

Contents

- Changes in the programme 2
- On the day of departure 2
- The scientific programme of the 53rd Session of the ISI in Seoul in the year 2001 3
- Request: The need to appoint a committee to look into new areas of statistics 4
- ISI sports statistics committee Administrative Meeting 4
- Helsinki-Vantaa airport 4
- Winter wonderland 5
- The homeland of Santa Claus 6
- Hard-working women 7
- Lappish delight 8

Today's weather

Mostly fair weather in southern Finland.

Partly cloudy. There is 10-20% probability to showers in the afternoon. Maximum temperature is about 20 degrees Celsius. Variable wind 1-4 m/s

Statistics, science and the media

Today, at 13.00, there will be an invited paper meeting focussing on statistics, science and the media. This meeting, which will be filmed, will take place in room 1F/HH.



The post office has had customers all the opening time.



The IASS Silver Jubilee on Monday. Left to right P. Lahiri (USA), Erkki Pahkinen (Finland), Kari Djerf (Finland) and Jiang Jiming (USA).

Changes in the programme

Please check the full programme of meetings where changes have been made. The new programme will be displayed at the door of the meeting room in question.

Today

In *IPM62*, at 9.00, Joan Garfield has cancelled her appearance. The chairperson and introductory speaker will be Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, FINLAND.

In *CPM5.1*, starting at 9.00, the chairperson will be Timo Alanko, FINLAND.

A new meeting, *IPM84*, President's Invited Paper Meeting on "Recent advances in probability and statistics", will be held at 13.00 - 15.15 in meeting room EL/136. The organiser is Willem van Zwet, the speakers will be

Jef Teugels
Wind and Stochastics
Elja Arjas
Latent structures supported by point measurements
David Siegmund
Mapping quantitative trait loci
Richard Tweedie
Publication analysis in meta-analysis

In *IPM20*, at 13.00 - 15.15, the discussant Bertrand S. Clarke from UK, has cancelled his presentation. Steffen L. Lauritzen from Denmark will come in his place.

In *CPM20.2* the chairperson will be Jukka Nyblom (FINLAND). The paper by Dominique Guegan and L. Ferrara "Gegenbauer processes: Estimation and forecasting", scheduled at 13.15, has been cancelled. There will be a break instead.

In *CPM132*, at 13.00 - 15.15, the paper "Reseaux de neurones et regression

logistique en finances" by Ana Silvia Haedo (ARGENTINA) and Leonardo Focsaner has been cancelled.

In *CPM86*, scheduled at 15.30, the chairperson will be Paul Sommerville.

In *CPM38*, scheduled at 15.30, the presentation of Filzmoser, Peter (AUSTRIA) has been cancelled.

In *CPM30*, the presentation of Y Wu (CANADA), scheduled at 15.30, has been cancelled.

On the day of departure

● A very non-Finnish phenomenon has marked the 52nd Session of the ISI: crowds and queues. The popularity of the Session has taken us by surprise, so that although we are very happy to see so many people here, it has resulted in some less desired consequences. Some tours and other items in the social programme were fully booked weeks before the opening. This is a problem that can only be solved individually by trying to be the early bird that catches the worm.

One advantage a good turnout gives is that there has been a lot of audience for every speaker. Some participants even remarked that there has

been more discussion in the meetings than anticipated, which proves that the presentations have been interesting.

We were also pleasantly surprised to see how well the Session was covered in the media. Statistics is a science that touches the life of everyone, but is not easy to popularise. We owe a lot to those who agreed to be interviewed by the numerous reporters.

As a whole, the local organisers can sigh of relief. From our point of view, things seemed to run smoothly, although in an event of this magnitude, both in duration and as the number of persons

involved, all sorts of unexpected things may happen. We hope that the arrangements have met the expectations of the participants.

On behalf of the local organisers we would like to thank all who made the 52nd Session a success. These include the members of the Programme Co-ordinating Committee, Programme Committees of the ISI and its sections, the the Local Programme Committee, the participants, the ISI Permanent Office, and the almost a hundred assistants involved in various duties during the conference.

We hope that you have

enjoyed your stay in Helsinki, and wish you welcome back to scientific meetings or for a holiday. We wish you a safe journey home.

We also wish the best of luck to the organisers of the 53rd Session in Korea. We hope to meet you all again in Seoul in 2001.

