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“Knowledge of truth is always more than theoretical and intellectual. It is the product of activity as well as its cause. Scholarly reflection therefore must grow out of real problems, and not be the mere invention of professional scholars.”

JOHN DEWEY, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

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note from the editor

We are now just weeks from the *Future of Forecasting and the M6 Competition Conference* in New York City, November 6-7. 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. Find the agenda at mofc.unic.ac.cy/agenda/ and see the ads in this issue for a link to register.

PREVIEW OF FORESIGHT ISSUE 71

In Memoriam: Tributes to John Boylan

We open this issue on a somber note, with remembrances of our longtime colleague and friend, John Boylan. John's passing on July 7 has left a huge void in the forecasting community that his many former students and collaborators can only hope to fill. Twenty tributes in this issue bear evidence of John's lasting impact. Then **Len Tashman** and I recap John's many contributions to *Foresight*.

Special Feature: Forecast Value Added – A Critical Retrospective

It is now over 20 years since the introduction of FVA, and we thought it time to look back on the adoption, use, and impact of the FVA framework. I open this section by sharing the motivation for FVA, addressing misconceptions about the approach, and exploring problematic scenarios and criticisms. We then learn of extensions of the FVA framework from **Jeff Baker** and **Stefan de Kok**, FVA uses in industry from **Fazlur Rahman** and **Marina Sologubova**, and the latest research on judgmental forecasting from **Robert Fildes**, **Paul Goodwin**, and **Shari De Baets**. This special feature will be continued in the 2024:Q1 issue.

Special Feature: The Current State and Future Direction of Forecasting Software

What are the issues with current forecasting software, and where will AI take us over the next generations? We hear the perspectives of consultants and vendors **Anne-Flore Elard** (Kinaxis), **Johann Robette** (Vekia), **Gareth Thomas** (EViews), and **Spiros Potamitis**, **Michele Trovero**, and **Joe Katz** (SAS), along with a recap of forecasting software surveys from **Oliver Schaer**, **Ivan Svetunkov**, and **Robert Fildes**.

Book Reviews

Robert Fildes explores *Escape from Model Land* by Erica Thompson, whose thesis is that all too often the model's users mistake the model they are presented with for the underlying reality. This error has serious consequences, primarily a failure to evaluate possible prediction errors, resulting in planning mistakes.

Given the vast amount of information available and the prevalence of "fake news," scientific practice is vital to finding and disseminating helpful knowledge. **George Karamatzanis** and **Kostas Nikolopoulos** see *The Scientific Method* by Scott Armstrong and Kesten Green as an essential read not only for scientists, but for the general public as well.

Spotlights

Foresight's Column Editor for Judgmental Forecasting (and Assistant Professor at the Open University of the Netherlands) **Shari De Baets** conveys her interests in research and photography, and recounts how the stormy weather at ISF2018 in Boulder led to her deeper engagement with the IIF.

Longtime *Foresight* Advisory Board member **Joe McConnell** (of McConnell Chase Software) updates us on his new software platform. We learn that hockey has played a big part in his life, including how Wayne Gretzky's playing style had a major role in helping Joe define the kind of software needed in business.

Opinion-Editorials

Our two OpEds feature topics of importance to broad society, not just to professional forecasters. First, **Stephan Kolassa** considers four aspects of the relationship between forecasting and sustainability. Then **Ira Sohn** addresses looming infrastructure issues and the risks to economic growth, calling for comprehensive long-term forecasts of U.S. infrastructure requirements.

Foresight Staffing Changes

A hearty welcome to three new members of the *Foresight* Advisory Board:

- **Sevandi Kandanaarachchi** – Senior Research Scientist at CSIRO in Australia.
- **Dilek Önkol** – Professor at Northumbria University in the UK and newly named Fellow of the IIF.
- **Marina Sologubova** – Senior Supply Chain Leader at Estée Lauder in Singapore.

And finally, our thanks to **Mark Little**, who has stepped down as *Foresight's* Book Review Editor.



—Mike Gilliland
Dragonfly Farm
Seagrove, NC
USA



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