Arts and Science) and the Department of Supply Chain & Business Technology Management (John Molson School of Business). The second organization meeting was held in July 2020 that announced in kind supports of the Deans of the Faculty of Arts and Science and John Molson School of Business.

Without the help and support of various support staff at Concordia University, and the statistical community, the conference in its final form would not have been possible. We acknowledge the following people for their help and support at various stages of the conference.



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**Table 3. Acknowledgements**

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John Braun <i>University of British Columbia- Okanagan</i>	Anne McKay, Director, Quantact Lab <i>UQAM</i>
Laura Aileen Briskman <i>Springer Nature</i>	Erica Moodie, Director, Stat-Lab <i>McGill University</i>
Dave Campbell Carleton University	Robert Platt, Past President <i>Statistical Society of Canada</i>
Graham Carr, President <i>Concordia University</i>	JNK Rao <i>Carleton University</i>
Roger Côté, Ex-VP Services & Sustainability <i>Concordia University</i>	Nancy Reid <i>University of Toronto</i>
Stephanie Croteau, Conference Services <i>Concordia University</i>	Andre Roy, Ex-Dean FAS <i>Concordia University</i>
Anne-Marie Croteau, Dean, JMSB <i>Concordia University</i>	Jessica Safarian, FAS Facilitator <i>Concordia University</i>
Caroline D'Amour, Web Communications <i>Concordia University</i>	Soheyla Salari, Manager, Office of the VP-Services and <i>Concordia University</i>
Elisabeth Faure, Communications Advisor, <i>Concordia University</i>	Taylor Tower, Communications Advisor, <i>Concordia University</i>
Nancy Heckman <i>University of British Columbia- Vancouver</i>	Pascale Sicotte, Dean FAS <i>Concordia University</i>
Kathie Kirchsteiger, Marketing Manager <i>Pearson Canada</i>	Veronique Verthuy, Communication Services <i>Concordia University</i>
Patrick Leroux, Associate Dean, Research <i>Faculty of Arts and Science, Concordia University</i>	Luc Vinet, Ex-Director <i>CRM, Université de Montréal</i>
	Marie-France Watson, Conference Services <i>Concordia University</i>

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I acknowledge the support from Roger Côté, ex-VP Services and Sustainability (Concordia University), for the seed grant (\$10,000) for the conference. The seed grant was for covering the expenses of space rental at the University with the aim of in-person conference that was utilised for technical and administrative support.

Thanks to Don Estep and John Braun for help in securing the CANNSI major grant for the conference. Don verbally mentioned to me that extra support might be available if desired, since the CANSSI committee labeled the conference as a workshop and provided only \$4000.

I thank Erica Moodie, Director StatLab (CRM) and Anne MacKay, Director QuantactLab (CRM) in securing CRM sponsorship for a total of \$6000. I also acknowledge the support from Patrick Leroux, Associate Dean, Research (Faculty of Arts and Science) for a strong recommendation for the ARRE grant from the Office of VP-Research and Graduate Studies in securing the maximum possible amount (\$5000) for supporting plenary speakers and graduate students. The conference organisers thank all the sponsors.

The help of Concordia graduate student volunteers in executing their duties as alternate Concordia hosts for zoom sessions is noteworthy; they deserve special thanks. The list of volunteers is given below:

Helia Alipanah  
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Andreas Bancheri  
Christopher Spennato  
Ramin Eghbalzadeh  
Cameron Gallinger

Nhat Linh Vu  
Sébastien Jessup  
Jijie Xu  
Magloire Loudegui-Djimdou  
Qi Zhang

Springer's Online Conference Service Platform made the abstract/paper submission possible; Springer also accepted to publish selected contributions under the editorship of Yogendra Chaubey, Salim Lahmiri, Fasil Nebebe and Arush Sen; I thank Laura Briskman for facilitating this.

I acknowledge Kathie Kirchsteiger (Marketing Manager, *Pearson Canada*) for her help in securing the sponsorship of Pearson Canada and Robert Platt, for having the Statistical Society of Canada being designated as an official sponsor of the conference. The technical support rendered by Jean-Francois Martin, Joshua Murphy and Alexandre Page from Instructional and Information Technology Services showed incredible efficiency in bringing out a smooth running of the zoom sessions. Conference organizers thank them all.

The support from all the members of LOC, SPC and IAC have been incredible. I would specially like to thank Nancy Reid and Jon Rao for their advice that have saved me from potential embarrassment.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Prabha, who provided her unconditional support in freeing me with the organization of the conference and helping me reach my office in early morning hours during the conference. Last but not the least, I am thankful to all the participants who made the conference a success with their networking, contributions and interactions.

## 5. Epilogue

I received many compliments about the conference from participants. I quote here few of them:

- Thank you Yogen for organizing this large and comprehensive conference and for the invitation to participate. Despite COVID-19!
- Thanks for all your hard work Yogen. Well done!
- Many thanks for your work for organising this conference.
- Thank you to you and your team for organizing this conference. It was a pleasure to attend.
- I hope you had a chance to relax in the evening. It is such a lot of work organizing a conference. And the online wrinkles must make it harder. Thanks for doing this; I am sure Jose was especially pleased.

It was a very successful conference with a good teamwork. We are all proud of the conference's success.