Timo Relander
Chairman of the
National Organising Committee

Hannu Niemi
Chairman of the
Local Programme Committee

Ilkka Mellin
Secretary General

The scientific programme of the 53rd Session of the ISI in Seoul in the year 2001.

● It is a daunting task to prepare a worthy successor to the Helsinki programme and we are by no means done yet – the final sitting of the ISI programme co-ordinating committee (ISI PCC) is Wednesday lunchtime. Out of that should come a list of about 80 invited paper meetings together with likely organisers, and the work will continue in the coming months as organisers are contacted, through them speakers and discussants, and slowly the meetings take shape. The list of topics and organisers will be published in the *ISI Newsletter* in November. Anything could happen at our final sitting today, since during the last few days the members of the committee – each one representing a Section of ISI – have been interacting with one another, with their Sections, with conference participants, and with the members of the ISI Programme Committee (ISI PC). This committee, of which I am also Chairman, has the task to ensure that ISI-wide and extra-sectional interests are well represented at the Session. We identify special local and regional interests – Prof. Jae Chang Lee, Chair of the Seoul Local Programme Committee, is Vice Chair of both ISI PC and ISI PCC. We co-ordinate proposals coming from the various committees of the ISI. Finally, we select guest-organisations and sister-societies, so that the ISI sessions cover the entire range of statistical science and of the statistical profession. This inclusive range, together with a truly international nature, in my opinion summarises the *raison d'être* of these unique conferences.

I would never have taken on this job had I not had the good experience of sitting on one of Jon Rao's committees for the Helsinki programme. That experience showed to me that it was possible with a finite investment of time and effort to arrive at a splendid programme born out of creative co-operation between all parties involved. The other factor which has made this job into a rewarding scientific and

personal experience rather than a gruelling political task is the reform of the ISI Sessions, now with about 80 meetings in roughly 6 working days (when I first went to ISI Sessions the first of these numbers was halved and the second doubled).

I would like to finish with some words to those who would like to influence the content of future ISI Sessions, as you should – this is *your* conference! If you want to have an impact on the 2003 Berlin Session, supply an appropriate person (who could be the chair of the ISI PCC, an ISI Section PC, or the Chair of an ISI special interest committee) with a **well-documented** proposal some months **in advance** of the 2001 Seoul session. This applies not just to individuals but also to Sections and committees of ISI! Just because you are an official body does not mean that you are exempt from what is simply a practical necessity. What is meant by 'well-documented' will be announced at a suitable moment in the *ISI Newsletter*.

Looking forward to meeting you in Seoul!

*Richard Gill
Chairman of the ISI Programme
Committee of the 53rd Session
Chairman of the ISI Programme
Co-ordinating Committee of
the 53rd Session*



Richard Gill (<http://www.math.uu.nl/people/gill>) is professor of mathematical statistics at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands and director of a research programme at the new European institute for stochastics, EURANDOM (<http://www.eurandom.nl>). Born (1951) in the UK, he studied at the University of Cambridge, and moved to the Netherlands in 1974 (*chercher la femme!*) where he did his PhD and has worked ever since. His interests include survival analysis, semiparametric models, spatial statistics, foundational issues, statistics in quantum physics, teaching, and last but not least, statistical consultation. He has been to many ISI sessions since 1983: first as a reluctant invited speaker, later by necessity as an officer of the Bernoulli Society, but more recently with enthusiasm for the rich scientific and professional content of the conferences. He was on the programme co-ordinating committee for the present Helsinki session and is now chair of the ISI programme co-ordinating committee and of the ISI programme committee for the upcoming Seoul session.

Request: The need to appoint a committee to look into new areas of statistics

● The need to look into new areas of statistics is important because it is our task to promote scientific interests into areas that need our assistance. Our knowledge e.g. about measurements will ensure that accurate and timely statistics is necessary for correct decision making at all levels of society.

The director of ISI Dr. Marcel van den Broecke wrote in the Daily Bulletin (4) that it is

important to interpret and bring alive statistics. He goes on to discuss the task of ISI in bringing together statisticians from around the world. Yes, indeed. Our task is to ensure that reliable and timely statistics are produced in all areas and specially in areas where there is a high interest at the political level, and low at the scientific level e.g. tobacco, alcohol, gambling, sports etc. Our task

is not to avoid and exclude but to challenge and include. It is our task to extend the frontiers of knowledge and not to define its borders. It is not our task to surrender the task of scientific explaining to political leaders but to encourage scientists to do so.

