



The Oracle

news & events



December 2022
volume 27 number 1

The Oracle newsletter
A publication of the International Institute of Forecasters

Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season filled with peace and happiness! But, before you relax, make sure to start planning for ISF 2023 next June in Virginia USA!

Have some news to share with our members? Send to me by February 1st!

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

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Forecasting in the News

[Forecast evaluation for data scientists: common pitfalls and best practices](#), Springer, 2 December
[Rob Hyndman video](#) 25 November, Australian Academy of Science
[How Forecasting Keeps the Lights On](#) 21 November, Royal Statistical Society
[Forecasting the Future of Election Prediction Markets](#), 4 November, New York Times
[Workshop on Macro Nowcasting: New tools](#) 1 November, NXTmine

Job Openings

forecasters.org/blog/category/jobs/

IIF Events and News

ISF 2023: Call for Abstracts and Invited Sessions

Abstracts

The ISF 2023 program committee is now accepting abstracts! Learn more about submissions and guidelines at our [website](#). Deadline for submissions is **March 17th**.

Invited Sessions

We are accepting proposals for invited sessions devoted to special interests in forecasting. An invited session consists of 3 or 4 talks around a specific forecasting theme. If you are interested, [contact us](#) with your topic. The deadline for proposals is **March 1st**.



Len Tashman - We bid you farewell!

With his retirement on September 30, 2022, Len Tashman ended a 17-year reign as *Foresight's* Founding Editor, and over 20 years

serving on IIF's Board of Directors. Len's reputation as an exacting editor is well deserved, and his insistence on intellectual rigor, coherence of thought, and clarity of writing, is what distinguished *Foresight* from competing practitioner-oriented publications. To honor Len's legacy, we are rebranding the *Foresight* Hall of Fame Award as the Len Tashman Best Paper Award, with winners inducted into the *Foresight* HoF.

On behalf of the IIF board and its members, I want to thank Len for his many contributions -- both as a scholar and an editor -- to improving the practice of forecasting.
--George Athansopoulos, President



Keep your eyes out for the upcoming issue of *Foresight* as our colleagues reflect on Len's years with the IIF!

IIF Communities — Get involved!

Forecasting for Social Good (F4SG)

Democratising forecasting is created by the [IIF F4SG committee](#) to educate university students, academics, and professionals on the principles of forecasting in developing economies. The workshops have been given by Bahman Rostami-Tabar since 2018. To date, workshops have been offered in Tunisia, Iraq, Senegal, Nigeria, Uganda, Turkey, Georgia, and Indonesia.



Following the success of this initiative, the IIF would like to expand the network of educators and invite interested members to contribute to this project by delivering similar workshops in developing economies. The IIF will cover reasonable travel expenses for up to five workshops per year and instructors will offer their own time and skills.

If you are interested in joining this network and deliver a workshop, we invite you to [complete this form](#). We will then create a Slack channel and organise a meeting to provide further details.

Please contact [Bahman Rostami-Tabar](#) with any any questions.

SWEET, Section on Water, Energy and Environment

The IIF Section on Water, Energy, and Environment (SWEET) invites you to join us at our next member meeting on Monday, 9 January 2023, 20:00 GMT. Email richard.povinelli@marquette.edu to receive the Zoom link, join our email list, and find out about future speakers. We are also conducting a survey of our members, which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/4z7rukzs>.

IIF Member Profile

Olga Bespalova International Monetary Fund

Dr. Olga Bespalova is an Economist at the International Monetary Fund, where she currently works on Latin America and the Caribbean economies. She covers real, monetary, financial, and external sectors, focusing on estimating and forecasting models, analysis of the macro-financial linkages, and formulating policy recommendations.

What areas of forecasting interest you? My primary interest is in forecasting applications to macroeconomics and international finance. In my dissertation, I focused on predicting macroeconomic indicators and currency crises, evaluating directional forecasts, and the value of textual analysis of the FOMC statements for eliciting unpublished Greenbook forecasts, which contained information unavailable to the SPF respondents. At the IMF, I produce estimates for



economic growth, potential output, inflation, unemployment, monetary aggregates, and other indicators. I have also developed techniques to forecast economic activity in the sectors critical for a specific country: for example, for Panama, I focused on models to predict the tonnage and revenue of the Canal, and for Aruba - on international tourism arrivals to Aruba. I am also interested in the nexus of energy and macroeconomy, and macro-financial linkages.

To read the full profile, [visit our website](#).

Member tips:

Foresight archive access

(a) <https://foresight.forecasters.org/bookstore/> use code: free*22

(b) [IIF website](#) password: fs2022

Need to update your contact details? Send us an email at forecasters@forecasters.org

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