

Highlights

Dialogue Behind the Scenes

We all agree that innovative research must be given public exposure in a timely manner — a delayed release can make any nontrivial idea stale. The editorial office has recently received quite a few inquiries about the publication schedule for backlogged articles from those who are in urgent need of supporting credentials for promotion. After discussing this issue at the board meeting at the Joint Statistical Meetings this year, we have decided to make accepted articles available on-line as quickly as possible. The editorial office has been preparing the preprint articles over the last few months and hopefully, authors with work pending for publication will soon receive preprints, which can also be found on *Statistica Sinica*'s web page.

We have reserved at least 80% of the publication pages for clearing the backlogged articles, beginning with the January issue of this year, and expect to publish them all by the end of next year. While examining the backlogged articles, we were pleasantly surprised to find seven articles on incomplete data analyses and decided to put them together in a single issue. Xiao-Li is an expert on the core issues behind missing-data methods and gives us the benefit of his knowledge by writing an editorial for this theme topic. As you would expect, he narrates an entertaining version of missing data interpretation, and gives an account of how the editorial board deals with different kinds of missingness, particularly with “missing review reports.” His editorial also paves the way for sharing with readers the scholarly exchanges between reviewers and authors. In the future, we will continue to share some of the “behind the scenes” work of our editorial process, without violating confidentiality, of course.

Our two-tier review process with a quick turn-around is perhaps tougher than ever. Your documented research innovations deserve due credit, and once accepted for publication, will be announced to *Statistica Sinica*'s audience with top priority by the editorial office. Therefore, we encourage you to keep submitting great papers in spite of, or because of, the enhanced standards. Xiao-Li's account of how Rubin's famous 1976 paper on missing data was finally settled serves as an encouraging example and can also be summed up by a famous Chinese phrase: "Hao Shi Duo Mo (Joyful success often comes after a lengthy struggle)."

— Michelle Liou



We hope you've enjoyed the changing colors of Statistica Sinica. We've chosen the cover design and colors to reflect a unique combination of Eastern and Western tradition with the following footnote ...

This is a small world filled with talent (mahogany). Your creativity (indigo) inspires change for the better. Your vision (gold) turns ambiguity into knowledge. Our accumulated knowledge (silver) shapes the world.

With best wishes from the Editorial Board