



International Institute of Forecasters

Members Meeting

5.30-6.30pm, Monday July 11, 2022

Agenda



- Introduction (George Athanasopoulos)
- Treasurer's report (Mike Gilliland)
- IIF awards (Anastasios Panagiotelis)
- (New) IIF Practitioner Section (Elaine Deschamps)
- Forecasting Summer School (Pilar Poncela)
- IIF workshops (Tim Januschowski)
- New Initiatives (George Athanasopoulos)
- Future ISFs (George Athanasopoulos)
- Q&A (All)



Treasurer's Report

Mike Gilliland (incoming Chris Fry)



IIF Treasurer Report to Members ISF Oxford 2022



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **We remain financially strong**
- **We have the resources to benefit members and make investments for the long term:**
 - **Growing IIF membership**
 - Increasing support for students
 - Increasing engagement with practitioners
 - **Expanding IIF influence**
 - Increasing support for research and events

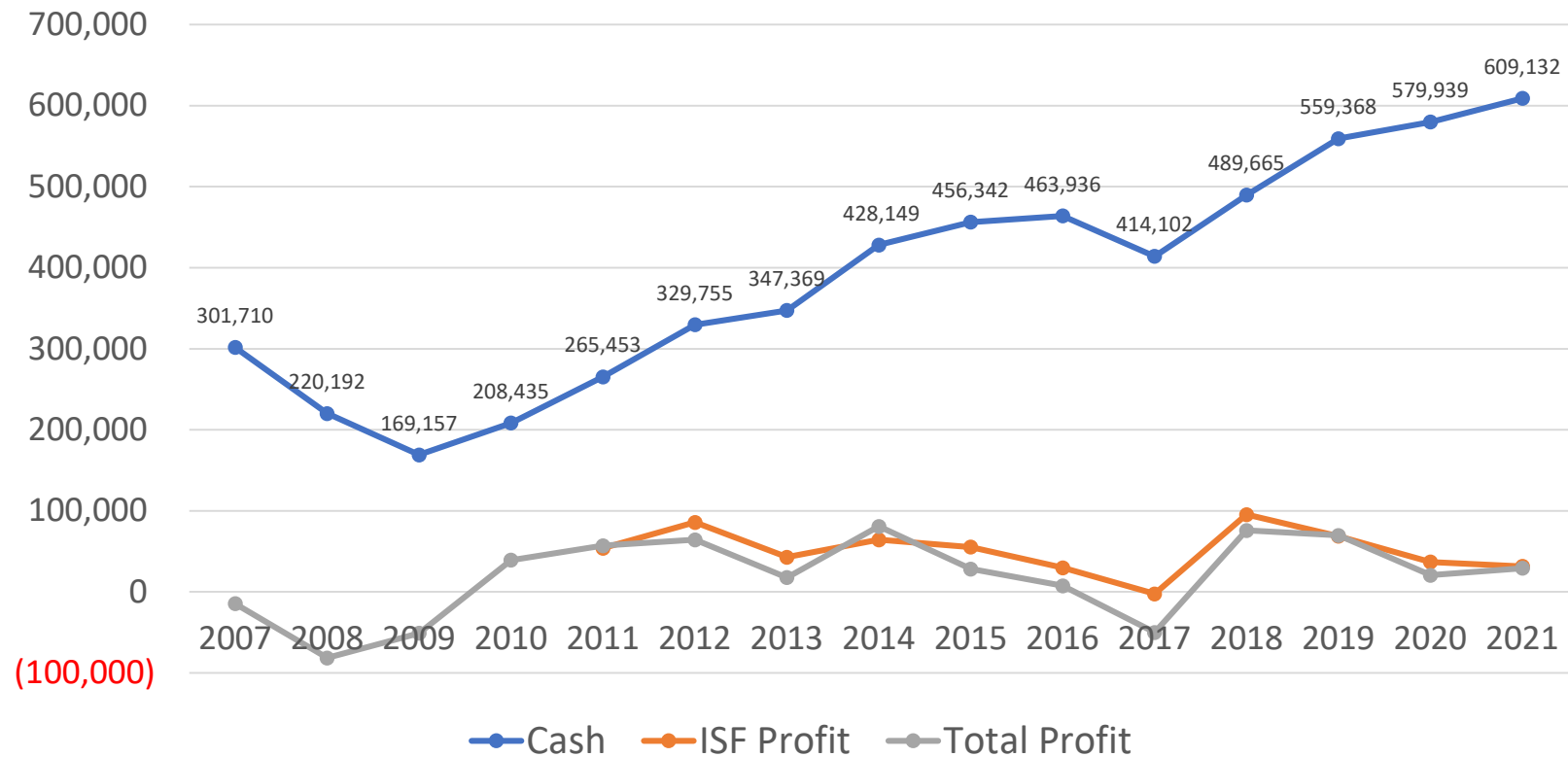


IIF Treasurer Report to Members

ISF Oxford 2022



IIF CASH ACCOUNTING PER CALENDAR YEAR



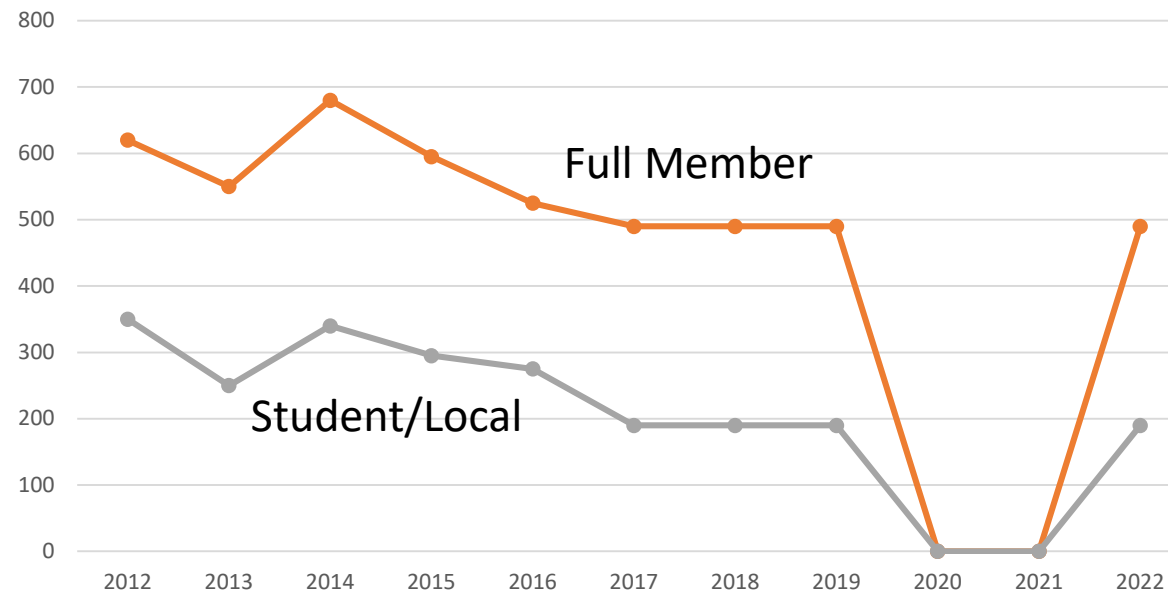


IIF Treasurer Report to Members

ISF Oxford 2022



ISF REGISTRATION FEE (\$US)



Registration fees in \$US

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Full member	620	550	680	595	525	490	490	490	0	0	490	490
Student/Local	350	250	340	295	275	190	190	190	0	0	190	150



IIF Treasurer Report to Members

ISF Oxford 2022



2021 PROFIT & LOSS

Jan-Dec 2021	Cash Accounting
Total Income	305,812
Total Expense	276,619
Net Income	29,193

