



2017 ISI Mahalanobis Award

Rahul Mukerjee (Mukherjee), of the Indian Institute of Management in Calcutta, has been selected to receive the honour of the 2017 ISI Mahalanobis Award. Professor Mukerjee will receive the award at the World Statistics Congress in Marrakech in July 2017, where he will also present a lecture.

The citation summarizes Professor Mukerjee's lifetime achievements through: his record of truly outstanding research in design of experiments and asymptotic theory of statistical inference, and significant research in survey sampling; his considerable professional service, including editorial boards for extended periods on some major statistical journals; and his teaching and mentoring which has contributed greatly to capacity development in a large developing country.

Prof. Mukerjee has authored or co-authored five books and published over 240 papers, many in major statistical journals including the Annals of Statistics, Biometrika, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society B, Statistica Sinica and Sankhya, the Indian statistics journal founded by Professor Mahalanobis. He has collaborated with several of the leading researchers in statistics worldwide. In the area of design of experiments, he is a leading expert on orthogonal array designs, diallel crosses, and fractional factorial plans. In asymptotic theory, he is the leading expert in the world in the area of probability matching priors, and on the use of the Bayesian shrinkage argument for obtaining asymptotic results. His original contributions to the methods and theory of sample surveys have found appeal in diverse fields.

Prof. Mukherjee also provided exceptional leadership in India through service to the Indian Official Statistics System as a member of the National Statistical Commission, the Indian Statistical Institute, University Grants Commission and the Agricultural Statistics Research Program. He has contributed significantly in neighbouring developing countries in promoting statistics and modernizing curricula in statistical science.

The Mahalanobis International Award is sponsored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of the Government of India. It is awarded to a selected statistician from a developing country in recognition of her/his lifetime achievements in Statistics and the promotion of best statistical practices in a developing country or countries. The award is given biennially during the ISI World Statistics Congress.

This initiative by the Government of India is intended to serve a dual purpose:

- a) To honour Professor P. C. Mahalanobis for his lifetime contributions and achievements in Statistics; and
- b) To recognise and stimulate progress in Statistics in developing countries.



Professor P.C. Mahalanobis (1893-1972) was a highly distinguished statistician who made extensive contributions to methodology, applications, statistical development, and public policy. He founded the Indian Statistical Institute and served as an advisor to the Government of India.

The 2017 ISI Mahalanobis Award Selection Committee members were: J.N.K. Rao (chair); Graham Kalton; Clarice Demetrio; Haishan Fu; Awa Thiongane; Jean-Michel Poggi. We appreciate the excellent work and support of these members.

Helen MacGillivray, Chair of ISI Awards Committee
Pedro Silva, ISI President