

The Oracle

June 2026



A publication of the International Institute of Forecasters

Fernando Cyrino, Oracle Editor

Forecasting in the News

- [What Companies that Excel at Strategic Foresight Do Differently](#), Jan 8, Harvard Business Review
- [Winning the race to rewire in 2026: Capturing operational advantage](#) April 2, McKinsey & Company
- [From AI table stakes to AI advantage: Building competitive moats](#) May 15, AI by McKinsey

Get Involved, Stay Up-To-Date

- Submit an article, news or an event for inclusion in our next issue! Send submissions to secretary@forecasters.org
- Get the news when it happens! [Subscribe and Sign up](#) for IIF blog notifications
- Join one of our forecasting [community sections](#)
- Do you offer consulting services? [Add your name](#) to our website of IIF member consultants.

Be Informed with the Recently Added News and Opportunities

- <https://forecasters.org/blog/>



MONTREAL
CANADA
JUNE 28 - JULY 1, 2026

ISF 2026 is only a few weeks away, and we hope to see many of you all in Montreal. If you haven't registered, check out our [website](#). If you have any questions, email us ISF@forecasters.org.

Mark your calendar for:

ISF 2027: Paphos, Cyprus | June 20 – June 23

Member Profile

Dr. **Anna Sroginis** is an Assistant Professor in Management Science at Lancaster University, UK, specializing in demand forecasting and human-computer analytics. Anna is deeply committed to building the forecasting community. She co-founded and served as vice-president of the Early Career Researchers Interest Group at the International Institute of Forecasters, growing it to 300+ members. She also co-launched and managed the “Forecasting Impact”



Podcast, achieving over 1,700 streams over the first six months. Anna received the Best Student Presentation Award at ISF 2021 and the British Academy ECR Network Award in 2025. She holds a PhD in Management Science from Lancaster University, where she mentors students on real-world forecasting projects bridging academic rigour with industry impact. Anna has been newly appointed as a Board member of the IIF with her term beginning on May 1, 2026.

Read more about [Anna](#).

Xuguang Simon Sheng is a Professor of Economics at American University. He currently serves as the chair of the Department of Economics and the editor of International Review of Economics & Finance. His research interests include time series econometrics, machine learning, monetary policy, fiscal policy, energy policy, forecasting, measuring uncertainty and survey expectations.

Read more about [Simon](#).



Call for Papers: Open-Source Forecasting International Journal of Forecasting - special issue

The use of open-source software has become increasingly prevalent throughout forecasting workflows, playing a pivotal role in making forecasting more accessible to a wider audience. In particular, there are now many mature, production-ready open-source forecasting libraries and large pre-trained models available for R, Python, and Julia.

Open-source forecasting tools have made forecasting more collaborative, accessible, and transparent. This has enabled wider adoption of forecasting, faster dissemination of new ideas, and improved reproducibility. Forecasting presents many novel challenges for software design, including complex data structures, temporal patterns, evaluation schemes, and other domain-specific needs. Accordingly, open-source forecasting software often

requires specialised abstractions, scalable implementations, and careful design trade-offs to remain both practical and statistically sound.

We therefore invite submissions for a special section of the International Journal of Forecasting (IJF) dedicated to conceptual and methodological advancements in open-source forecasting software. The purpose of this special section is to share recent advancements in open-source forecasting, and encourage further open collaboration between forecasting specialists and software developers.

Submission Guidelines:

To [submit a paper](#) for consideration for the special section, please upload your paper online and include a cover letter indicating that the paper is for the special section “Open-Source Forecasting”.

Please select ‘**SI: Open-Source Forecasting**’ as article type [in the submission system of the journal](#).

Important Dates:

Submission starts: 1 March 2026

Submission deadline: 31 August 2026

Contacts: [Mitchell O’Hara-Wild](#), [Anastasios Panagiotelis](#), and [Tim Januschowski](#)

Forecast adjustments that degrade accuracy are often attributed to cognitive biases. But what if some problematic adjustments are not cognitive errors at all? In our lead article, **Francis Martinson**, **Daniel Osei Ofori**, and **Francisca Martinson** propose a framework for distinguishing cognitive errors from legitimate corrective intervention and incentive-driven behaviors.

In our previous issue, Spyros Makridakis made an honest and self-critical assessment of his earlier forecasts on the impact of AI (published in *Foresight* in 2017-18), and again looked forward in a follow-up article, “Forecasting the Impact of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI).” This new piece drew wide-ranging responses from our readers, which we now publish in six commentaries:

- **Robert Fildes** considers the barriers to AGI diffusion, and argues there are more than just the “greatest partner” and “greatest peril” scenarios that Spyros proposed.
- **Nikolaos Kourentzes** reacts to both Robert and Spyros, discussing how AI and AGI will change the economy and societies.
- **Azul Garza** and **Renée Rosillo** further discuss societal implications, asking forecasters to challenge the assumptions embedded in our models about whose data counts and whose future matters. They implore us to make a critical examination of the institutional systems that shape technological trajectories.
- **Sevandi Kandanaarachchi** examines AGI in the context of the technological “singularity” that Ray Kurzweil posited in 2005.
- **Mostafa Bakr**, a finalist in the 2026 IIF Impact Award competition, shows how the ability of economies to absorb increasingly automated production can impact the trajectory of AGI.
- **Davis Wu** argues that society should take advantage of what is currently available through agentic AI, rather than waiting for the big bang of AGI.