Fellow statisticians, we should work together to extend the frontiers of our science and to demonstrate that our

knowledge of measurements will only ensure accuracy in estimation and in that way help bring about good policy decisions that influence the quality of life for all citizens.

*Brian Wicklin
Statistical bureau VECA,
Sweden
and many others*

ISI sports statistics committee Administrative Meeting

● The 4th Administrative Meeting was held on August 16, 1999. A Plan of Activities up to Seoul 53rd Session was approved.

The *goals* of the Committee may be summarised in "Statistics **of** Sports and Statistics **for** Sports", that is the tentative title of a CP Session proposed for Seoul Meeting.

For the first *goal* the Chairman will collect comments, suggestions, critics on COMPASS (Co-ordinated Monitoring of Participation in Sports), a project inspired by the Beijing Sports Statistics Committee resolution.

With respect to the second *goal*, it was decided to suggest to the members to develop

studies on Sports rules and athletes' characteristics. New Polish members' contribution in this field was highly appreciated.

At the end, the problem of official adhesion to ISI or to its Sessions of the people interested in Sports Statistics was debated, with particular attention to the high mailing

costs owed to the large number of sympathisers of the Committee (more than 200 scholars and experts).

*Antonio Mussino
Chairman of Sports Statistics
Committee*

Helsinki-Vantaa airport

● More than 9.4 million passengers pass through Helsinki-Vantaa Airport each year. It is situated conveniently only about thirty minutes by bus to the north of the city.

In the Global Airport Monitor survey, with a sample of 77,000 respondents and comprising 65 major airports in the world, Helsinki-Vantaa was chosen world's best airport. It is tidy and modern, with a high

standard of services. The overseas and domestic terminals are within comfortable walking distance of each other.

The new Gateway Terminal was completed in 1996, and the building of a new check-in area, an arrivals lounge and an indoor connection between the two terminals are in the final phase.

The airport site is now about

1,500 hectares in extent. The main runway is 3.4 kilometres long, the other 2.9 kilometres. The construction of a third runway will be the biggest construction site in Finland. The runway will be 60 metres wide and three kilometres long. The building of new access roads has been started, and the runway is expected to be ready for use at the end of 2003.



Winter wonderland

Finland is a country with four distinct seasons, of which winter is the longest. The mean temperature is below 0° C for about 100 days in the southern parts of the country, and for about 200 days in Lapland.

● The mean temperature in Finland is several degrees higher than that of other areas on these latitudes, such as Siberia and southern Greenland, for instance. The climate is moderated by the Baltic Sea, inland waters and, above all, by air flows warmed by the Gulf Stream.

Winter usually begins in mid-October in Lapland and during November in the rest of the country. Permanent snow falls on open ground a couple

of weeks after that, and the lakes freeze over in late November and early December. The Gulf of Bothnia may ice over nearly completely, the Gulf of Finland usually around December. The ice is at its thickest, about 50 to 65 centimetres, in early April.

Coldness records

Winter temperature may vary a lot, particularly in southern Finland. The coldest days occur



Mikko Nurmi

Ice-fishing is possible even on the shores of Helsinki.

in January-February, when the temperature may be as low as –40° C in Lapland and –30° C in Helsinki. In winter 1999, a new coldness record of –51° C was reached in Lapland and it was unusually cold even in Helsinki. The thickness of the snow cover was also up to 80 centimetres even in the southernmost parts of the country, in contrast to the usual 20 to 30 centimetres.

Even in these extreme circumstances, society kept on functioning as normal. Adults went to work and children to school just as they do on milder winters. Thanks to efficient infrastructure, roads were kept clear and the public transport system operated with only minor disturbances.

A Finnish artist who spends most of his time in Spain, once said in an interview that he was fed up with people marvelling at how lucky he was to be able to live in the south. He pointed out that he loves to come to Finland, because it is always warm here. He was talking of the temperature indoors, in well-isolated buildings with central heating.

