



SASA

South African Statistical Association

Annual General Meeting

2024



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AGM 2024 AGENDA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SASA TO BE HELD AT STELLENBOSCH ON THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER AT 17:00 VIA [MICROSOFT TEAMS](#) AND IN PERSON.

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the 2023 AGM**
 - 2.1 Approval of the minutes
 - 2.2 Matters arising
3. **Finalising the agenda**
4. **Annual report of the Executive Committee 2023/2024**
5. **Annual report of Fellowship Committee**
6. **Other reports**
 - 6.1 Education Committee
 - 6.2 Young Statisticians Network
 - 6.3 ICCSSA Board
 - 6.4 Funding Initiatives
 - 6.5 Sponsorships
 - 6.6 Newsletter Editor
 - 6.7 Bi-weekly Newsletter
 - 6.8 Managing Editor Journal
 - 6.9 Journal Editor
 - 6.10 Proceedings



6.11 SASA Events

6.12 SASA Interest Groups

7. Financial matters

7.1 2024 Interim financial statements and report

7.2 Draft 2025 Budget:

7.3 Membership Fees 2025

7.4 Journal Subscription Fee 2024

8. Executive Committee for 2025

8.1 Newsletter Editor

8.2 Young Statistician Network Coordinator

9. SASA Conference 2025

10. Additional matters

10.1 SACNASP

11. Closing



AGM 2023 MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SASA TO BE HELD AT DURBAN ON THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER AT 16:40 VIA [MICROSOFT TEAMS](#) AND IN PERSON.

1. Welcome

Prof Inger Fabris-Rotelli opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

2.1. Approval of the minutes

Minutes were approved

2.2. Matters arising

None.

3. Finalising the agenda

4. Annual report of the Executive Committee 2022/2023

5. Annual report of Fellowship Committee

6. Other reports

6.1. Education Committee

Delia North stepped down as the head of the Education Committee in 2023 due to commitments in the organization of the SASA 2023 conference. Lizelle Fletcher took over the role for 2023.

A request was made to assist with the Curricula Collation of all information on all undergraduate and postgraduate degrees related to Statistics in South Africa. The intention behind this project is to understand what is being taught in our degrees to aid with re-curriculum and benchmarking in order to facilitate movement of students between institutions. This initiative will be regularly updated.



There is some delay due to a request for an ethics approval. This application is being progressed.

Call for departments to advocate for student participation in the translation of **High School Statistics Videos**. The aim is for the videos to be available in all official languages.

6.2. Young Statisticians Network

Jocelyn Mazarura will be unavailable to continue as the Young Statisticians Coordinator due to work commitments. The EC will co-opt a SASA member for 2024.

6.3. ICCSSA Board

Prof Inger Fabris-Rotelli was elected as chairperson for the ICCSSA Board. ICSSA signed an MoU with SACNASP to move all members over to SACNASP without the application fee. ICCSSA is prohibited from providing professional designations from 2023. The decision on the proposed incorporation of ICCSSA into SASA will be discussed at the ICCSSA AGA in early 2024.

In the instance of ICCSSA being absorbed into SASA, their proposed role will be to facilitate closer collaboration between SASA and industry. As well as to help facilitate SACNASP registrations.

6.4. Funding Initiatives

No additional comments

6.5. Newsletter Editor

Bi-weekly newsletters were created in 2023 to establish more regular contact with members.

6.6. Sponsorships

Suggested contacts for potential sponsors can contact Yoko Chhana.

6.7. Managing Editor Journal

No additional comments

6.8. Journal Editor



No additional comments

6.9. Proceedings

Suggestions were asked on how to increase the number of submissions to the SASA Proceedings. A suggestion was to move the date of submissions of the proceedings to after the SASA conference. The suggestion will be further discussed by the EC..

6.10. SASA Interest Groups

Dr Brydon, chair of the Data Science SIG provided some feedback on the events planned for the SIG in 2024.

7. Financial matters

7.1. 2023 Interim financial statements and report

No additional comments. SIGs are encouraged to make sure of the funds allocated to them. Queries can be sent to the treasurer.

7.2. Draft 2024 Budget:

No additional comments

7.3. Membership fees 2024

New membership fees for 2024 were approved

7.4. Journal Subscription Fee 2024

No additional comments.

8. Executive Committee for 2024

8.1. Vice President

Prof Daniel Maposa

8.2. Treasurer

Dr Chris Muller

8.3. Managing Editor Journal

Dr Neill Smit



8.4. Sponsorship

Dr Danielle Roberts

A special thanks was given to exiting SASA members, Prof Sonali Das, Yoko Chhana, Prof Charl Pretorius, Dr Warren Brettenny, Dr Carel van der Merwe.

9. SASA Conference 2024

The University of Western Cape has agreed to host SASA 2024.

10. Additional matters

10.1. SACNASP

SACNASP representative Lientjie Mogano presented an overview of SACNASP the registration process. Mentorship programs with funding for activities are available through SACNASP, however both participants should be members. For members with a BCom background, the percentage of statistics and mathematics background will determine if registration with SACNASP is required, More information is available on the SACNASP website: <https://www.sacnasp.org.za/>.

10.2. National Strategy for Mathematical Sciences

The aim of this strategy is to increase the quality of mathematical sciences at schools and higher education levels. Several plans on how to proceed are discussed and will be taken forward in 2024. SASA is a stakeholder in this community. An open invitation was made to all SASA members to join this initiative.

10.3. New EC position: Funding Member

Current SASA EC structure requires the Sponsorship portfolio to build and maintain sponsorships and industry funding relationships. The EC would like to initiate a 7th EC position that will focus only on Funding (e.g. NiTheCS funding for the conference). Members agreed to the opting of the position in 2024.

Lizanne Raubenheimer volunteered to be co-opted position in 2024.

This position will be included into the review of the Constitution in 2025.