- Total Income down from \$482k in 2019 (due to virtual ISF and no FPC)
- Virtual ISF still turned a \$37k profit in 2021 thanks to strong sponsorship and very low expenses.
- IIF contributes > \$90k income per year from Elsevier
- Major costs are overhead costs of operating the IIF, publishing *Foresight*, grants, workshops, and other benefits to members



Awards and Prizes

Anastasios Panagiotelis

IIF SAS Award



- For the past 18 years, the IIF, in collaboration with SAS®, has provided financial support for research on how to improve forecasting methods and business forecasting practice.
- Two \$10,000 grants are awarded each year: one in methodology and one in applications.
- Early career researchers are particularly encouraged to apply.
- We are very pleased to announce that SAS have renewed support for the next 5 years.

IIF SAS Awards: 2020/2021 winners



- Applications winner: **Hussain Syed Kazmi** (KU Leuven) and **Maria Paskevich** (Activision-Bizzard),
 - *Incorporating downstream, task-specific information in forecasting models*
- Methodology winner: **Ahmed Aziz Ezzat**, (Rutgers)
 - *Forecasting in Unknown Territory: Towards Physically Motivated Learning for Local Wind Fields*

IIF SAS Awards: 2021/2022 winners



- Applications winner: **Jean-Francois Toubreau** (Mons) and **Yi Wang** (Hong Kong),
 - *Privacy-Preserving Renewable Energy Probabilistic Forecasting*
- Methodology winner: **Shanika Wickramasuriya**, (Auckland) **Kasun Bandara** (Melbourne) and **Hansika Hewamagale** (RMIT)
 - *Forecasting Hierarchical Time Series using Non-linear Mappings*