Swimming “on the rocks”

In the words of the ex-physical education teacher, the weather is always fine for outdoor recreation, provided one is dressed appropriately. Winter offers opportunities for many kinds of sports: cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey and skating on natural ice. The Dutch long-distance skaters have recently discovered the vast lakes in eastern Finland.

On sunny days in February to April, you can see people perched on small campsites on the ice of a lake or the sea,

holding a short rod, or jig, in their hand. They are ice fishing, or jigging, through a hole they have bored in the ice. Massive competitions with thousands of jiggers are organised every winter in Finland.

Some people cut a larger hole in the ice, and take a dip in the water. It is said to be very refreshing and good for circulation and resilience. In Turku, they went a bit further: they cut a 20-metre long hole in the ice in the Aurajoki river and had a swimming competition! The winner was a spirited lady of 60.

Snow and ice as building materials

In Helsinki, a replica of the demolished Ulrika Eleonora Church has been built of ice a few times in its original place on the Senate Square. The ice church has been much smaller than the real thing, yet large enough for small-scale ceremonies such as weddings and christenings.

In the northern town of Kemi, a megalomaniac idea of a private entrepreneur has grown into a major tourist attraction. A snow castle growing bigger year by year has been built in the town every year since 1996. This year's castle was three storeys high. The castle includes a hotel, chapel, restaurant, art exhibitions, shops and a stage where Finland's most popular singers and musicians have performed. The castle has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors every year during its opening time of less than three months.

Read more at virtual.finland.fi/finfo/english/ilmaeng.html



Antero Aaltonen

The homeland of Santa Claus

One fourth of the whole area of Finland is north of the Arctic Circle. There are only about 200,000 inhabitants in Lapland - in fact, there are more reindeer there than people.

● There is plenty of space even in the busiest tourist seasons, in spite of the over half a million visitors yearly.

Nightless nights and days without daylight

One of the main attractions of Lapland is the midnight sun. In the northernmost parts of Lapland the sun does not set at all between mid-May to late July. For those who wish to escape this endless light, there is a film festival in Sodankylä in June, where films are shown in three different places day and night.

For many the best time of the year in Lapland is autumn. After the first frost in September until the snowfall in October the green leaves of the trees and plants turn brown, yellow, red and orange. In Finnish, this phenomenon is called *ruska*. Some of Lapland's finest berries,

cranberries, (*karpalo* in Finnish) are at their best after the frost has bitten them.

The opposite of the midnight sun is the Polar night. In the northernmost parts of Lapland the sun does not rise at all during almost two months (December-January). This period is called *kaamos* in Finnish, and it has given the name to a particular mental illness, *kaamosmasennus* or seasonal affective disorder. Some people, on the other hand, may be attracted by the idea of a two-month night, honeymooners, for instance.

The friend of all good children

Christmas makes a welcome break in the period of darkness. *Korvatunturi* (lit. "ear fell") in Lapland is the place where the friend of all good children in the world, Santa Claus, lives



Mikko Nurmi

One of the larger fells, Levi



Mikko Nurmi

Competitions are organised also in gold panning.

and works with his little helpers in his workshop to prepare all the Christmas presents. As the name suggests, *Korvatunturi* is a fell shaped like an ear so that Santa can hear children's wishes from all over the world.

In Finland, Santa does not come silently in the night through the chimney, but on Christmas Eve when the children are still awake to answer his question "Are there any good children here?" and to sing a Christmas carol before he hands out the presents.

Gold rush continues

There have been three big gold

rushes to Lapland during the last 130 years, and even today, there are professional gold-diggers, who use the traditional panning method. Gold-bearing soil is washed in water with a flat round pan and the gold nuggets, heavier than other elements, drop to the bottom of the pan. The fourth biggest nugget in the history of gold in Finland was found in 1992. It weighed 145 grams.

Apart from gold, Lapland's soil hides valuable gems: serpentines, rodonites, jaspers, amethysts and corundums. They are mined and refined into jewels and also used in the construction industry.

Hard-working women

Finnish women were the first in Europe to gain universal suffrage in 1906 and the first in the world to become eligible for parliamentary elections. In the March 1999 parliamentary election, 74 members of the 200 elected were women. Since the 1987 election, the proportion of voters has been higher among women than men.