10.4. Working groups



The working groups will aim to create communities of research groups to help support each other. As the SIGs grow into these working groups, more formalized structure can be put into place which includes meeting at SASA etc. This will require that more SIGs be formed for example SIGs for Forecasting, Education Interest Group, Official Statistics, StatSNetSA, Statistics in Sport, Econometrics, Theoretical Statistics. A call will be sent out in 2024 to initiate these SIGs.

10.5. SASA Representatives in Departments

Clarification of the role of SASA representatives in Departments. All departmental communications from SASA will be sent to the HoDs and SASA representatives to ensure information reaches members and students.

11. Closing

The SASA AGM meeting for 2023 officially closed.



ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023/2024

The SASA executive has been working hard in 2024. The two Education Committee projects are progressing well and will be completed in 2025. The first collection of the curriculums from all the Statistics Academic departments has been progressing under the leadership of Prof Michael von Maltitz from UFS. This coalition will go a long way to produce a resource for all universities on the curriculums taught in South Africa. Once completed the resource will be updated regularly and will provide information for every institution to re-curriculate with, when needed, and to obtain consistency across South Africa. This is particularly useful to allow for the mobility of students between institutions. The second project has been provided generous funding from NiTheCS. The EC is planning the production of videos of the Grade 10 – 11 Statistics syllabus in all our official languages. The slides in English have been prepared during 2024. Early 2025 a call will go out to invite postgraduates to volunteer to translate the videos into all our languages and do a recording of the videos in that language. Each language team will be awarded a monetary amount for this contribution. We are very excited about this and the potential it will have in our school system for both learners and teachers. In 2024, I was involved in a small IEB workshop for teaching Statistics and they are very excited about these videos and the potential for also helping the teachers.

The National Strategy for Mathematical Sciences has progressed in 2024 with the formation of a committee and a strong collaboration with SAMF. The idea of an Institute for Mathematical Sciences and its Applications has been proposed by NGA-MaSS with COE-MaSS and SAMF. This aims to take forward the COE-MaSS after the funding is no longer provided to ensure the communities of Mathematics and Statistics in South Africa are further supported. If any SASA member would like to be involved in these initiatives they are welcome to contact the EC.

NiTheCS has been very responsive to SASA in 2023 and 2024, providing funding for both the school video project as well as the SASA Conference. The institute was officially made permanent in 2024 and funding calls were made in mid-2024. StatSNetSA has applied to be funded through NiTheCS - more detail in that report.



SAS has once again been a loyal supporter of SASA and we thank them for all the assistance and collaboration.

The SASA Departmental Reps have been assisting the HODs of each department with communication and other SASA matters. Ensure you know who this is at your institution and inform the Secretary if communications are not received.

The South African Journal of Science invited SASA this year to write a paper that appears in their anniversary edition. Thank you to all the contributing authors. Our paper was the longest!

In June 2024 we held an HOD meeting with all the departments across the country. This was a successful first discussion and it was agreed the mid-year meeting and the meeting at the conference should be held every year.

In 2025 the EC will have several new committee members, including the incoming president Prof Daniel Maposa. I wish Daniel all the best with his term. Thank you to the current EC and their tireless commitment to SASA. SASA wouldn't function without such wonderful individuals.

Inger Fabris-Rotelli (President)

November 2024

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The SASA Fellowship committee comprises the last six available Past Presidents, i.e., Warren Brettenny, Maseka Lesaoana, Danie Uys, Francesca Little, James Allison, and Paul Mostert. One nomination was received for fellowship of the association and was accepted. One nomination for honorary member was received and accepted.

Inger Fabris-Rotelli (President)

November 2024



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members

After ten years of dedicated service on the education committee, with six years as its chair, Lizelle Fletcher has stepped down. We extend our deepest heartfelt appreciation to Lizelle for her unwavering commitment and hard work in guiding the committee's initiatives and growth.

We also bid farewell to Sisa Pazi, who played a crucial role in organizing the Third-year and Honours bursary competitions during his tenure. We thank him sincerely for his contributions and dedication.

This year, we were pleased to welcome Amy Langston from Rhodes University to the committee. Amy joins a team of committed members, including Delia North, Yoko Chhana, Nombuso Zondo, and Michael von Maltitz, who continue to support the committee's mission.

Competitions

The Education Committee hosts four annual competitions, and beginning in 2023, all applications transitioned to an online format. Applicants now upload their documents via a link specific to each competition. Eligibility for any of these competitions requires SASA membership. In addition to the four annual competitions, this year, the committee announced a Statistics Poster Competition for university students, as part of the 2024/2025 International Statistics Literacy Project (ISLP).

Postgraduate Paper Competition

This year, there is a prize for the best published paper from a Masters or PhD student, as well as a prize for the best unpublished/unreviewed paper. Both categories are a continuation from 2023. We received two entries in the published category, representing the University of Pretoria (UP) and the University of Venda (UV), along with six entries in the unpublished category from students at the University of Pretoria (UP) and the University of Stellenbosch (US). To ensure a fair and rigorous evaluation process, five judges have been appointed to review and assess the submissions.



Honours Project Competition

This year, the Honours Bursary Competition received fifteen entries from eight universities - North-West University (NWU), Stellenbosch University (SU), University of Cape Town (UCT), University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), University of Limpopo (UL), University of Pretoria (UP), University of the Free State (UFS), and the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS). Submissions were made online via Google forms, with five group projects and ten individual projects entered. All fifteen projects were sent to five judges for thorough review and ranking.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the judges of both the Postgraduate Paper Competition and the Honours Project Competition for their generous contributions of time and expertise. The winners of these two competitions will be announced in the final SASA newsletter of 2024.

Honours and Third-year Bursary Competitions

The 2023/2024 bursary competitions were re-advertised in 2024 following a low response to the initial call for entries. The winners of these bursaries will be announced in the final newsletter of 2024.

Meanwhile, entries for the 2024/2025 bursary competition for second- and third-year students are currently open. Information about the competition was distributed to university representatives and Heads of Departments in October, and details are available on the SASA website. Additionally, announcements will be made in the upcoming SASA newsletter and across SASA's social media platforms.