Next, **Davis Wu** expands upon his Makridakis commentary with a full article on how to transform demand planning with agentic AI. He notes that accuracy improvements alone may not advance the adoption of a new system or process, and that explainability and decision velocity are now often the constraints. Davis proposes an agentic AI-enabled, event-driven planning workflow, able to continuously react to business signals instead of operating in the usual drumbeat cadence, without abandoning human governance.

While forecast uncertainty has traditionally been quantified through the lens of classical statistics, these methods assume a known probability distribution – usually the normal curve. Since real-world data often violate these distribution assumptions, *conformal prediction* provides an alternative offering: a distribution-free approach to uncertainty quantification. **Matteo Fontana** provides a tutorial on this promising approach.

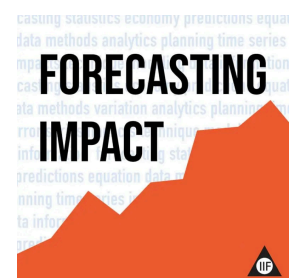
We close this issue with two Spotlight interviews featuring **Viktoriia Khorolska** and **Jonathon Karelse**. Viktoriia spoke at this year's *Foresight* Practitioner Conference in Bruges, and is managing partner at DemandGuide. Jonathon is co-founder and CEO of NorthFind Management, and has been a leading advocate for incorporating behavioral economics in forecasting and planning. He is the author of the book *Histories of the Future: Milestones in the Last 100 Years of Business Forecasting*.

Forecasting Impact, Podcast

[Forecasting Impact](#) is a bimonthly podcast that aims to disseminate the science and practice of forecasting by introducing prominent academics, practitioners, and visionaries in the forecasting domain. Our vision is to help grow the forecasting community, foster collaboration between academia, industry, and governments, and promote scientific forecasting and good practices.

Check out our latest episodes:

- [Prediction Markets with Alex McCullough](#)
- [Explainable Forecasting with Marco Peixeiro](#)
- [Forecasting the future of everything with Dr. Theodore Modis](#)



IIF Student Awards

Calling all teachers of Forecasting! The IIF is offering prizes to top-performing students in undergraduate and graduate level forecasting courses. Star students will receive US\$100, a Certificate of Achievement, and complimentary, one-year [membership](#) to the IIF.

To qualify for the award, the course must (a) be taught by an IIF member at a recognized and reputable university, (b) have a substantial forecasting content, and (c) be a substantial course with at least 20 hours contact time. Read more for complete [guidelines](#). To participate, contact forecasters@forecasters.org.

Announcing the Second Edition of the Women in Forecasting Conference

Mark your calendars! The International Institute of Forecasters, the organizer of ISF 2026 is supporting the second edition of the **Women in Forecasting** (WIF) Conference. This year's conference is scheduled to take place right before the premier International Symposium on Forecasting (ISF 2026) in Montreal, Canada.

Women in Forecasting was created to showcase the important contributions women are making to time series forecasting, a field where women remain underrepresented. Beyond the talks, the conference is also an opportunity to build community, foster professional connections, and support mentorship for those entering the field and those advancing in their careers.

Date: Saturday, June 27

Time: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Université du Québec à Montréal (The same venue as ISF 2026)

Registration is required for both the in-person venue and on the Zoom.

Register for the WIF Conference: <https://wif.nixtla.io/>

Register for ISF 2026: <https://isf.forecasters.org/registration/>

Join us as we celebrate the impact of women in forecasting, share inspiring ideas, explore future opportunities, and continue building a strong and supportive community together.

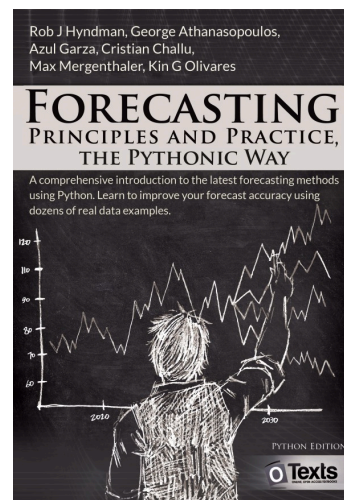
Forecasting: Principles and Practice, the Pythonic Way Online and Print edition of the Python edition now released

Exciting times ahead for the data science and forecasting communities! We are excited to announce that the print version of **Forecasting: Principles and Practice** (Python Edition) is officially available.

In this latest edition of the FPP book, Rob Hyndman, George Athanasopoulos are joined by four additional co-authors: Azul Garza, Cristian Challu, Max Mergenthaler and Kin Olivares. These new co-authors (<https://otexts.com/fpppy/authors.html>) are Python and forecasting experts, and have all been involved in developing the open-source Nixtla software that is used throughout the book.

Get your copy now: <https://otexts.com/fpppy/>.

Read more about the announcement: <https://robjhyndman.com/hyndsight/fpppy.html>.



Your Membership — Tips and tools

Member ID:

Have questions about your membership?

Need to update your contact details?

Contact forecasters@forecasters.org

Contact us at forecasters@forecasters.org if you need access details for online viewing of our journals.

Membership expired?

RENEW NOW



IIF | Business Office | Medford, MA 02155 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!
