

STATISTICS IN TRANSITION-new series, July 2009
Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 175—177

REPORT

18TH DIDACTICAL CONFERENCE ON “QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN GLOBAL ECONOMY” ŁÓDŹ, 1–2 JUNE 2009

The 18th Didactical Conference “Quantitative Methods in Global Economy” was organised by the Institute of Statistics and Demography and Institute of Econometrics of the University of Łódź. The main goal of the conference was to exchange ideas and experiences concerning the teaching of quantitative methods at the academic level in the conditions of global economy.

There were over 100 participants from different academic and research centres in Poland as well as from different local government offices in Łódź. During the conference 13 papers were presented. In addition, a special panel discussion “Crucial Problems of Contemporary Demography” and a presentation of applications of STATISTICA package were organized.

The conference was opened by Prof. Czesław Domański and Prof. Mariusz Plich – Members of Organising Committee. The opening speeches were also given by Prof. Włodzimierz Nykiel – Rector of the University of Łódź, Prof. Jan B. Gajda – Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Sociology UŁ.

The first session (chair: Prof. Jan Zawadzki) started with the paper by Czesław Domański, entitled: “Educating Assistant Lectures and Ph.D. Students to Teach Quantitative Subjects”. The author presented the importance of educating junior members of academic staff in conditions of social demand for statistical methods and their applications. Jan Kordos presented a paper on “Practical Experience of Teaching Mathematical Statistics and Statistical Inference at Economic Universities”. The discussion was focused on difficulties the author has encountered while teaching certain topics in mathematical statistics, particularly law of large numbers and central limit theorem. In addition some terminology differences in Polish handbooks on mathematical statistics were indicated by the author.

The second session (chair: Prof. Czesław Domański) opened with the presentation by Tomasz Jurkiewicz, entitled “On Determining Quantiles in Frequency Interval Distributions”. The author discussed the problem of using interpolation formulae in estimating quantiles with the assumption that the

distribution of the variable is uniformly distributed in each interval is not fulfilled. New formulae depending on the frequencies of neighbouring intervals was suggested, and results of simulation experiment of comparing the efficiency of both kinds of interpolation formulae were presented.

The next speakers, Tomasz Jurkiewicz and Arkadiusz Kozłowski, presented a paper entitled “On Determining the Mode of a Continuous Variable in Raw Data”. The authors considered seven different methods of estimation the mode presented in literature. The evaluation of these procedures (involving the efficiency of estimation and simplicity of computation) was made using simulation experiments.

The next presentation, given by Tomasz Jurkiewicz and Teresa Plenikowska-Ślusarz, was entitled “On Estimates of the Model of Changes over Time with Periodical Component”. It was focused on the smoothing methods in time series analysis, particularly on the analytical method of coefficients. Two modification proposals of the method of coefficients were presented with the comparisons of the results obtained by the classical and modified methods which were carried out on the basis of simulation experiment and some empirical examples.

The next speaker, Barbara Olbrych, in the lecture on “Organization of Direct Interview with Survey Questionnaire to Conduct Research into Quality of Services”, presented the remarks addressed at conducting a research into quality of services provided by the HELIOS Film Centre in Radom. The author presented the construction of the quality evaluation map and presented calculated satisfaction indicators, as well as, using the survey questionnaire and the IPA technique to research quality of services.

The last speech in this session, entitled “On the Use of Indicators of Dynamics of Financial Processes to Indicate the Symptom of Crisis on the Example of Zelmer S.A. (2007–2008)”, was given by Emilia Sieńko. The author presented the results of the analysis of chosen indicators of dynamics of financial processes with the recommendation of a proper choice of the indicators which could be used in the analysis of symptom of crisis in Zelmer S.A.

The third session (chair: Prof. Krystyna Pruska) started with the paper by Czesław Domański, Jacek Białek, Katarzyna Bolonek-Lasoń and Artur Mikulec entitled “The Analysis of the Evaluation of the Teaching Process Based on the International Rankings of Universities”. The authors presented statistical methods for evaluation of the teaching process using preference aggregation methods, the Dodgson ranking and cluster analysis in particular. These methods were used for two international rankings: Academic Ranking of World Universities and The QS World Universities, indicating a rank of Polish universities changing in time.

The next speaker, Grzegorz Kończak, in the lecture on “Internet Based Tests and Quizzes Systems – a Selective Review” described tools for producing tests and quizzes for the inter- or intranet. The author presented also the system of statistical quizzes prepared in the University of Economics in Katowice.

The next paper on “The Original Computer Program STAT_STUD as a Tool for Supporting a Teaching of Statistics” was presented by Jacek Białek. In the speech original computer program STAT_STUD was presented as free, very functional and easy to use. Its modules and merits were also shown.

Iwona Bąk and Katarzyna Wawrzyniak gave a lecture on “The Estimate of the Knowledge Usefulness at Quantitative Subjects in Professional Work in the Light of the Survey Research Made on the Extra-Mural Studies”. The authors discussed results of survey research which was made among students of the extra-mural economic studies at Faculty of Economics of West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, the year 2008/2009.

The last presentation, given by Janusz Kupczun, was devoted to “New Conceptions for Introducing of Definite Integrals in University Lectures of Mathematics”. A brief discussion of some recent ideas (fundamental concepts of integrals), that could be useful for intuitive and more modern teaching of calculus (i.e. mathematical analysis).

An important point of the conference programme was a special panel discussion “Crucial Problems of Contemporary Demography” organised in honour of Prof. Jerzy Tadeusz Kowaleski on the occasion of his 70th birthday and 40th anniversary of academic work. The participants of the discussion were the following:

Prof. Elżbieta Gołata, Prof. Janina Jóźwiak (moderator), Prof. Irena Kotowska, Prof. Jerzy Tadeusz Kowaleski, Prof. Jolanta Kurkiewicz, Prof. Ireneusz Kuropka, Prof. Jan Paradysz, Prof. Agnieszka Rossa, Prof. Biruta Skrętowicz, Dr Piotr Szukalski.

After the third session, the conference was closed by Prof. Czesław Domański. Prof. Mariusz Plich announced the next, 19th Didactical Conference “Teaching Quantitative Subjects and the Needs of Labour Market”. The conference will take place on 7-8 June 2010. Persons wishing to take part in the conference are kindly requested to send information using the e-mail address dydaktyczna@uni.lodz.pl, or the following address:

dr Magdalena Ulrichs

Institute of Econometrics University of Łódź

Rewolucji 1905r. nr 41, 90-214 Łódź

(with XIX Didactical Conference)

tel. 042 6355525, 042 6355248, fax 042 6355248

Prepared by

Aleksandra Baszczyńska,

University of Łódź, Poland

