

Preface

During September 21-23, 2009, the *Annual Meeting of the Austrian Statistical Society (Österreichische Statistiktage)* took place at the WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien. More than 30 speakers contributed to sessions like Demography, Psychometrics, Statistics in Sports, Business and Official Statistics, and Applied and Computational Statistics. The *Forum Junge Statistik* organized an additional session which especially focused on contributions by young statisticians. A poster session was held as well. Steven P. Reise from UCLA and Rob Simmons from Lancaster University were invited as keynote speakers. More information about the conference can be found at

<http://www.osg.or.at/statistiktage2009>

On behalf of the organizing committee we would like to thank the *Austrian Statistical Society (ÖSG)* for their support, the program committee consisting of Daniel Dekic, Reinhold Hatzinger, Werner Holzer, Kurt Hornik, Wolfgang Lutz, and Werner Müller, as well as Karin Haupt for her tireless administrative work before and during the conference.

Out of the conference contributions this Special Issue presents seven selected papers that have been carefully reviewed. Steve Reise presents the PROMIS project which implements models from item response theory (IRT) in the area of health sciences. More IRT: Rainer Alexandrowicz discusses the robustness of the likelihood-ratio test within the context of the linear logistic test model (LLTM) and Christine Hohensinn, together with Klaus Kubinger, use the LLTM to determine the influence of various response formats on the item parameters. Marcus Wurzer and Reinhold Hatzinger present a Microsimulation approach to predict cross-sectional data and to simulate lifecourses of people, providing longitudinal outcomes. Eva Schlenker uses ordered response models to model the labour supply in the engineering sector. Elmar Fürst discusses the results of a project that studies users' requirements for official transport statistics. Finally, Christoph Leitner, Achim Zeileis, and Kurt Hornik evaluate the odds and seedings for the Wimbledon tennis tournament in 2009.

Last but not least we are grateful to Herwig Friedl for giving us the opportunity to publish this Special Issue.

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