Student Awards



- Prizes of \$100 and complimentary one-year membership awarded to the best performing student in forecasting courses.
- We have 22 institutions participating from 9 different countries and for both undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
- To participate the course must be:
 - a) taught by an IIF member at a recognised and reputable university
 - b) have significant forecasting content, and
 - c) be a substantial course with at least 20 hours contact time

Student Awards: 2021/2022 Winners



- **Jiajun Ma**, *Cardiff University*
- **Yukai Zheng**, *Dongbei UFE*
- **Adrian Edo Martin** *Drexel University*
- **Victoria Tribone**, *John Hopkins*
- **Valentin Mohl**, *Kalsruher IT*
- **Hokyun Kim**, *KAIST*
- **Nilay Patel**, *Lancaster*
- **Jarryd Chapman**, *Monash*
- **Daniel Ong**, *Monash*
- **Nikolaos Dikaros**, *NTU Athens*
- **Ruiyang Jin**, *Peking University*
- **Jiaxin Wang**, *Tsinghua University*
- **Ningkai Zheng**, *Bath*
- **Jessica Wong**, *UCLA*
- **Rheza Mahendra Utama**, *USC Marshall*
- **Samuel Gruenler**, *Notre Dame*

Travel Grants



- The IIF grants travel awards to enable individuals from all over the world to attend the International Symposium on Forecasting.
- They are primarily for students in the area of forecasting.
- There were 18 applications this year.
- Travel awards were awarded to 12 applicants from 9 countries (these include awards from previous years).

ISF Travel Grants: 2019-2020 Winners



- **Mahdi Abolghasemi**, *The University of Queensland*
- **Zaniar Ahmadi**, *Concordia University*
- **Jonathan Berrisch**, *University of Duisburg-Essen*
- **Nicolò Bertani**, *INSEAD*
- **María Paula Bonel**, *Universidad de Buenos Aires*
- **Mark Himmelstein**, *Fordham University*
- **Kasun Bandara**, *Monash University*
- **Martin Llada**, *IIEP-BAIRES (UBA-CONICET)*
- **Niles Perera**, *University of Moratuwa*
- **Abhishek Sharma**, *PDPM-IIITDM Jabalpur*
- **Akylas Stratigakos**, *MINES Paris, PSL University*
- **Jente Van Belle**, *KU Leuven*



(New) IIF Practitioner Section

Elaine Deschamps

IIF Practitioner Section Initiative



First Steps beginning Summer-Fall 2022:

- Start IIF Practitioner email list
- Set up social media group
- Schedule virtual meetings – monthly or quarterly

Next Steps for ISF 2023:

- Practitioner panels and invited sessions
- Practitioner Section meet-n-greet
- Formal inclusion of practitioners in ECR activities

More initiatives are being developed and we welcome your input!

Contact Elaine Deschamps at lainiefish@me.com with your ideas or if you are interested in joining our leadership team.



Forecasting Summer School

Pilar Poncela

Overview



Already the 5th FSS: rotate the topic, rotate the instructor

- 1) 2018: Econometrics -> David Hendry, U. of Oxford
- 2) 2019: Probabilistic forecasting -> T. Gneiting, KITS, DE
- 3) 2020: Energy -> H. Madsen, Technical Univ. of Denmark.
- 4) 2021: Nowcasting -> M. Marcellino, Bocconi University, IT
- 5) 2022: **Machine learning** techniques for forecasting: 2 for 1

-> **Gianluca Bontempi**, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, founder & co-head of the ULB Machine Learning Gr

NOW: **Nikolaos Kourentzes & Tim Januschowski**

2022 Oxford FSS



July 9-10, 8 hours, 28 students, **on site!**
Lectures + students' case studies

Registration rates (USD)

- Non-member: \$295
 - **Become IIF member+registration:** \$195
 - Low income countries: \$75
 - Students: \$25
 - Travel awards: free
-
- **1st sponsor:** ZALANDO (Thanks, Tim!)



Workshops

Tim Januschowski



- The International Institute of Forecasters sponsors workshops, each of which focuses on a specific forecasting theme.
- The purpose of these workshops is to hold smaller, informal meetings where experts in a particular field of forecasting can discuss forecasting problems, research, and solutions.
- Virtual events are also supported: e.g., latest workshop on “Revisiting and improving prediction tools for central banks”.
- Following the usual refereeing process, papers from the workshops can be included in a special issue, or invited papers with discussions, of the *International Journal of Forecasting*.
- Workshop guidelines are available in the IIF website and feel free to contact Tim Januschowski tim.januschowski@gmail.com for any further information.