A special word of thanks to SAS for the continued sponsorship of the Student Honours Bursary Competition and the Honours Project Competition.

International Statistics Literacy Project (ISLP) – Statistical Literacy Project Poster Competition 2024/2025

This year, the committee announced a South African-level competition, offering Honours and third-year students enrolled at South African universities the chance to participate in the **2024/2025 International Statistics Literacy Project (ISLP) Poster Competition**. This initiative provides a unique opportunity for students to showcase their statistical skills and creativity on an international platform. The Poster Theme is free choice. The work should be based on the use, analysis, and interpretation of statistics (no statistical theory should be included in the poster).



A national jury will review all South African entries received (maximum of 3 entries from each institution), and choose the ISLP University winning poster for South Africa. This winning poster will then be entered as the South African entry for the ISLP 2024-2025 International Competition, where an international jury will consider all national winning entries from various countries, from which the very best ISLP posters from around the world will be chosen, and displayed at the 65th ISI World Statistics Congress, to be held in The Hague, Netherlands, in October 2025. Delia North serves as the country coordinator for this initiative. Information about the competition has continuously been communicated to university representatives, Heads of Departments, and through the SASA newsletter.

Registration for the competition is open from 1 July to 7 December 2024, and completed posters must be submitted electronically by 28 February 2025.

Capacity Building in Statistics Education

At the request of the SASA President, Inger Fabris-Rotelli, two projects were initiated in 2023 under the auspices of the Education Committee.

Curricula collation

Over the last few months, a task team led by Michael von Maltitz has been gathering comprehensive information on the content of Statistics degree programs offered across South Africa, covering both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Most institutions have contributed by completing their modules on a data-gathering worksheet. The team plans to convene with participants at the SASA 2024 conference to finalize the data collection.

Following this, an Honours group from the 2025 cohort will be tasked with compiling and analysing the data, and do a detailed report on the findings. The task team aims to present well-informed recommendations by mid-2025.

High School Statistics Translation and videos

The initial phase of this project involved creating a core set of explanatory slides, complete with examples, that cover the curriculum in the areas of data handling/statistics and probability. This task is being led by a team composed of Amy Langston (Rhodes University), Farai Mlambo (University of the Witwatersrand) and Najmeh Nakhaei Rad (University of Pretoria). The team is to ensure that all slides are compiled in line with the current CAPS and IEB syllabus documentation. Once the English slides are finalized, they will be translated into South Africa's other



official languages, followed by the recording of short videos. This project remains ongoing.

In closing, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to each member of this committee for their unwavering positivity and dedication. Your commitment to advancing statistics education in South Africa, often at the expense of your own time, is truly admirable. Thank you for your selfless contributions and for continuously driving this important work forward.

Nombuso Zondo (Chairperson)

November 2024

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOUNG STATISTICIAN'S NETWORK

The Young Statisticians' network aims to create awareness of statistics as a discipline and profession, both in industry and academia. The SASA page on LinkedIn is used to promote relevant Young Statisticians-focused events of the association, in particular the Young Statisticians webinar series which highlights the research of award-winning young statisticians. The SASA Newsletter and Updates are also used to advertise these webinars, and spotlight the presenters. This year, three webinars were presented by Campbell McDuling in August, Amy Langston in October, and Dr Stephan van der Westhuizen in November, respectively. Two speakers have already been engaged for 2025, namely Kabelo Mahloromela and Dr René Stander. The young statisticians' poster and oral competitions are taking place at this year's SASA conference in Stellenbosch from 18 to 22 November 2024. There will be two competitions, namely a poster and an oral presentation competition. All entries to the competition will be evaluated at the conference by a panel of judges and the winners will be announced at the conference's closing ceremony.

Renate Thiede

November 2024

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ICCSSA BOARD

ICCSSA is currently under dissolution so nothing to report.

Inger Fabris-Rotelli (Chairperson: ICCSSA)

November 2024



ANNUAL REPORT FOR SPONSORSHIPS

SASA is grateful for the sponsorship received from SAS towards awards and bursaries. These include sponsorship of the Honours project competition, Thought Leader award, and bursary for Honours in Statistics. Sponsorship has also been received from SACNASP, NiTheCS, CoE-MaSS, NRF, and NGA towards the conference organisation.

This year, the SASA sponsorship initiatives have been revised to include a new Corporate Partner Sponsorship option, providing organizations with greater flexibility to choose options that align with their needs and budget. The [sponsorship document](#), now updated to detail all available initiatives, is complemented by an [infographic](#) summarizing each package. Additionally, the SASA [partnership and advertising webpage](#) has been revamped to offer more comprehensive information. Together, these updates will establish a strong foundation for engaging organizations in sponsorship opportunities for 2025.

Danielle Roberts

November 2024

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FUNDING

The SASA 2024 LOC were informed about various funding opportunities, where these include the SA MRC, the International Mathematical Union, NRF KIC funding, CoE-MaSS.

The president had a fruitful meeting with the CoE-MaSS. They are working on a steering committee structure, which may include a SASA representative. The president also attended a NiTheCS meeting to ensure that Statistics is presented well enough there.

Apart from funding information and directions provided to the LOC earlier this year, nothing else has happened.

Lizanne Raubenheimer

November 2024



PUBLICATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

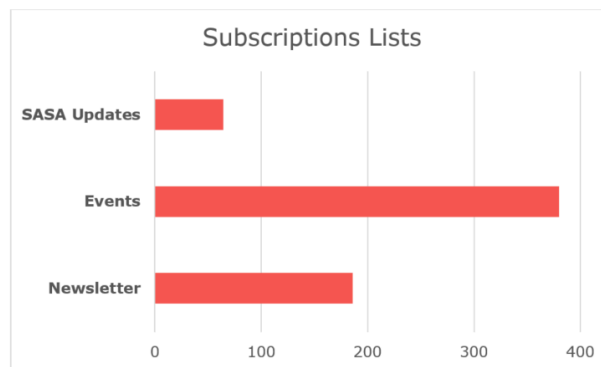
The newsletters are used as a platform to communicate important and relevant news to SASA members. Three newsletters are sent out annually. Thank you to those members who have sent in news items and contributions for publication in the newsletter over the past year. Members are encouraged to get in touch with the newsletter editor if they have any relevant items for publication.

