



Pilar Loreto Iglesias Zuazola (Pilarzita): A special and remarkable person who loved statistics

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Abstract:

Pilar Iglesias was a prominent Chilean statistician born in Valparaíso, September 4, 1960. Her successful and promising career was cut short due to devastating cancer that took her life at the age of 46. Besides being a world-renowned statistician, she was an exceptional human being and an excellent and charismatic professor. She graduated in Statistics from the University of Valparaíso and a Master's in Statistics from the Inter-American Center for the Teaching of Statistics (CIENES), a leading center in Latin America.

Naturally a leader for her ability to connect people and get the best out of each one, she was one of the most influential persons in the development of Statistics in Chile producing a great impact in the Department of Statistics of PUC-Chile and in the Sociedad Chilena de Estadística. She was also fundamental in the renaissance of the Chilean Journal of Statistics. One of the leaders of the Bayesian Statistics community in Latin America, Pilar had a pioneering role in the creation of the Chilean Chapter of ISBA and was one of the creators of the COBAL-Latin American Meeting on Bayesian Statistics whose goal is to promote Bayesian Statistics in the region. Besides organizing several workshops in Chile, she participated in the organization of the ISBA World Meeting (2004, Viña del Mar).

Her interest in Bayesian Statistics arose when she did her PhD at the University of São Paulo where she worked before moving back to Chile. Her PhD dissertation, titled "Finite forms of De Finetti's theorem: A predictivistic vision of inference in finite populations", is in a field where Pilar did some outstanding contributions. Predictivistic characterizations of distributions, de Finetti-type theorems for models not belonging to the exponential family and for finite populations, linear models beyond normality assumptions, Bayesian inference in errors-in-variables and skew-elliptical models, Bayesian calibration, and product partition models for changepoint and cluster identification are the topics Pilar did significant contributions to. The papers "Bayesian clustering and product partition models" (JRSS B, 2003) and "A predictivistic interpretation to the multivariate t distribution" (TEST, 1994) are among her most influential papers.

She also involved in many Educational projects. "Statistics and Theatre", a well-succeeded one, created collective plays addressing statistical concepts (exploratory data analysis, probability, and statistical inference) for high school students.

Keywords:

Colaboration; Education; General regression models; Predictivism; PPM