

INVITED SPEAKERS – CONGRATULATIONS

I want to congratulate Professor Malay Ghosh, also known as my dad, on his receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Economics in Katowice. He and my mom have visited Katowice on numerous occasions and have very much enjoyed the hospitality of the university as well as the people of the town.

In addition to being his son, I am also his colleague in the statistical community. During his 50+ years as a statistician, there are five things I have found remarkable about my father professionally. First, his research has adapted and continuously evolved over time. From nonparametric methods in sequential analysis to Bayes/Empirical Bayes methods in small-area estimation to his current interest in sparsity in high-dimensional Bayesian inference, his mind has never stopped moving onto the next topic. Second, his writing ability remains unparalleled. A senior colleague once told me that my father is only person he knew who could write a perfect first draft of a research paper. Third, his passion about statistics has remained sky-high over more than five decades. He has the same hunger for research now that I see in many of my junior colleagues who are just beginning their careers. Fourth, his willingness to take time to help any of his younger colleagues is marvelous. The one thing I have observed in my own career is the most valuable asset available to an academic is time, and my father have always sought to help those who ask for it. Fifth, his focus on a single research/academic topic at any point in time remains unparalleled.

Dad, congratulations on this supremely well-deserved honor.

Mr. D. Ghosh, Jr



Ministry of Economic Development,
Labour and Technology

Robert Tomanek
Undersecretary of State

May 14, 2021

Professor Malay Ghosh
Doctor Honoris Causa
University of Economics in Katowice

Dear Professor Ghosh,

I am both honored and privileged to extend to you my most sincere congratulations on being awarded the honorary doctorate degree from the University of Economics in Katowice.

Awarding the highest academic degree, the university community has expressed its deepest appreciation of your achievements as a distinguished scholar.

Honored to join all those who are extending to you their warm thoughts on this solemn occasion, I wish you many years of good health and continued success in your career and personal life.

I remain sincerely yours,

Robert Tomanek, PhD

**Magnificence Rector, Honorable Members of the Senate,
Dear professor Malay Ghosh,
Members of the academic community,
Distinguished colleagues and friends, from other universities,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Dear Professor Malay Ghosh. Congratulations!

It is a great privilege and honor to congratulate and thank you, even in just a few words.

You are widely known as an exceptional scientist and statistician, particularly in Bayesian inference and small area estimation. Your extensive academic and professional career has so many outstanding aspects that, summarizing it goes beyond our capacity, especially the capacity of such a short intervention. However, I want to stress one thing: it is essential to keep in mind that pushing the boundaries of knowledge requires outstanding effort and a clear vocation of service. Today, celebrating your achievements, we celebrate this unique and precious composition of virtues that you represent.

We have experienced your uniqueness and numerous invaluable achievements for many years, and by "we," I mean both the Polish and international community of academic and official statisticians. The work of statistical offices has been influenced extensively by your research. I am convinced that this is a source of satisfaction for you, and it should be. Official statistics serve people, societies, so it can be said that a great deal of the progress enjoyed by modern society is achieved thanks to your work.

I want to mention the second Congress of Polish Statistics in 2012, during which you were awarded the *Jerzy Sława-Neyman Medal*. Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the entire community of Polish statisticians, I would like to invite you, Professor, to participate and deliver a keynote speech at the following third congress of Polish statistics. The congress, organized on the 110th anniversary of the Polish Statistical Society, will be held in April 2022 in Krakow. This occasion will also be unique because the International Association for Official Statistics conference will be held simultaneously in the same conference center on the same days.

Dear Professor, congratulations again!

Thank you very much for your attention.

Dominik A. Rozkrut,
Statistics Poland, President, Chief Statistician

Madam Rector, honourable doctor honoris causa, ladies and gentlemen, with great pleasure I accepted the information about the initiative of the University of Economics in Katowice about honouring Professor Malay Ghosh with the title of doctor honoris causa of the University of Economics in Katowice.

Honourable Professor Malay Ghosh!

This day is a huge celebration of Polish Statistics. You are an outstanding statistician, whose works are a determinant for conducting statistical research.

Especially valid are lectures on various topics, including advanced statistical inference, decision theory, Bayesian theory, multidimensional analysis, sequential analysis, and reliability theory. The achievements are impressive to over 310 scientific publications, including articles, monographs and chapters in books on statistical methodology and its applications, and his works are widely cited in scientific circles. The relationship between honourable Professor Malay Ghosh and Polish statistics from 2008, likewise the participation in many conferences in Poland, deserve special recognition. At the First Congress of Polish Statistics held on the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Polish Statistical Association, Professor Malay Ghosh was honoured with the Jerzy Sława-Neyman Medal.