Trudie Sandrock (Newsletter Editor)

November 2024

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Our current subscription lists opted in by our contacts are as follows:



Biweekly Newsletter campaign summary

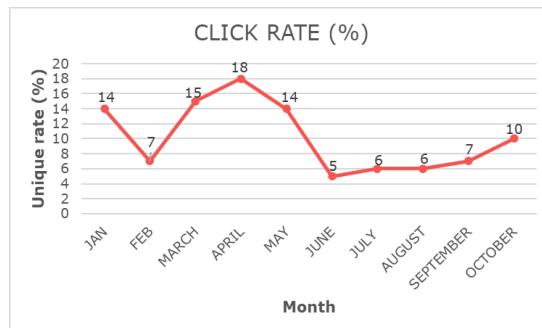
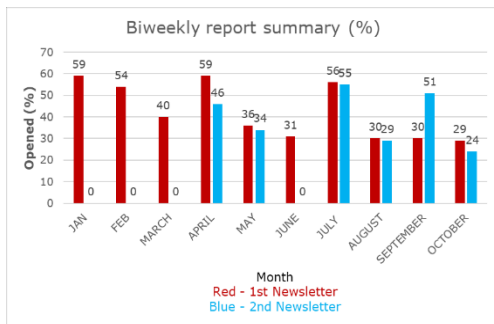
A total of 16 campaigns were created and deployed from January to October 2024. This constituted of a 43% open rate and 8% unique click rate on the emails

The summary is provided in the table below. This table indicates the number of newsletters sent, the number of recipients per campaign, and the number of recipients who opened the campaigns.



The percentage of opened newsletters is generally higher with the first newsletter sent out than the subsequent one.

MONTH	Recipients 1 st newsletter	%Opened	Recipients 2 nd newsletter	%Opened
JAN	625	59	0	0
FEB	628	54	0	0
MARCH	678	40	0	0
APRIL	298	59	335	46
MAY	338	36	882	34
JUNE	883	31	0	0
JULY	883	56	883	55
AUGUST	958	30	1049	29
SEPTEMBER	978	30	1132	51
OCTOBER	1143	29	1123	24



Brenda Otieno Mac'Oduol (Information Officer)

November 2024

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

I would like to thank Prof Cornelis Potgieter for his contributions and service to SASJ in his role as Editor. It has been a pleasure collaborating with him. Some recent developments at SASJ include the following:

- Four new Associate Editors have been appointed: Prof Sonali Das, Prof Sugnet Lubbe, Dr Janet van Niekerk, and Prof Andréhette Verster.
- SASJ has moved to a completely paperless publication model from 2024.
- SASJ has been listed on EBSCO.



Prof Charl Pretorius has been appointed as the Proceedings Editor for the 3-year term starting 2024. This year, the Proceedings will be published after the conference. Submissions for the Proceedings will be open from 1 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, and the Proceedings will be published by the end of April 2025.

Neill Smit (Managing Editor)

November 2024

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL EDITOR

The journal received 49 submissions during the period 1 November 2023 to 30 October 2024. The current state of these submissions are:

- Accepted for publication: 1.
- Rejected: 38.
- Withdrawn: 0.
- In first-round review: 7.
- In second-round review: 1.
- Being revised by authors: 2.
- Awaiting editorial assignment: 0.

SASJ Vol 58 (2024) Issue 1 consisted of 4 published papers and SASJ Vol 58 (2023) Issue 2 consisted of 2 published papers.

I would like to express my gratitude to the associate editors for their ongoing support. We are pleased to welcome four new associate editors to the team: Sonali Das, Sugnet Lubbe, Janet van Niekerk, and Andrehette Verster. Additionally, I would like to extend special thanks to Neill Smit, who has assumed the role of managing editor for the journal.

Cornelis Potgieter (Editor)

November 2024

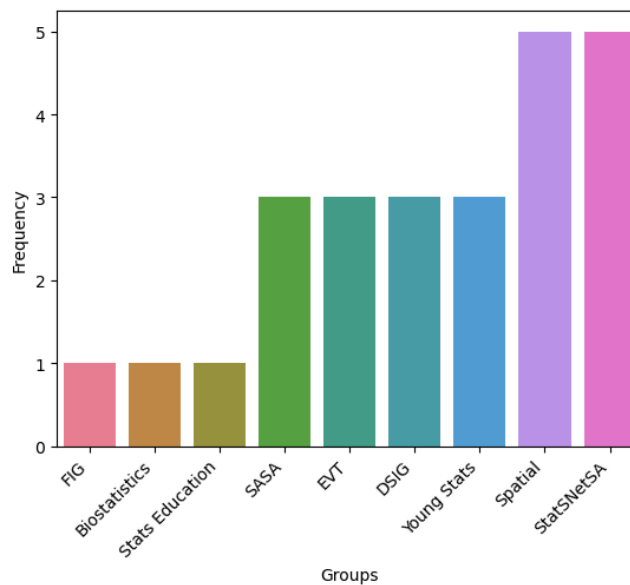
SASA EVENTS

SASA has committed to consolidate the information of upcoming seminars / webinars / workshops to create awareness of events in the broader statistics



community. We believe that this will create the opportunity to strengthen collaboration between institutions.

Here is a summary of the 25 events that took place in 2024:



Organisers / Groups:

- Forecasting interest group (FIG)
- Biostatistics interest group
- Statistics Education
- SASA
- Extreme value theory (EVT)
- Data Science interest group (DSIG)
- Young statisticians network
- Spatial statistics
- StatSNetSA

Take note that these numbers only reflect the registration numbers on Glue Up and are not a true reflection of the attendance of an event. In some cases, events are co-hosted by external parties and registration is not limited to SASA members only.

We hope to build on the momentum of 2024 and encourage all special interest groups to organise events that can be included on the SASA events calendar.



