

About the Publications Theme

Officers

Robin Henderson (Theme Director)

Nicola Emmerson (Theme Manager, RSS News and Significance)

Martin Owen (Theme Manager, Journals)

Objectives

The main objectives of the publications theme are to:

- ensure that the Society's publications meet the diverse needs of membership of the Society and to make them more attractive to outside members of the statistical community both to read and to publish in;
- ensure that the publications remain of the highest standard and act as an international flagship for the Society;
- raise awareness of and to promote the Society in the media and in professions outside mainstream statistics;
- keep abreast of publishing market trends to safeguard the Society's income from its publications;
- to maintain the publications at the forefront of technological developments at all stages of the process.

Supporting structures

Journals

Each of the journal series has two (honorary) Editors and panels of Associate Editors. The journals are produced and marketed under contract by publishers Blackwell Publishing who, among other things, provide them in searchable and linkable electronic forms.

Significance

The Editor of the magazine is employed by contract but is not a member of staff. The magazine has an editorial advisory board that was drawn up initially partly from members of the working party which proposed the establishment of the magazine, the President of the Society, representatives of the publishers and other members who were appointed for their enthusiasm for the project. The magazine is produced and marketed in tandem with the journals by Blackwells and was launched in March 2004.

RSS News

The (honorary) Editor of RSS News is supported by volunteers acting as a Letters Editor, a Local Groups Editor, a Sections Editor an Education Correspondent and an Official Statistics Correspondent. The production and printing of the newsletter are contracted out, but not to a publishing house.

Network of Advisors

A network of advisors for the publications theme is constituted from:

- the Theme Director
- the current Editors of the publications
- people who were nominated to join for their expertise and volunteers who responded to an announcement in RSS News

The current composition represents a wide-ranging balance of interests in the field of statistics. The role of the network of advisors is to advise the officers of the publications theme with respect to general strategy of the theme and editorial policy, to review reports from Blackwells, to monitor the publications and the wider consultation structures and to assist in the appointment of journal Editors.

Professor Robin Henderson (*Newcastle University, UK*)

Professor George Casella (Joint Editor, Series B) (*University of Florida, Gainesville, USA*)

Mr Julian Champkin (Editor, Significance) (*London, UK*)

Dr Mario Cortina Borja (Reviews Editor) (*University College London, UK*)

Dr Simon Day (*Roche Products Limited, Welwyn Garden City, UK*)

Ms Abigail Dewar (*London, UK*)

Dr Frank Duckworth (Editor, RSS News) (*Stinchcombe, UK*)

Dr Chris Ferro (*University of Exeter, UK*)

Mr Antony Fielding (Joint Editor, Series A) (*University of Birmingham, UK*)

Professor Steve Gilmour (Joint Editor, Series C) (*Queen Mary, University of London, UK*)

Professor Peter Green (*University of Bristol, UK*)

Mrs Marta Haworth (*London, UK*)

Professor Steve Maybank (*Birkbeck College, London, UK*)

Professor Clare Morris (*University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, UK*)

Dr Moira Mugglestone (*National Collaborating Centre For Women's and Children's Health, London, UK*)

Mr Allan Reese (*CEFAS, Weymouth*)

Professor Sylvia Richardson (*Imperial College School of Medicine, London, UK*)

Professor Christian Robert (Joint Editor, Series B) (*Université Paris Dauphine and CREST--INSEE, Paris, France*)

Dr Andrew Roddam (*Cancer Research UK Epidemiology Unit, Oxford, UK*)

Professor Marc Saez (*University of Girona, Spain*)

Professor Chris Skinner (*University of Southampton, UK*)

Ms Susan Starkings (*South Bank University, London, UK*)

Professor Jonathan Tawn (*Lancaster University, UK*)

Dr Ben Torsney (*University of Glasgow, UK*)

Mr Phil Turnbull (*Milton Keynes, UK*)

Professor Geert Verbeke (Joint Editor, Series A) (*Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium*)

Professor John Whittaker (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK*)

Professor Linda Wolstenholme (*Cass Business School, London, UK*)

Similarly, a network of advisors to assist the Reviews Editor has also been formed. By opening widely the consultation structures and increasing the use of the web, the publications theme is encouraging international participation and also, in particular, young statisticians are specifically encouraged to volunteer to act as referees in their area of expertise.

Dr Mario Cortina Borja (Reviews Editor) (*University College London, UK*)

Professor David Bartholomew (*Sudbury, UK*)

Dr Quentin Burrell (*Isle of Man International Business School, Douglas, Isle of Man*)

Professor Tim Cole (*University College London, UK*)

Professor Harvey Goldstein (*University of Bristol, UK*)

Dr John Haigh (*University of Brighton, UK*)

Dr Paul Hewson (*University of Plymouth, UK*)

Dr Tim Liao (*University of Illinois, Urbana, USA*)

Dr Andrew Roddam (*Cancer Research UK Epidemiology Unit, Oxford, UK*)

Mr Martin Squires (*Marks & Spencer Financial Services, Chester, UK*)

Ms Susan Starkings (*South Bank University, London, UK*)

Strategy

The publications theme is intimately connected to the Society's other themes. Significance and the web are powerful media for reaching beyond the obvious statistical communities and are used in combination with the Society's external relations activities, membership drives and educational and professional events.

Themed issues of the magazine and issues with content aimed to coincide with external activities, such as Science Week, and interviews with young statisticians and people in international environments are aimed to raise the Society's profile.

The modern design of Significance is an asset in projecting a positive image of the Society to students and people who are relatively new in their careers or involvement in statistics, whereas the journals can provide them with the practical and theoretical underpinnings to take them further.

Internally, the web and RSS News are useful means of communicating with the membership and tapping into the collective knowledge and expertise that are readily available in a vibrant Society.

Series A is the Society's 'flagship' journal with content that is accessible to most statisticians. Series B and Series C also have a role in outreach, and were both increased to 5 issues a year in 2005, to enhance their reach.

Collaboration with Blackwells

There are periodic meetings of the Editors with the publishers, Blackwells, to review and to plan marketing and promotional activities. For this, opinions and ideas are gathered from the network of advisors throughout the year by e-

mail, and consultations on specific matters raised will take place at any time by e-mail.

Appointment of Editors & Reviewers

Details on how to become an Editor of one of the journal series are announced each autumn.

Members can express an interest in becoming an Associate Editor or Reviewer by emailing their details with their areas of statistical interest to: journal@rss.org.uk

Reading of papers at Ordinary Meetings

The Society's Research Section Committee is responsible for dealing with manuscripts that are submitted specifically for reading and publication in Series B. A similar process exists for non-Research-Section discussion papers, with a Read Papers Consulting Editor, like the Research Section Committee Secretary, to support the Theme Director in the review procedure. The Society's Sections are being encouraged to be more proactive in soliciting papers for reading to the Society.