

Welcome



**Nico
Weydert**

*President of
the LSS*

Nowadays it is fashionable to bring professionals together through networking and social networks. Although this may be very efficient, it cannot replace **direct collaboration**. Two years ago a group of statisticians based in Luxembourg organised a two-day conference in the framework of The Year of Statistics.

At this occasion we discovered that there is a **large statistical community in Luxembourg**, research, teaching and consulting, not only in the public but also in the private sector. In order to foster collaboration, exchanges of views and best practices, to build synergies, to organize conferences and to improve statistical literacy, we decided to create the "**Luxembourg Statistical Society**". The Society was inaugurated on 20 October 2015, on World Statistics Day and some first events are already planned for the coming months. To make you aware of our activities, we decided to launch a **newsletter** informing all in Luxembourg who are interested in the practice of statistics of past and upcoming events.

We are glad to welcome you at our future activities and we are looking forward to new members enriching the Luxembourg Statistical Society with their views and experiences.

World Statistics Day



**WORLD
STATISTICS
DAY**
20.10.2015
BETTER DATA.
BETTER LIVES.

In the context of [World Statistics Day 20 October 2015](#), a conference including a round table was organised in Luxembourg by **STATEC**, the National Institute of statistics and economic studies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and **EUROSTAT**, the statistical office of the European Union situated in Luxembourg.

The opening speech was delivered by **Serge Allegrezza**, Director of STATEC and **Mariana Kotzeva**, Deputy Director General of EUROSTAT. At this occasion, the LSS was introduced by **Nico Weydert**. **Michail Skaliotis**, Head of Eurostat's Task Force on Big Data, gave a presentation on "Big data in the European Statistical System". Another presentation, entitled "Données massives et statistique en haute dimension", was given by **Christine De Mol** from the Université Libre de Bruxelles. To finish, a round-table was organized with representatives of some of the most important groups of users of statistics in Luxembourg.

Society and Stability: from theory to conclusions

On 7 January 2016, the LSS and the **Mathematics Research Unit (RMATH) of the University of Luxembourg** welcomed **Professor F. Thomas Bruss** from the Université Libre de Bruxelles for a lecture introducing a general model of the evolution of societies based on two simple natural hypotheses: 1) a global will to survive and preserve a future for one's children ; 2) an individual desire for a better life. This very interesting topic raised several questions. The conference was attended by about 30 participants at the University of Luxembourg (Limpertsberg).



Recent Contributions

On **25 February 2016**, an [interview](#) of **Professor Stephen Senn** (Founding Member of the LSS) on the recent clinical trial tragedy in France was published in "LE FIGARO" under the title: "**Cacher les données au nom du secret industriel n'est pas acceptable**".

Statisticians Found One Thing They Can Agree On: It's Time To Stop Misusing P-Values

An interesting [article](#) on P-values published on the website "FiveThirtyEight" with a reference to **Stephen Senn**.

Next LSS Conference

Mark your calendars! 6 April 2016



Empirical phenomena and universal laws

Professor Peter McCullagh

Department of Statistics, University of Oxford and Chicago

On 6 April 2016, LSS is proud to welcome Professor Peter McCullagh (University of Oxford and Chicago), for a lecture on the theme "Empirical phenomena and universal laws". The conference will be held at:

Centre Hospitalier Luxembourg (Amphithéâtre), 4 rue Ernest Barblé L-1210 Luxembourg

The conference will start at **5:00 p.m.** and will be conducted in English.

Abstract

In 1943 **Fisher**, together with **Corbet** and **Williams**, published a study on [the relation between the number of species and the number of specimens in random samples](#). This very short paper has since been recognized as one of the most influential papers on species diversity in 20th century ecology.

It was a combination of empirical work backed up by a simple theoretical argument pointing to the log-series distribution for species diversity in random samples. Fisher's work is closely related to more recent mathematical developments on random partitions, such as the [Ewens partition and the Chinese restaurant process](#).

In this talk, I will explain how Fisher's log-series distribution is a consequence of three mathematical axioms: **exchangeability, consistency and self-similarity**.

If time permits, I will discuss the implications for empirical studies of a similar sort, including Fairfield-Smith's work on the variance of spatial averages.

Professor Peter McCullagh was an undergraduate at the University of Birmingham and a graduate at Imperial College in the 1970's. Afterwards, he taught at the University of Chicago, Imperial College, Bell Labs and the University of British Columbia. For the past 30 years, he has been in the [Department of Statistics at the University of Chicago](#).

Visit Professor Peter McCullagh's [personal web page](#)

About the speaker

Register at admin@luxstat.lu

Other Upcoming Events



In the context of the first edition of the [Luxembourg Analytics Summit](#) on March 24, **Stephen Senn** will give a lecture entitled: "**The challenge of small data: rare diseases and ways to study them**".



[Statistical Modeling Conference](#) organised in Ghent on September 15 and 16 by **Professor Christophe Ley**, Vice-President of the LSS.

Visit our website
www.luxstat.lu

Contact the LSS
admin@luxstat.lu



<https://www.facebook.com/luxstat>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8349357>