Your recognition for international statistics can be best described by the words of John Paul II: „Man is great not by what he has, but by what he is; not by what he has, but by what he shares with others”.

As the head of the Polish Statistical Society, I would like to congratulate one more time on the granted award to Professor Malay Ghosh. Also, I would like to thank the University of Economics in Katowice for carrying out this event.

Waldemar Tarczyński
Rector, University of Szczecin

Dear Magnificence Rector!

Dear Members of Senate of University of Economics in Katowice!

Dear Professor Ghosh!

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is my great pleasure and honour to present this address on behalf of The Committee on Statistics and Econometrics of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Dear Professor Ghosh!

Please accept my congratulations on the occasion of awarding you doctor honoris causa, which in Polish academic tradition is regarded as the highest academic honour. University of Economics in Katowice pays tribute to your great achievements in the area of statistics.

Polish statisticians regard your scientific achievements as very valuable for both theoreticians and practitioners. Your theoretical work in the area of sequential estimation and nonparametric inference created new directions in mainstream statistical research. We value very highly your scientific contribution in the area of competing risks, which is a great example of development arising from reliability theory. Finally, I mention your papers on small area estimation, which are of particular interest for practitioners representing public statistics. Your scientific contribution is great added value to the theory and practice of statistics.

Dear Professor Ghosh, I wish you good health and continuation of your scientific achievements.

Dear Professors of University of Economics in Katowice!

I congratulate you to have Prof. Ghosh as a member of your scientific community. I wish all the best in extending the scientific cooperation with your Honorary Doctor.

Krzysztof Jajuga

Magnificence Mrs. Rector, High Senate, Dear Professor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear Malay, Congratulations! And thanks.

Along with congratulations on recognizing your extraordinary achievements and professional status world-wide – as a Master and teacher of teachers of statistics, and a person whose dedication to science made him uniquely deserving of the great honour you have received today – I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the *Statistics in Transition*, an international journal of the Polish Statistical Association and *Statistics Poland*: For all the help and contribution you have made to our journal – I say ours, because you are part of it also as a long-term member of the Editorial Board and as an author and reviewer, of what we are especially proud and grateful.

This is, of course, only a part of your multi-threaded contribution to Polish statistics, and statistics in general, that was already recognized with the Jerzy Neyman medal awarded to you during the Polish Statistical Association 100th anniversary Congress in Poznań, 2012. Recent example is Your spectacular contribution to the Special Issue of *SiT* – organized by Partha Lahiri, published in August 2020, and commented by such leading experts in the field as Jon Rao, Danny Pfeffermann and others, which confirms the constancy of your presence in Polish statistics.

To conclude this statement, I would like to express my appreciation to the University of Economics in Katowice and its Senate, with which I turn to Her Magnificence Rector, for arranging this ceremony to honour our mutual friend, Distinguished Professor Malay Ghosh.

Thank you Malay in advance for your continued collaboration with us – we wish you further successes in excellent conditions and health.

Thank you all for your attention.

Włodzimierz Okrasa

Editor-in-Chief, *Statistics in Transition* new series
Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw,
Statistics Poland

For May 2021, University of Economics, Katowice, Poland

Professor Malay Ghosh was born in Calcutta, today in the state of West Bengal in India, and studied at the University of Calcutta for an undergraduate and an MA degree, before continuing his studies in the United States at the University of North Carolina. His PhD. advisor was another outstanding statistician who also hails from Calcutta, Pranab Kumar Sen. After graduating, Professor Ghosh held appointments at the Indian Statistical Institute and then back in the U.S.A. at Iowa State University, before joining the Department of Statistics at the University of Florida in 1982.

Within the allotted time I could not possibly go through all the honours that he has received during his distinguished career at the University of Florida, nor list all the fields to which he has made profound contributions. So, here is a selection. Professor Ghosh had a conference held in his honour at College Park, Maryland, in 2014; he received from the American Statistical Association the Samuel Wilks Memorial Award in 2020; he is a coauthor of two monographs; he supervised over 40 PhD students; and has been a sought-out consultant by various organisations, including the U.S. Decennial Census and the Office for National Statistics in the United Kingdom. You will come across his name if you study or work in nonparametric statistics, Bayesian modelling, sequential analysis, small-area estimation, sampling methods, and a clutch of other important topics.

It is my great honour to congratulate Professor Ghosh on the award of an honorary doctorate from the University of Economics in Katowice. I would also like to thank the University for such an appropriate choice for an honorand.

Nicholas T. Longford
Imperial College London, UK