



The Oracle

news & events



August 2023
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The Oracle newsletter
A publication of the International Institute of Forecasters

Have some news to share with our members?
Want to post a job opening or announce a
conference? Send to me by October 1 for the
next issue.

[Fernando Cyrino](#), IIF Director and Oracle Editor

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Job Openings

forecasters.org/blog/category/jobs/

IIF Events



Thank you to everyone who organized, planned, presented and attended ISF 2023! We had 365 registrations from over 30 countries, 60 student participants and over 260 presentations.

- You can view the program and abstracts on our [website](#)
- Keynote and Practitioner Talks are now [available on YouTube](#)

Mark your calendar! ISF 2024 in Dijon, France from June 29 - July 3

The Future of Forecasting and the M6 Competition

[The Future of Forecasting and the M6 Competition Conference](#)

November 6-7, 2023
The Harvard Club, New York City

The conference will cover many critical and emerging aspects of forecasting, including the role of AI and large language models, forecasting for the new era and the changing role of the forecaster, how to best measure the performance of your forecasts, and the value of the results from forecasting competitions in practice. In particular, the findings of the M6 financial forecasting competition will be presented.



6 & 7 November 2023 | Harvard Club of New York City

Organizers:



Forecasting Impact podcast - Join the Team

The [Forecasting Impact Podcast](#) is a dynamic platform where we bring together prominent forecasters from all corners of the globe. As a monthly podcast, we dive deep into the world of forecasting, discussing trends, techniques, and real-world applications. Our goal is to provide valuable insights to our audience and promote the field of forecasting to a wider community.

We are currently seeking dedicated volunteers to join our team as co-hosts, marketing, and project managers.

1. **Co-Hosts** As a co-host, you will play a pivotal role in identifying guest and topics, preparing interview notes, conducting engaging interviews, facilitating discussions, and bringing out the best insights from our guests. You should have a good understanding of forecasting concepts and possess excellent communication skills to connect with both guests and our audience. 3-5 hours of work/month.
2. **Marketing Manager** this position will help the team to identify guests and topics, promote on the platform, manage social media, and expand our reach. 3-5 hours of work/month.



By becoming a member of the Forecasting Impact Podcast team, you will enjoy the following perks:

- Contribute to International Institute of Forecasters as a volunteer.
- Opportunity to work alongside prominent forecasters and thought leaders in the field.
- Enhance your communication skills through engaging interviews and discussions.
- Expand your professional network by connecting with experts and fellow enthusiasts.
- Potential for publishing a paper in Foresight, The International Journal of Applied Forecasting, giving you a chance to contribute to the academic discourse in the field.

To apply, please send your short bio, along with a brief one paragraph of statement of interest, to forecastingimpact@gmail.com, by September 30th, 2023. Include the position you are applying for in the subject line. Feel free to contact [Mahdi Abolghasemi](#) with any questions.

New IIF Fellows

Each year the IIF Board of Directors honors distinguished forecasters with the title of IIF Fellow, based on their contributions to the field of forecasting, the International Journal of Forecasting and the Institute. Please join us in congratulating our new Fellows and learn more about Stephan and Dilek at forecasters.org/about/fellows/

Stephan Kolassa is a Data Science Expert at SAP Switzerland AG and an Honorary Researcher at the Centre for Marketing Analytics and Forecasting at Lancaster University Management School. Stephan's research interests lie in retail and more general supply chain forecasting and in forecast quality measurement, as well as in more general inferential statistics and statistical modeling. He also serves as a Deputy Editor for Foresight: The International Journal of Applied Forecasting.



Dilek Önkal is Professor of Business Information Systems and Analytics and Head of the Analytics Subject Group at the Newcastle Business School, Northumbria University. Her research focuses on the role of judgment in forecasting and strengthening the synergies with scenarios and decision making. Among her various awards for teaching and research, her *Foresight* Hall of Fame Award in 2021 (for Why Should I Trust Your Forecasts? – a paper co-authored with Sinan Gonul and Paul Goodwin) has a special place.

