

# Announcements

## Statalist becomes a web forum

The Stata users' community can be imagined in Venn diagram form. Users of the software, readers of the *Stata Journal*, attendees at the Stata Conferences and at users' meetings, participants in Statalist and in other web forums, participants on NetCourses and in other training courses, and other sets and subsets all overlap, and only a vanishingly small core of devotees participate in all activities. Hence, we take a short page to announce a change that will now be familiar old news to many, but possibly interesting new news to some readers. As from 31 March 2014, Statalist is now a web forum based at <http://www.statalist.org>.

Statalist was started as a listserver in August 1994 for discussion of Stata (and statistics) questions. It started as an idea of David Wormuth, then at Harvard School of Public Health. The simple but continually useful idea was that people interested in Stata allowed each other to see their emails. From 1996, Statalist was run, publicly, by Marcello Pagano, also of Harvard School of Public Health. Behind the scenes, most of the hard work was done by Bill Mahoney.

By most standards, Statalist was a success by early 2014, with more than 5,000 registered members and about 1,200 postings per month. The listserver format, despite being rooted in decades-old technology, was popular with many, so much so that there were discernible ripples of dissent when the change here was announced.

The immediate trigger for the change was the impending retirement of Bill Mahoney—whom we publicly thank for underpinning a vital part of the Stata community for so long—and of a Sun workstation we traditionally consider as equally dedicated, despite its silicon form and lack of obvious personality.

But that trigger allows and also encourages what many will regard as an overdue leap into the 21st century for Statalist. The new forum provides support for code formatting; decent presentation of mathematics; attachment of graphs, other images, datasets, and other documents; and so forth, as is more or less standard across web forums. At the same time, the designers of the new forum drew back from a complicated apparatus of reputation, voting, badges, and similar stuff, such as can be found elsewhere. The idea was to provide a forum versatile enough to support technical postings, yet also simple enough not to deter the casual user. Already, in the first six weeks of postings to the time this was written, the amount of traffic has increased as compared with the old listserver. Marcello Pagano continues as moderator and continues to be supported in explaining protocol, firmly but gently and gently but firmly, by experienced Statalist members.

A lot of work went on behind the scenes to make this happen. First, a committee was put together to argue design issues: Kit Baum, Maarten Buis, Nick Cox, Bill Gould, Marcello Pagano, and Phil Schumm. Then the hard work of implementation was carried

out by Alan Riley and his crew: Kevin Crow, Pete Huckelba, and Annette Fett. Once you visit <http://www.statalist.org>, you will see what a great job they have done.

Hence, *Stata Journal* readers who have not followed Statalist (or not followed it much) are urged to try out the new web forum. Statalist has a long history of helpful, constructive, and polite discussion. We expect to see that continue in the Statalist forum. If you have never joined, please go and take a look.

Marcello Pagano  
Harvard School of Public Health

Nicholas J. Cox  
Durham University

#### **Stata Conference Boston 2014: Program announced**

Date: Thursday, July 31, and Friday, August 1, 2014  
Venue: Omni Parker House  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Scientific chair: Stephen Soldz  
*Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis*  
Kit Baum  
*Boston College and DIW Berlin*  
Marcello Pagano  
*Harvard School of Public Health*  
Logistics organizer: StataCorp  
More information: <http://www.stata.com/meeting/boston14/>

#### **Nordic and Baltic Stata Users Group meeting: Call for presentations**

Date: Friday, September 5, 2014  
Venue: Aarhus University  
Aarhus, Denmark  
Scientific organizers: Kim Mannemar Sønderskov  
*Aarhus University*  
Peter Hedström  
*Institute for Futures Studies*  
Svend Juul  
*Aarhus University*  
Logistics organizers: Metrika Consulting  
More information: <http://www.stata.com/meeting/nordic-and-baltic14/>

### **UK Stata Users Group meeting**

Date: Thursday, September 11, and Friday, September 12, 2014  
Venue: Cass Business School  
London, United Kingdom  
Scientific organizers: Nicholas J. Cox  
*Durham University*  
Patrick Royston  
*University College London*  
Logistics organizer: Timberlake Consultants  
More information: <http://www.stata.com/meeting/uk14/>

### **Italian Stata Users Group meeting: Call for presentations**

Date: Thursday, November 13, and Friday, November 14, 2014  
Venue: NH Milano Touring hotel  
Milano, Italy  
Scientific organizers: Una-Louise Bell  
*TStat S.r.l.*  
Rino Bellocco  
*Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca and  
Karolinska Institutet*  
Giovanni Capelli  
*Università degli Studi di Cassino*  
Marcello Pagano  
*Harvard School of Public Health*  
Maurizio Pisati  
*Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca*  
Logistics organizer: TStat S.r.l.  
More information: <http://www.stata.com/meeting/italy14/>

### **German Stata Users Group meeting: Proceedings available**

Website: <http://www.stata.com/meeting/germany14/>