Group	Number of events	Cumulative Glue Up registrations	Average Glue Up registrations per event
FIG	1	3	3
Biostatistics	1	10	10
Stats Education	1	28	28
SASA	3	67	22
EVT	3	77	26
DSIG	3	270	90
Young Stats	3	33	11
Spatial	5	148	30
StatSNetSA	5	52	10

Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel (Events coordinator)

November 2024

SASA INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

The year 2024 was a year of innovations and new initiatives. The year 2024 saw an increase in the number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to nine under the auspices of the South African Statistical Association (SASA) community of practice. The SASA-SIGs in 2024 include the Multivariate Data Analysis Group (MDAG), SASA Bayes, Extreme Value Theory (EVT), Spatial Statistics, Data Science, Forecasting, Biostatistics, Statistics Education, and Research Networks (StatSNetSA). From these nine SASA-SIGs, Data Science, Forecasting, StatSNetSA, and Statistics Education are among the newly introduced SIGs in the statistics community of practice. A lot of activities took place in all these SIGs in 2024, and these activities include seminars, workshops and PoT-Talks. Several international reputable guest speakers were invited to grace the events of the SIGs, and these guest speakers gave excellent and insightful presentations to their respective statistics special interest audiences. The attendance of the participants in most of the seminars and workshops organised by the SIGs in 2024 was very good. Aside from the SIGs, there were a lot of activities and initiatives from the various SASA Committees notably the Education Committee, Communications Committee and Sponsorship, among others. The year 2024 also witnessed major initiatives and collaborations with other associations, councils and organisation such as the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) and South African Mathematical Sciences (SAMS), among others. Overall, it was exciting to note the commitment of the members to the SASA community of practice development throughout the year, 2024. With this



commitment exhibited by the members throughout the year, it is clear that SASA is in good hands for future development and sustainability.

Daniel Maposa (Vice-president)

November 2024

MULTIVARIATE DATA ANALYSIS GROUP (MDAG) COMMITTEE

The Multivariate Data Analysis Group (MDAG) was established in 2013 and has received growing support from SASA members throughout the years. MDAG remains an affiliated member society of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS).

A new executive committee member is elected annually. Prof. Sugnet Lubbe (Stellenbosch) was re-elected as the Chairperson of the committee for the 2023-2027 term at the annual general meeting (AGM) on 28 November 2023. An additional member for the 2024-2028 term will be elected at the 2024 MDAG AGM.

We are aware of the following conferences that were attended by MDAG members in 2024: International Workshop on Compositional Data analysis (CoDaWork), International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) conference and the International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS) and Data Science, Statistics & Visualisation (DSSV).

The pre-conference MDAG workshop is presented by the Centre for Multi-Dimensional Data Visualisation (MuViSU) on "User-friendly biplots in R with biplotEZ". In this workshop, delegates will be introduced to the main aspects of biplot methodology and receive access to the newly developed functions of the biplotEZ R package with applications on real data in various contexts.

The DSSV conference will be hosted by MuViSU, the South African Statistical Association (SASA) and MDAG. This international conference will take place in the Kruger National Park, 7-9 July (<https://iasc-isi.org/dssv2025/>).

Sugnet Lubbe, Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel,

Nicolene Cochrane, Renette Blignaut,

Chris Muller

November 2024



THE EXTREME VALUE THEORY INTEREST GROUP

The EVT special interest group (SIG) aims to introduce and nurture the study and knowledge of statistical theory and its application specifically in Extreme Value Theory (EVT) to the broader statistical community in South Africa. EVT is a branch of statistics that looks beyond normality to solve those problems in society that have a low frequency of occurring but can have severe or devastating local and global impacts.

EVT research allows for interesting interdisciplinary cross-over applications in all branches of statistics including time series analysis, Bayesian analysis, spatial statistics, artificial intelligence and biostatistics.

The EVT convening committee consists of the chair Prof Andréhette Verster (University of Free State), the vice chair Prof Daniel Maposa (University of Limpopo), and Dr Ansie Smit (University of Pretoria). During the course of the year, the committee organized three online seminars.

The first seminar was presented by Prof. Dr. Maud Thomas from Sorbonne Université Laboratoire de Probabilités, France on the 10th of April. Her research interests include statistics, extreme value theory and machine learning and its applications to actuarial sciences. The topic of her talk was “*Generalized Pareto Regression Trees for Extreme Event Analysis with specific application to cyber risks*”.

The second seminar took place on the 4th of June in the form of a POT talk. A POT talk is defined as a speed talk session which gives young (and advanced) academics the opportunity to introduce themselves and their research to the EVT community – no matter the stage of progress. Each person receives 5-10 minutes with 2-3 summary slides to present the research problem/topic and progress that they’ve made or hoping to make. After the talk, a discussion session follows where the audience can give feedback and comments on the proposed work. The first presenter was Nicholas Kwaramba, a PhD student from the University of the Free State. The title of his talk was “*Bayesian Application to Ramos Model*”. The second listed speaker was Thambeleni Portia Nevhungoni from SAMRC / UKZN who presented her PhD study titled “*Childbearing Transition Dynamics among Women in Rural South Africa: A Multiprocess Modeling Approach*”.



The third seminar was presented by Nadine van der Walt on the 17th of September. Nadine is a Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) of the UK and was the first South African to qualify through the IFoA via the research fellowship option. She was also UP's first PhD candidate in Actuarial Science. She is currently head of the technical development team Riskscape, which is a South African company that specializes in Spatial and Risk Products in the insurance and banking space. The topic of her talk was “*Extreme Value Theory in Practice: Insights into Flood Risk Assessment*”.

In 2025 we will continue with our seminar series focussing on a combination of theoretical and practical applications of EVT.

We want to thank all the members for the high levels of interest and participation within this group and we are looking forward to 2025.