● The government appointed after the latest election has 18 ministers (plus the prime minister). Eight of them are women, the minister of foreign affairs, Tarja Halonen, the minister at the Ministry of Finance (so-called second minister of finance) Suvi-Anne Siimes and the minister of the environment, Satu Hassi, for instance.

Learn more and earn less

Today, the majority of wage and salary earners are women. Women's activity rate is not unusually high according to European standards. About two women of three are gainfully employed. The unusual thing is that almost all (90 per cent) of them work full-time.

Women under 50 are more highly educated than men in the same age group. The majority of university students as well as graduates are women. It is only natural that women want to make a use of their education.

One of the main reasons to the fact that women only earn on an average 75 per cent of men's salaries is that there is a clear division between men's and women's jobs. Women are also more often employed by the public sector where the salaries are lower.

Day care and school lunches

The Scandinavian welfare society has considerably facilitated women's participation in the labour market. According to a fairly recent law, municipal day care must be organised for all children under school age.

The majority of senior secondary school students are girls.

Finland has a lengthy maternal leave, about 11 months. On top of it, working mothers are allowed to a leave of absence until the child is three years old. Finland was the first country in the world to introduce a separate fathering leave in 1978. When a child is born, the father can have a leave of 6 to 12 working days. This right has been used by quite a number of new fathers, including the prime minister Paavo Lipponen.

The compulsory education concerns all children from seven to sixteen years of age. The children spend their whole day in the school (although the days of the smallest are shorter), and receive a free lunch there.

Recent reforms

Finnish women received full political rights at an early stage. General education decreed in the twenties applied to both sexes, and the Marriage Act in 1930 granted legal equality to

both spouses. Some other reforms took longer than in many other countries.

Two subjects that aroused a long and heated discussion were the Surname Act and the prospect of the ordination of women to priests. In 1987 the new Surname Act permitted spouses to take the surname of either partner or to retain their original surname. Children are entitled to use the surname of either parent. A year later women were finally permitted to enter the clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Women captured the last male realm in 1995, when they were allowed access to a voluntary military service (while for men it is still compulsory). The service proved to be rather popular among young ladies. Some of them have even become officers.

The right to municipal day care is granted by law.



Mikko Nurmi



Mikko Nurmi

Lappish delight

Breeding reindeer is still an important source of livelihood in some parts of Lapland. The reindeer is only partly domesticated: packs of reindeer graze free in the mountain fell forests. They feed mainly on *jäkälä*, lichen, a plant full of valuable minerals that only grows in very clean environments.

- Reindeer is dark, lean and has a mild taste of game. The people of Lapland have been inventive in using it: they make stews, soups, pates, meatballs, they marinate it, smoke it, fry it or cook it in the oven. Perhaps the most usual - to many the tastiest - way of preparing reindeer is *poronkäristys*, reindeer stew. The meat is cut into slivers while frozen, fried in fat (lard or butter), cooked in a little water and seasoned with salt and pepper, sometimes onions. The usual accompaniments are mashed potatoes and lingonberries.

The king of the rivers

Salmon grows wild in the rapids and rivers of Lapland. It is the most sought-after catch of fly-fishers. The population has decreased during the last few decades, but there were times when, according to an anecdote, farm hands only agreed to work on condition that they do not have to eat salmon more than five days a week.

A traditional way of preparing salmon or whitefish is to nail the cleaned and opened fish with wooden pegs or metal nails on a wooden board with a long handle. This stand is then held upright by open fire so that the fire does not actually touch the fish. The preparing takes at least two



Salmon is the most valued fish.

hours, but the result is worth waiting for. This is called *loimulohi* or *ristinnaulittu siika*. The literal translation would be "crucified salmon/whitefish".

Cheese bread or bread cheese

People have made cheese at home in all parts of Finland, basically of the same

ingredients: milk, rennet and salt, sometimes eggs. In the northern parts of the country, the cheese was prepared in a flat round mould by open fire. It was baked until it became firm and nicely covered with brown spots. The taste is very mild, like in all home cheeses.

What to call this particular kind of cheese is a problem for anyone not coming from the

"bread cheese" region: in some villages it is "cheese bread", in others absolutely the other way round. Whatever they called it, it was always a great delicacy, sometimes cut up in small pieces and mixed in a cup of coffee. In Finnish restaurants today you may find it on the dessert list, then usually heated in the oven and served with *lakkahillo*, cloudberry jam.