Editorial

Goeran Kauermann · Stefan Lang

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Dear Readers, dear colleagues,

in February 2009 we took over the editorship of the *AStA—Advances in Statistical Analysis* from the former editor Wilfried Seidel. This is a challenging new enterprise for us and we feel honoured that the German Statistical Society has put enough confidence and faith in us to confer the editorial duties in our hands.

The “old” AStA as the abbreviation for “*Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv*” has been the central journal of the German Statisticians since 1890 (!). A series of dignified editors have build up this journal and our thanks go to Georg von Mayr (editor 1890–1914), Friedrich Zahn (1914–1944), Karl Wagner (1949–1960), Willi Hüfner (1961–1972), Heinz Grohmann (1973–1980) and Horst Rinne (1981–1997). These editors have given the journal a respectful reputation, particularly in the German speaking scientific community. We are looking back to this time of the AStA respectfully, even though our scientific career has started later, about a decade ago. In this decade, the AStA has gone through tremendous changes and modifications. Under the editorship of Karl Mosler (1998–2004) the AStA has aimed for a more international author and readership which has been continued by Wilfred Seidel (2004–2009) and completed with the separation of the “old” AStA into the internationally orientated journal, the *AStA—Advances in Statistical Analysis*, again abbreviating to AStA, and

G. Kauermann (✉)

Dept. of Business Administration and Economics, Centre for Statistics, University Bielefeld,
Bielefeld, Germany

e-mail: gkauermann@wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de

S. Lang

Dept. of Statistics, Faculty of Economics & Statistics, Leopold-Franzens-University, Innsbruck,
Austria

e-mail: stefan.lang@uibk.ac.at

the nationally focussed journal the *AStA—Wirtschafts und Sozialstatistik*, currently under the editorship of Hans Wolfgang Brachinger. This change of the *AStA* towards an international journal takes the international orientation of the active German statistical community into account and, in fact, in some way it mirrors the general trend to a globalised world.

As a result of the new international focus, the changes of the journal were important. The *AStA—Advances in Statistical Analysis* has been accepted and will be listed in the *Science Citation Index Expanded*. A first Impact Factor for the journal will be released by summer 2010. And even though one may argue about impact factors and whether they do deserve the role they have nowadays when it comes to rankings, budget allocation and so on, a journal not listed in the *Science Citation Index Expanded* will hardly get any international recognition. Hence, it was the logical next step after converting the *AStA* to an international journal. Our responsibility and ambition is now to position the *AStA* and make it a prestigious publication for the international statistical community.

We envisage a journal aiming at modern statistics, building the bridge between statistical, mathematical and methodological developments on the one hand, and prominent and innovative statistical applications on the other hand. This is mirrored in the new aims and scopes of the journal. Traditionally the *AStA—Advances in Statistical Analysis* has focussed on statistical applications in economy and official statistics, but we consider the orientation less restrictive for the future of the journal. Special emphasis will also be given to statistical review articles which discuss active and dynamic research fields and allow readers to easily get an overview.

Apparently, all plans and ambitions we have can only work with an interested readership and active authors. We therefore hope that both readers and authors will find *AStA—Advances in Statistical Analysis* an attractive forum for the statistical science.