Andréhette Verster, Daniel Maposa, Ansie Smit

November 2024

THE SPATIAL STATISTICS INTEREST GROUP

The Spatial Statistics interest group has a number of successful seminars in 2024:

- Luuk van der Meer, Austria on 13 February 2024: Analyzing geospatial networks in R using *sfnetworks*.
- Dr Renate Theide, UP on 30 April 2024: New characterisations of spatial linear networks for geographical accessibility.
- Dr Rene Stander, UP on 21 May 2024: Multiscale decomposition of spatial lattice data for hotspot prediction.
- Dr Lisa Kirkland, UP on 12 September 2024: Integrating Spatial Point Process Models into Wildlife Security Games.
- Dr Innocent Maposa, SUN on 25 September 2024: Spatial Methods and Applications.

In 2025 the group plans some international speakers. Any suggestions for speakers and events are welcome!

Inger Fabris-Rotelli, Pravesh Debba, Renate Thiede

November 2024



THE DATA SCIENCE INTEREST GROUP

The Data Science Interest Group hosted a few activities this year, which are highlighted below. Workshop series:

- Title: Neural network and deep learning with Python and R
 - Facilitator: Prof Mohamad Arashi
 - Type: 2 x Online and 2 x In-person
 - Dates: 04 June 2024, 23 July 2024, 18 November 2024 and 19 November 2024 Online workshop
- Title: Neural networks for time-to-event data analysis
 - Facilitator: Dr Justine Nesejje
 - Date: 01 October 2024

The number of activities hosted this year were unfortunately not as many as initially planned but it is hoped that we will be able to offer these to the SASA community in 2025.

Humphrey Brydon, Inger Fabris-Rotelli, Frans Kanfer November 2024

THE BIOSTATISTICS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Biostatistics SIG has held two events in a hybrid format this year. The first event was the “International symposium on current trends in modeling and software development in Data Science” from 20-23 February 2024. This event was hosted by the SAMRC Biostatistics Research Unit, jointly with the Data Science Institute at Hasselt University (Belgium), at the SAMRC Conference Center in Cape Town. The aim of the symposium was to provide a platform for discussion about both methodological and biostatistics capacity development topics and to initiate South-South and North-South interactions and engagement. This symposium was the opening event of The VLIR-UOS International Training Program project eR-BioStat ITP - Development of local E-learning platforms in (bio)statistics. During the first two days, Prof Ziv Shkedy (Hasselt University) showcased the eR-Biostat Platform for teaching and learning statistics at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level. In the second short course, Dr Rudradev Sengupta (Janssen Pharmaceutica) took participants through data analysis, modeling and reporting using R, R studio, and R markdown. The conference was held on 22 and 23



February and invited speakers from the North represented several institutions including Hasselt University, Janssen Pharmaceutica, The NIH and Brown University. There was also a high degree of geographic diversity with speakers and delegates from South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Botswana, Ghana and Ethiopia. Within South, speakers included leadership of Statistics departments from the University of Pretoria; University of Venda; University of Zululand; University of KwaZulu Natal; Stellenbosch University and University of South Africa; as well as the SAMRC and HSRC.

The second event was a guest lecture by Prof Lehana Thabane, who is the current Vice-President Research at St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton in Canada. This lecture was held on 9 September 2024 at the SAMRC offices in Cape Town and covered the topic "Shifting the focus towards education and away from statistical significance: Revisiting the debate on whether it is time to get rid of statistical significance in pursuit of science.

Tarylee Reddy

November 2024

THE BAYES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The SASA Bayes interest group has not undertaken any activities this year (2024). However, the group plans to host a three-day introductory Bayesian analysis workshop early in 2025.

Sonali Das, Allan Clark

November 2024

THE FORECASTING SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Forecasting Interest Group (FIG) hosted one seminar this year by Prof. Saralees Nadarajah from School of Mathematics, University of Manchester, UK. The topic of this talk was "Modelling climate data in Africa."

Caston Sigauke, Daniel Maposa,

Knowledge Chinhamu

November 2024



THE STATISTICS EDUCATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Statistics Education SIG participated in the joint education panel with StatSNetSA on 27 August 2024. The title of the panel discussion was “Teaching in the current era of Statistics discipline - how to deal with large classes and ensure critical thinking”, with the topics of being large classes, coding vs. real data vs. theory, postgraduate teaching, assessment practices, and critical thinking. Presenters from universities across the country included:

- Dr Ane van der Merwe (University of Pretoria)
- Prof Leanne Scott (University of Cape Town)
- Prof Roelof Coetzer (North West University)
- Prof Sollie Millard (University of Pretoria)
- Prof Michael von Maltitz (University of the Free State)
- Dr Danielle Roberts (University of Kwazulu Natal)
- Prof Inger Fabris-Rotelli (University of Pretoria)

It was a very successful discussion, and it highlighted the need for more events like this. We are looking forward to 2025 in expanding our activities.

Michael von Maltitz, Farai Mlambo

November 2024

StatsNetSA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Statistics Supervision Network in South Africa ([StatSNetSA](#)) became a formal SASA Interest Group this year. The network has over 60 members, consisting of early- and mid-career academics in Statistics across South Africa. This interest group/network aims to support early-career doctoral supervisors in the Statistical Sciences, enhancing their effectiveness in guiding doctoral candidates to graduation, while also providing resources and support for the supervisor’s own growth and promotion. It also seeks to create a more holistic and accessible experience for students, encouraging their transition into academia.

Over the past two years, online seminar series have been held to share experiences across the different tertiary institutions in South Africa pertaining to supervision, as



well as teaching and learning. This year, a range of seminar series has been offered, including one that highlights the experiences of senior supervisors within the Statistics community. Furthermore, a panel discussion on “Teaching in the current era of the Statistics discipline – how to deal with large classes and ensure critical thinking” took place in August, which covered topics on large classes, coding vs. real data vs. theory, postgraduate teaching, assessment practices, critical thinking. Following these, a seminar series aimed at highlighting emerging researchers in our Statistics community has commenced, where network members showcase their research and supervision experiences.

