

Editorial

JIMMY CORZO^{1,a}, GAUSS M. CORDEIRO^{2,b}

¹DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA, BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

²DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE PERNAMBUCO, RECIFE, BRAZIL

Postgraduate Education in Statistics

Dear readers,

In this special issue of the *Revista Colombiana de Estadística*, we aim to share the results of master's and doctoral theses from Colombian and Brazilian universities with the academic community. This idea originated with Professor Fernando Peña, associate editor of the journal, professor at the University of Santa Maria in Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), and, until recently, professor in our department. Also, at Professor Peña's suggestion, we wanted to provide an overview of postgraduate programs at universities in both countries, and I am responsible for the overview at the *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*.

The Master's program in Statistics was created in the late 1970s when some professors from the then Department of Mathematics and Statistics, who had earned their Master's degrees at universities in Chile and the United States, decided to establish it with the idea that both professors from the Department and professionals from other fields could pursue postgraduate studies in Colombia. Later, in 1990, the Specialization Program in Statistics was created to promote statistical development and literacy among professionals from other fields whose undergraduate statistical training, being so basic, did not equip them to use the statistical methods so valuable for those areas.

Department of Mathematics and Statistics offered the specialization and Master's programs at several regional universities during the 1990s and the early years of this century. It is worth noting that, in addition to training professionals from other fields in the use of statistics, expanding these programs to other regions of the country had the unforeseen effect of motivating the creation of undergraduate and graduate programs at some of the universities where they were offered.

In early 1999, the doctoral program in statistics was created, a project I spearheaded with the support offered in the mid-1990s by the European Union through a program called the Red Network of Doctoral Programs in Statistics for Latin

^aEditor-in-Chief. E-mail: jacorzos@unal.edu.co

^bPh.D. in Statistics, Imperial College. E-mail: gauss@de.ufpe.br

America (REDOCSTA), whose representative was Professor Claude Lagrand of the University of Lille (France). Although the REDOCSTA program ultimately did not receive further funding, the doctoral program was established, though without the significant support expected from the European Union.

This issue also features an editorial note by Professor Gauss Cordeiro, who kindly accepted our invitation to discuss the Brazilian experience in graduate programs in Statistics.

Sincerity,
Jimmy Corzo

Postgraduate Statistics Courses in Brazil

Dear readers,

Statistics has always played a fundamental and indispensable role in the development of Brazil. Until 1984, when the Brazilian Statistical Association (ABE) was created, Statistics was more closely associated with Mathematics. With the development of microcomputers in the 80s, it became widely used in all areas of knowledge, providing the tools and resources necessary for the formulation of effective public policies in Brazil's economic and social planning.

Several public and private universities in Brazil offer postgraduate courses in Statistics at the specialization, master's, and doctoral levels. We briefly describe some important institutions in the consolidation of statistical research in Brazil. We focus on traditional "stricto sensu" Statistics programs (Master and Doctorate) and omit many others applied to the areas of agriculture, biometrics, economics, and medicine because it is a very short summary. Those interested in them will be able to access their websites.

The most renowned programs, which generally offer academic master's and doctoral degrees, are located in large federal and state institutions. The universities listed below are recognized for the excellence of their master's and doctoral programs in Statistics well-evaluated by the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES), a foundation linked to the Ministry of Education (MEC) responsible for expanding and consolidating postgraduate studies in Brazil.

The Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science of the University of São Paulo (USP) is a teaching, research and extension center of the University of São Paulo that offers courses in mathematics, statistics and computer science. The Graduate Program in Statistics at this Institute consists of a Master's degree and a Doctorate degree, both created in 1970.

The State University of Campinas (Unicamp) has a postgraduate program in Statistics that originated in 1977 at the Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Scientific Computing (IMECC), while the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) created its program around the same time. The Master's Program in Statistics at the University of Brasília (UnB) was created in 1979. The Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) consolidated its program in 1983 with the approval of its first master's dissertations. The Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) introduced its postgraduate program in 1996.

The program in Applied Mathematics and Statistics (PPgMAE) at Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN) started in 2006. The Interinstitutional Graduate Program in Statistics (PIPGEs) between the Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar) and the Institute of Mathematical and Computer Sciences (ICMC) of USP in São Carlos only emerged in 2013.

More recently, the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) started its master's program in Statistics in 2019, and the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA) implemented its master's and doctoral program in Statistics and Data Science in 2024.

Finally, the current trend in Brazil is towards a growth in more Statistics programs with an emphasis on data science.

Sincerity,

Gauss M. Cordeiro

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