

Introducing... Clara-fications

A new column, and a new way to interact with the *Bulletin*

Columnist Radu Craiu introduces our new advice column for early-career researchers:

Every beginning is hard, and a career in science is, oh my, no exception. Floating about your head is the uncertainty about the long journey ahead, the frustration of having myriad questions met by vague responses, the stress of observing the tense silence of your peers who are struggling with the same demons. This is followed, if all goes well, by the unbearably long time it takes to get any sort of recognition, and by that I mean getting a “hello” at that conference that just cost half of one’s grant.

To add self-inflicted injury to perceived insult, research in mathematics and statistics is often a solitary endeavour, but that should not condemn its disciples to loneliness. Any graduate program worth its salt will be conducive to collaborations and mutual support between its post-graduates. Perhaps one of the greatest joys as an advisor is to witness the evolution of one’s student from whatever promising—possibly, painful to watch—starting point they have, to becoming a selective, insightful, and ultimately productive researcher who is able to connect and communicate ideas effectively. On that eventful road, a desirable highlight is to see research produced by two students without faculty supervision, an occurrence that reifies not only their talents but the positive environment in which they work.

A recent exchange, seen on some web-supported social platform, made me realize that not all, and maybe not even most, early-career researchers benefit from wisdom within an arm’s length. As a professional society whose future depends on our young members and very young future members, IMS wants to provide as much support as possible to them. So, the *IMS Bulletin* is launching a new column, coordinated by Dr. Clara Grazian, which will provide answers to questions posed by members of the IMS community. This will hopefully lead to more discussions and a consolidation of our statistical community. **Questions should be sent to bulletin@imstat.org.**

I have asked Clara to say a few things about herself and the aims of the new “Clara-fications” column: see the sidebar, right. We look forward to hearing from you!



Hello everyone! My name is **Clara Grazian** and I am

a statistician living down under (i.e. in Australia). My path is probably not standard: I got my PhD in a very theoretical department in Paris, then moved into a very applied project in genomics for my postdoc at the Big Data Institute, University of Oxford, and then I flew to Australia to become a Senior Lecturer, back to methodological statistics, and I am now a passionate researcher of environmental data (and a bit on genomics as well). And I have worked for five statistical societies. This means that maybe I won’t know the answer (or maybe I will!) but I will think of someone who does. We have amazing researchers in the IMS community!

Young researchers are welcome to send their **questions about the life of a researcher or ask for career advice**, and I will try to find an answer... We’ll publish these [*anonymized to avoid awkwardness!*] in the next available issue.

IMS Travel Award winners

One of the ways the IMS supports young researchers is by providing travel awards to enable them to attend (IMS sponsored or co-sponsored) meetings to present their research, gain knowledge, meet new collaborators and friends, and build their networks. Congratulations to the 20 winners of the IMS Hannan Graduate Student Travel Award, and 15 winners of the IMS New Researcher Travel Award, who are presented here. Be sure to say hello if you see them at a meeting!

Hannan Awards



Medha Agarwal,
University of Washington



Aditi Basu Bal, Florida
State University



**Josefina Correa
Menéndez**,
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology



Yu Gui, University of
Chicago



Mengbing Li, University
of Michigan, Ann Arbor

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