In addition to the seminar series, StatSNetSA has organized workshops to support the growth of academics in the field of Statistics. A Teaching Portfolio workshop took place in February and a workshop on NRF Grant Writing and Rating Applications will take place at the SASA conference this year.

The members of this network also have regular virtual meetings to discuss any challenges or successes they wish to share. This group now has an official LinkedIn page.

StatSNetSA is also busy with a research focus area proposal at NiTheCS. We hope that this will provide funding to the community through our group for further growth.

We wish to thank all those who have participated in the talks and workshops. A huge thanks also goes to Inger Fabris-Rotelli for this great initiative!

Danielle Roberts

November 2024



FINANCES

6. Financial Matters

6.1 2024 Interim financial statement and report

All amounts in the interim financial report represent transactions for the year up to 2 November 2024.

Investments and cash as of 2 November 2024:

● Main fund:	R1,391,069
● Conference and Visitors fund:	R14,534
● Bursary and Scholarship fund:	R101,000
○ R16 000 from SASA for 3rd year bursary 2024	
○ R35 000 from SAS for Honours bursary 2024	
○ R50 000 from SAS for Honours bursary 2025	
● Prizes fund:	R123,000
○ R15 000 for SAS Thought Leader 2024	
○ R16 000 for SASA Post Graduate Paper competition 2024	
○ R50 000 for SAS Thought Leader 2025	
○ R20 000 for SAS Honours project competition 2024	
○ R22 000 for SAS Honours project competition 2024	
● Special Interest groups fund:	R80,102
● Transactional accounts (main):	R60,979
● Transactional accounts (conference):	R933,906

Main fund – day-to-day operations:

Income

- Membership fees have increased by 25% versus the budgeted amount, mainly due to the increasing adoption of group memberships.
- Interest income for the year remains high.

Expenses

- Executive expenses included an in-person meeting in January as the largest expense.
- All chapters' budgets were reallocated to the special interest groups, with very little take-up of the allocated budget.



- Our accounting and legal fees remain within budget.
- Bank fees are within budget.
- GlueUp subscription was renewed in March 2024.
- Auditor's remuneration had inflationary increases and remained within budget.
- The SASA EC will sponsor R16 000 for Conference, Bursaries & Scholarships, and Prizes each. This budget is expected to increase to R19 000 for Bursaries & Scholarships and R18 000 for Conference and Prizes from 2025.

Bursary and Scholarships:

A total of R16 000 was received from SASA for bursary and scholarships, with an additional R19 000 to be received and paid in 2025.

SAS provided an honours bursary of R35 000 that must still be spent. An amount of R50 000 was received to be paid out in 2025.

Prizes:

We received R16 000 from the SASA EC for the postgraduate paper competition. Additionally, we received R20 000 from SAS for the honours project competition, and R15 000 for the thought leader's prize.

In terms of funds spent, most of the funds remain in the fund, and will only be spent after the date of this report.

6.2 Draft 2025 Budget

- See attached states & budget.

6.3 Membership Fees 2025

Membership fees to stay the same:

- Ordinary membership: R500 pp
- Affiliated membership: R1000
- Senior membership: R160 pp



Profit and Loss

South African Statistical Association For the period 1 January 2024 to 2 November 2024

	ACTUALS PY	1 JAN-2 NOV 2024	BUDGET CY	% OF BUDGET	BUDGET NY
Main Fund Income					
Membership dues					
Membership - Affiliated	-	3,478	2,609	133%	3,000
Membership - Corporate	-	7,826	-	-	-
Membership - Ordinary	87,126	188,790	145,197	130%	167,500
Membership - Senior	135	1,670	1,391	120%	1,600
less Membership - Cash not received	57,952	-	-	-	-
Total Membership dues	145,213	201,764	149,197	135%	172,100
Advertising Revenue					
Advertising revenue - Newsletter	-	4,348	-	-	-
Advertising revenue - Website	-	870	-	-	-
Total Advertising Revenue	-	5,217	-	-	-
Other Revenue					
Other Revenue - Webinars and Workshops	-	296,522	-	-	-
Total Other Revenue	-	296,522	-	-	-
Interest Income					
Main Account - Interest Income	114,676	111,237	45,000	247%	45,000
Total Interest Income	114,676	111,237	45,000	247%	45,000
Journal Sales					
Journal - Online Sales	20,547	24,165	16,303	148%	20,000
Journal - Overseas Print	30,021	-	-	-	-
Total Journal Sales	50,568	24,165	16,303	148%	20,000
Special Interest Groups Fund Income					
SIG Income	60,000	-	-	-	-
Total Special Interest Groups Fund Income	60,000	-	-	-	-
Total Main Fund Income	370,457	638,906	210,500	304%	237,100
Main Fund Expenses					
Travel and Other expenses					
Travel and Other expenses - Education Committee	(4,500)	-	(4,000)	-	-
Travel and Other expenses - Executive Committee	(54,842)	(53,679)	(60,000)	89%	(65,000)
Travel and Other expenses - Special Interest Groups	(870)	(2,899)	(20,000)	14%	(20,000)
Total Travel and Other expenses	(60,212)	(56,577)	(84,000)	67%	(85,000)
Administrative expenses					
Administrative expenses - Accounting and Legal Fees	(30,107)	(27,864)	(33,000)	84%	(35,000)
Administrative expenses - Bank Fees	(12,204)	(6,694)	(5,000)	134%	(6,000)
Total Administrative expenses	(42,311)	(34,558)	(38,000)	91%	(41,000)
Website					