IIF workshops



- An annual budget of \$60,000 is allocated to workshops
- Workshop organisers may apply for up to \$15,000 to support the organisation of an event.....anywhere in the world (or virtual).
- We will actively seek organising workshops in emerging forecasting regions and supporting the soon to be formed IIF-Practitioner Section
- We encourage members to propose workshops.
- For more information on all workshops supported by IIF please visit:
<https://forecasters.org/events/iif-workshops/>

Ongoing initiative: Democratising Forecasting



- 3 days free training in developing countries, to promote the importance of forecasting
- Who are the participants? University students, academic staff and professionals
- What is the target? Train 400 individuals, over 5 years in 20 countries
- How countries are selected? Countries are mainly selected based on DAC List of ODA Recipients, using [World Bank](#) data.
- 9 workshops have been organised since 2018 in 8 countries
- Upcoming workshops are planned to be delivered in Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi and South Africa between January and June 2023
- **New: building a network of teachers around the world willing to promote/teach forecasting**

Forecasting for Social Good 2022 ISF workshops (www.f4sg.org)



- 3 sessions (10 talks):
 - Forecasting for vaccines
 - Forecasting for International migration and cross-border mobility
 - Anticipating Humanitarian Crises
- 4 Futured talks
 - Rob J, Hyndman, Yale Grushka-Cockayne, Elizabeth Lacroix, Mararten Van Smeden
- 8 Invites sessions in ISF
 - Privacy and Fairness in Forecasting
 - Forecasting in healthcare (3 sessions)
 - Wastewater Epidemiology (2 sessions)
 - Forecasting and effective altruism
 - Forecasting models to support distribution of donated supply in Hunger Relief Organizations

F4SG committee

Chair: [Bahman Rostami-Tabar](#), Cardiff University

Co-chair: [Michael Porter](#), University of Virginia

Secretary: [Aziz Ezzat](#), Rutgers University

Research Network: [Harsha Chamara](#), University of Mauritius

Workshops: [Buket Cilali](#), University of Oklahoma

Grants: [Shixuan Wang](#), University of Reading

Forecasting Book Club: [Hicham Benhour](#), EM Normandie Business School

Community engagement: [Jade Zhang](#), Drexel University

For more information: www.f4sg.org

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)

[Subscribe](#) to F4SG email list



Thank you

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS?

42nd International Symposium on Forecasting, Oxford, UK, July 10 – 13, 2022



Future ISFs

George Athanasopoulos & Pam Stroud

Future ISFs



- 2023: June 25-28, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.
 - Organising Chair: Yael Grushka-Cockayne
 - Program Chair: Matthew Schneider
- 2024: Paris?, France, June 23-26.
 - Organising Chair: Mohsen Hamoudia
 - Program Chair: Laurent Ferrara
- 2025: Beijing, China, June 29-July 2
 - Organising Chair: Shouyang Wang
 - Local Chair: Fend Li
- 2026: US? Rio?



New Initiatives

George Athanasopoulos

1. New Practitioner Section (Elaine, Mike, Chris)
 - Practitioner Focused Forum and Workshops, IIF-Forecasting Practitioner Conference
2. IIF paper (selected by Editors) for Foresight contribution (Pierre, Mike)
 - Encourage academics to increase their impact via Foresight
 - 5K per article, one article per issue (\$20K per year)
3. Funding Sections for smaller scale workshops (Tim, Pierre)
 - Fund four workshops per year, target one in developing regions (\$60K per year)
4. Distinguished Lecture Series (Tao and Anastasios)
 - Three virtual lecture-series per year (6-9 hours), covering time-zones, regions and themes
 - Recognition of IIF distinguished lecturer + Honorarium 4K per lecturer (\$12K p.a. for next 5 years)
5. (Under construction) Fund network of teachers for democratising forecasting (Bahman)
6. (Under construction) Grant Scheme collaboration with industry partner working on “important issues” identified by the “IIF brains trust” (Anastasios)
 - \$20K (matched by industry partner) one per year
7. (Under construction) Support PhD students and ECFs to visit Macro related institutions (ECB, FRED, IMF, other Central Banks) (Laurent, Pilar)
8. (Under construction) IIF Student Chapter and Honor Society (Tao)



Other IIF activities

Other director activities



- International Journal of Forecasting – Pierre Pinson
- Incoming Foresight EiC – Mike Gilliland
- Oracle – Fernando Cyrino
- Certification programs – Doris Wu
- Chapters and Regions – Shouyang Wang
- Fellows – Gloria Gonzalez-Rivera

- and of course the heart of the IIF: Pam Stroud



Q&A

All directors