

## 17th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS) in Celebration of T.W. Anderson's 90th Birthday: Tomar, Portugal, 23–26 July 2008

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The 17th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS'08) <http://www.iwms08.ipt.pt/> was held in Tomar, Portugal, 23–26 July 2008. This Workshop was dedicated to Professor Theodore Wilbur Anderson, who celebrated his 90th birthday on 5 June 2008. Ten years ago, the 7th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA, 11–14 December 1998, in celebration of T. W. Anderson's 80th Birthday.



T. W. Anderson was born on June 5, 1918, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He received a B.S. in mathematics from Northwestern University in 1939, and a Ph.D. in 1945 in mathematics from Princeton University, where his supervisor was Samuel S. Wilks. He was with the Cowles Commission at the University of Chicago, and then in 1946 he became a faculty member at Columbia University. Since 1967 he has been in his present position as a Professor of Statistics and Economics at Stanford University. T. W. Anderson has received many honors: a Guggenheim Fellow, Editor of the *The Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, President of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Vice-President of the American Statistical Association, an honorary degree from Sweden and one from Northwestern University. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

The International Organizing Committee (IOC) for IWMS'08 comprised George P. H. Styan (Montréal, Canada) – Honorary Chair, Simo Puntanen (Tampere, Finland) – Chair, Augustyn Markiewicz (Poznań, Poland) – Vice-Chair, S. Ejaz Ahmed (Windsor, Canada), Jeffrey J. Hunter (Auckland, New Zealand), Götz Trenkler (Dortmund, Germany), Dietrich von Rosen (Uppsala, Sweden), and Hans Joachim Werner (Bonn, Germany). The members of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) were João T. Mexia (Lisbon, Portugal) – Chair, Carlos A. Coelho (Lisbon, Portugal) – Vice-Chair, Katarzyna Filipiak (Poznań, Poland), Ricardo Covas (Tomar, Portugal), Miguel Fonseca (Lisbon, Portugal), and Francisco Carvalho (Tomar, Portugal).

The organizing institutes were the New University of Lisbon and the Polytechnical Institute of Tomar, with sponsors the Faculty of Sciences and Technology (New University of Lisbon), Center of Mathematics and Applications (New University of Lisbon), National Institute of Statistics – INE, SPSS, Delta, Hotel Dos Templários (Tomar), Luso-American Foundation, the International Linear Algebra Society, Science and Technology Foundation, UNICER, and UNILEVER.

The 190-page *Book of Abstracts* for IWMS'08 was edited by

Katarzyna Filipiak and Francisco Carvalho, and includes not only the abstracts of the talks and the full program, but also the following articles:

- “A short history of the International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS)”, by Simo Puntanen & George P. H. Styan, <http://mtl.uta.fi/iwms/>
- “Ted W. Anderson, The Multivariate Man” by Yadolah Dodge, *Student*, 3 (1999), 133–140,
- “A Conversation with T. W. Anderson” by Morris H. DeGroot, *Statistical Science*, 1 (1986), 97–105.

Invited talks were given by S. Ejaz Ahmed (Canada), T. W. Anderson (USA), Ravindra B. Bapat (India) – the ILAS Speaker, Adi Ben-Israel (USA), Carlos A. Braumann (Portugal), Tadeusz Caliński (Poland), Charles R. Johnson (USA), Lynn Roy LaMotte (USA), Augustyn Markiewicz (Poland), Stanisław Mejza (Poland), Michael D. Perlman (USA), Dinis Pestana (Portugal), Dietrich von Rosen (Sweden), Muni S. Srivastava (Canada), George P. H. Styan (Canada), Götz Trenkler (Germany), Júlia Volaufová (USA), Douglas P. Wiens (Canada), and Roman Zmysłony (Poland). The Polish research journal *Discusiones Mathematicae* will promote a special issue for selected papers presented at IWMS'08.



We were delighted that the local organizers had arranged, through the Portuguese Post Office (CTT), a special postage stamp showing George in his top hat from the Tampere honorary doctorate promotion in 2000. In the background is the polygon rotunda (charola) of the Convent of Christ (Castelo Templário and Convento da Ordem de Cristo de Tomar). The Convent of Christ is one of Portugal's most important historical and artistic monuments and has been in the World Heritage list of UNESCO since 1983. It is a combination of a castle and a convent, used by the Templar Knights. Another Portuguese stamp which depicts part of the Convent of Christ was issued in 1973 (*Scott* #1129) and shows the famous Window of the Chapter House (Janela do Capítulo) with typical Manueline motifs.

The 18th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics will be held in Smolenice Castle, Slovakia, 23–27 June 2009. Local Chair: Viktor Witkovský, IOC Chair: Júlia Volaufová. <http://www.um.sav.sk/en/iwms2009.html>



17th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS)  
in Celebration of T.W. Anderson's 90th Birthday: Tomar, Portugal, July 2008 [Photo: Simo Puntanen]



By Katarzyna Filipiak

The conference LINSTAT'2008 was held at the Mathematical Research and Conference Center of the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Będlewo, Poland, on April 21–25, 2008. Its purpose was to bring together researchers sharing an interest in statistics and its applications, to celebrate the 80th birthday of Prof. Tadeusz Caliński. A special session was dedicated to highlight his numerous contributions to the development of statistics and biometry and discuss current developments in these areas, and to note his wide collaboration with many scientists from different countries.

LINSTAT'2008 was attended by 70 participants from 15 countries. The keynote speakers were Anthony Atkinson, Hannu Oja, Hans-Peter Piepho, and Bimal K. Sinha. Fifteen invited talks were presented by Hilmar Drygas, Jörg Kaufmann, Mirosław Krzyśko, Lynn R. LaMotte, Jean-Pierre Masson, Stanisław Mejza, João T. Mexia, Simo Puntanen, Gavin Ross, Mirella Sari-Gorla, George P.H. Styan, Götz Trenkler, Rob Verdooren, Júlia Volaufová, and Roman Zmysłony. Moreover, 36 contributed talks and 8 posters were presented.

The topics were mainly estimation, prediction and testing in linear models, robustness of relevant statistical methods, estimation of variance components appearing in linear models, generalizations to nonlinear models, design and analysis of experiments, including optimality and comparison of linear experiments as well as solutions to problems of mathematical statistics with the use of matrix algebra. There was much friendly and stimulating discussion. Selected papers based on the talks will be published in a special issue of *Statistical Papers*.

The Scientific Committee awarded prizes for the best talks presented by Ph.D. students and young researchers. The winners were: First prize – Wojciech Rejchel (Poland); Second Prize – Thomas Rusch (Austria); and Third Prize – Klaus Nordhausen (Finland). The prize for the best poster went to Alin Aylin (Turkey).

The meeting included an excursion to the Museum of Agriculture, where Professor Calinski gave a talk entitled “On the influence of agricultural experimentation on the development of mathematical statistics.”