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NITheCS COLLOQUIUM:
On what Probability Theory and Mathematical Statistics do

Prof Estate Khmaladze (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

Wednesday, 30 August 2023 | 16h00 – 17h00 SAST

***Venue*: in person* and online**
* Neelsie Cinema, Stellenbosch University

--- Cheese and wine will be served at the venue ---

ABSTRACT

In this talk, we will relate some stories which highlight and illustrate the way we probabilists and statisticians work in order to understand the world around us.

Some of the topics are: (a) great forefathers, doubts and discoveries; (b) when and how probability theory and statistics became a mathematical subject; (c) what is the difference between us and the great science of Physics? (d) when raw experiment reveals the truth – does it always? (e) story of 'Sons of Haven', Emperors of China; (f) the nature and the laws of statistical diversity.

We will start, however, with the general premise, not necessarily belonging to probability and statistics, but close to the speaker's heart: to go abstract is not easy, but is essential, and means 'to get to the core'.

BIOGRAPHY

Estate Khmaladze is a retired Professor at the School of Mathematics and Statistics at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He received his PhD in 1972 and the Doctor of Sciences (habilitation) in 1989. In 1991, he was granted the title of Professor of Probability Theory and Mathematical Statistics.

From 1991 to 1997 (difficult years of post-soviet Georgia), he served as the Head of the Department of Probability Theory and Statistics at A. Razmadze Mathematical Institute. During this time, the department received the highest number of international grants within the Georgian Academy of Sciences. He later held positions at the University of New South Wales, Sydney (1996-2002), and Victoria University of Wellington (2002-2022).

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society (Academy) of New Zealand and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS publishes leading professional journals, like the *Annals of Statistics*, the *Annals of Probability*, and four other Annals). He is also a Foreign Member of the National Georgian Academy of Sciences.

His research contributions include works in distribution-free theory of statistical testing, empirical processes and innovation theory, in set-valued analysis in statistical problems, and in statistical theory of diversity. In 2016, Statistical Science featured him in their '*Conversations'* series. Today, Khmaladze is Chair of the Board of the Asia-Pacific Seminar in Probability and Statistics, which is the major professional seminar in the region.

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