She was a Director of the IIF (2006-2014), Editor of IJF (2015-2019), and Associate Editor of IJF (2002-2015).

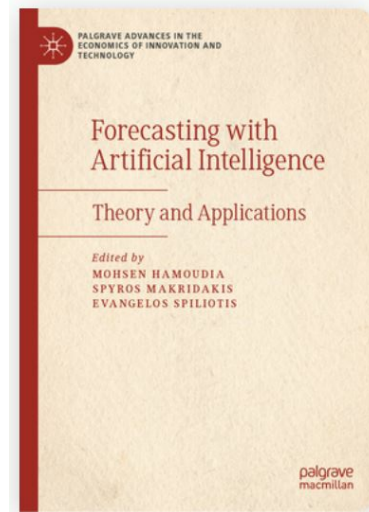


Member News

Forecasting with Artificial Intelligence: Theory and Applications

Mohsen Hamoudia, Spyros Makridakis and Evangelos Spiliotis have recently published the book, [Forecasting with Artificial Intelligence: Theory and Applications](#), in Palgrave Book Series “Advances in the Economics of Innovation and Technology”.

This book explores the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Forecasting, providing an overview of the current capabilities and potential implications of AI to the theory and practice of forecasting. It contains fourteen chapters that touch on various topics, such as the concept of AI, its impact on economic decision making, traditional and machine learning-based forecasting methods, challenges in demand forecasting, global forecasting models, including key illustrations, state-of-the-art implementations, best practices and notable advances, meta-learning and feature-based forecasting, ensemble learning, deep learning, scalability in industrial and optimization applications, and forecasting performance evaluation.



The book delves into the challenges and opportunities of using AI in time series forecasting, discussing ways to improve forecasting accuracy, handle non-stationary data, and address data scalability and computational efficiency issues. It also explores the interpretability and explainability of AI models in forecasting, as well as the use of ensemble techniques for improved performance. It focuses on both theoretical concepts and practical applications and offers valuable insights for researchers, practitioners, and professionals mainly in the field of time series forecasting with AI.

As described by Keith Ord in his Foreword: “AI may lack a moral compass and a sense of humor, but this volume demonstrates its undoubted value in improving the forecasting process and should be on every forecaster’s bookshelf”.

The [book will be available](#) 10 September 2023.

In memory of Professor John Edward Boylan

John Boylan, Professor of Business Analytics at Lancaster University, passed away on Friday 7th July 2023.

We are so saddened to share the news of John's passing. Our dear colleague, Aris Syntetos was a dear friend and colleague of John's. He has written the following, thoughtful memorial to John's life.

Our brilliant and dearly loved colleague and friend, Professor John Boylan, sadly passed away on 7th July 2023, after having been diagnosed with an acute blood cancer in May. John was a celebrated academic who can be credited with seminal contributions to shaping the area of supply chain forecasting, as well as influencing the lives of many, as a supervisor, mentor and collaborator. As Professor of Business Analytics in Lancaster University Management School, John was Director of the internationally renowned Centre for Marketing Analytics and Forecasting (CMAF) where he led a fantastic team of academics and students. John is survived by his wife, Jan, and he will be remembered by all



those who had the opportunity to meet and work with him as a talented, generous, loving and truly wonderful man. As his first PhD student, I have had the honour to work alongside John throughout my academic life. In this piece, I try to capture some of John's life and achievements and share my reflections of working with him.

The full tribute is on our [website](#).

IIF Consultant Listing and Job Opportunities

Get your free listing on our new and improved Consultants page!

Listing your services on our revamped [Consultants page](#) is complimentary, risk-free, and simple: Just fill out the short online questionnaire and your listing will appear on the page. Whatever you choose to highlight – skillset, website, CV, contact info – your free promotion just might land you your next gig.

If you have any questions, please [contact us](#).

Foresight archives - 2 options:

- (a) <https://foresight.forecasters.org/bookstore/> code: free*23
- (b) [IIF website](#) password: fs2023

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