Profit and Loss

	ACTUALS PY	1 JAN-2 NOV 2024	BUDGET CY	% OF BUDGET	BUDGET NY
Website - Careers and Image building	-	-	(1,000)	-	-
Website - Client Relationship Management System	(20,029)	(29,163)	(22,000)	133%	(32,000)
Website - Website Maintenance	-	-	(1,000)	-	-
Total Website	(20,029)	(29,163)	(24,000)	122%	(32,000)
Auditor's fee					
Auditor's remuneration	(13,500)	(13,500)	(15,000)	90%	(15,000)
Total Auditor's fee	(13,500)	(13,500)	(15,000)	90%	(15,000)
Executive Committee - Sponsorships					
SASA EC - Sponsorships	(15,000)	-	(16,000)	-	(18,000)
SASA EC - Bursaries and Scholarship	(15,000)	-	(16,000)	-	(19,000)
SASA EC - Prizes	(15,000)	-	(16,000)	-	(18,000)
Total Executive Committee - Sponsorships	(45,000)	-	(48,000)	-	(55,000)
Journal expenses					
Journal expenses - Bank Fees FX deposits	(626)	-	(1,500)	-	-
Journal expenses - Postage	(24,258)	-	-	-	-
Journal expenses - Printing	(5,570)	-	-	-	-
Total Journal expenses	(30,454)	-	(1,500)	-	-
Special Interest Groups Fund Expenses					
SIG Expenses	(3,750)	-	-	-	-
Total Special Interest Groups Fund Expenses	(3,750)	-	-	-	-
Other not used	-	3,109	-	-	-
Total Main Fund Expenses	(215,256)	(130,689)	(210,500)	62%	(228,000)
Main Fund profit / (loss)	155,201	508,217	-	-	9,100



Profit and Loss

	ACTUALS PY	1 JAN-2 NOV 2024	BUDGET CY	% OF BUDGET	BUDGET NY
Visitor and Conference fund Income					
Conference Fees and Registrations	1,132,383	993,696	-	-	-
Conference Sponsorships	151,087	300,000	-	-	-
Prior year conference income	1,387	-	-	-	-
Conference Account - Interest Income	2,759	2,501	-	-	-
Conference Sponsorships - SASA	15,000	-	-	-	-
Total Visitor and Conference fund Income	1,302,616	1,296,196	-	-	-
Visitors and Conference Fund Expenses					
Conference Workshops and Plenaries	(118,646)	-	-	-	-
Conference Expenses	(952,153)	(320,632)	-	-	-
Prior year conference expenses	(3,150)	-	-	-	-
Conference Account - Bank fees	(3,619)	(2,042)	-	-	-
Total Visitors and Conference Fund Expenses	(1,077,567)	(322,674)	-	-	-
Visitors and Conference Fund Profit / (Loss)	225,049	973,522	-	-	-



Profit and Loss

	ACTUALS PY	1 JAN-2 NOV 2024	BUDGET CY	% OF BUDGET	BUDGET NY
Bursaries and Scholarships Income					
SASA					
Third year - receive - SASA - Bursaries	15,000	-	16,000	-	19,000
Total SASA	15,000	-	16,000	-	19,000
ICCSSA					
Honours - receive - ICCSSA - Bursaries	13,000	-	-	-	-
Total ICCSSA	13,000	-	-	-	-
SAS					
Honours - receive - SAS - Bursaries	63,000	50,000	35,000	143%	50,000
Total SAS	63,000	50,000	35,000	143%	50,000
Total Bursaries and Scholarships Income	91,000	50,000	51,000	98%	69,000
Bursaries and Scholarships - Third Year					
Third year - paid - SASA - Bursaries	(12,000)	-	-	-	(19,000)
Third year - paid - SASA - Scholarships	(3,000)	-	-	-	-
Total Bursaries and Scholarships - Third Year	(15,000)	-	-	-	(19,000)
Bursaries and Scholarships - Honnours					
Honours - paid - ICCSSA - Bursaries	(13,000)	-	-	-	-
Honours - paid - SAS - Bursaries	(63,000)	(450)	(35,000)	1%	(50,000)
Honours - paid - SASA - Bursaries	-	-	(16,000)	-	-
Total Bursaries and Scholarships - Honnours	(76,000)	(450)	(51,000)	1%	(50,000)
Bursaries and Scholarships Profit / (Loss)	-	49,550	-	-	-



Profit and Loss

	ACTUALS PY	1 JAN-2 NOV 2024	BUDGET CY	% OF BUDGET	BUDGET NY
Prizes Income					
SASA					
Postgraduate Paper - received - SASA	15,000	-	16,000	-	18,000
SAS					
Honours project competition - received - SAS	20,000	22,000	20,000	110%	22,000
Thought leader - received - SAS	15,000	20,000	15,000	133%	20,000
Total Prizes Income	50,000	42,000	51,000	82%	60,000
Prizes Expenses					
Postgraduate Paper - paid - SASA	(26,000)	-	(16,000)	-	(18,000)
Honours project competition - paid - SAS	(15,000)	-	(20,000)	-	(22,000)
Thought leader - paid - SAS	(15,000)	-	(15,000)	-	(20,000)
Total Prizes Expenses	(56,000)	-	(51,000)	-	(60,000)
Prizes Profit / (Loss)	(6,000)	42,000	-	-	-



Balance Sheet

South African Statistical Association
As at 2 November 2024

2 NOV 2024

Assets

Investments

Main fund (Spiral plan)	1,391,069
Conference and Visitors fund	14,534
Bursary and Scholarship fund	101,000
Prizes fund	123,000
Special interest groups fund	80,102
Total Investments	1,709,705

Current Assets

Bank - current account	60,979
Bank - conference account	933,906

Accounts Receivables

Accounts Receivable	817,860
Suspense	35,080
Total Accounts Receivables	852,940

VAT	(125,392)
Total Current Assets	1,722,434

Total Assets	3,432,139
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	2,444
Rounding	7,350
Total Current Liabilities	9,794

Total Liabilities	9,794
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Net Assets	3,422,346
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Equity

General Fund

Current Year Earnings	1,567,072
Retained Earnings	1,315,682
Total General Fund	2,882,753

Visitor and conference fund	289,365
Bursaries and Scholarships fund	133,000
Prizes fund	26,000
Special Interest Groups fund	31,227
Special Interest Groups fund - Video	60,000
Total Equity	3,422,346

Chris Muller (Treasurer)

November 2024



Thank you to all the contributors of the SASA AGM booklet.

SASA's AGM booklet was compiled by

Ansie Smit (Secretary)

November 2024