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EDITORIAL

Professor Gopal Kanji's retirement as editor of *Journal of Applied Statistics*



This issue of *Journal of Applied Statistics* marks the first in its history which does not fall under the editorship of its founder Professor Gopal Kanji. Following his retirement from the role we would like to use this editorial to outline the history and development of the Journal and pay tribute to the many achievements of Gopal's career.

An Indian boy in search of statistics is the true beginning of Gopal Kanji's academic career. He joined Sheffield University in 1960 as a Research Assistant in Statistics and was later made an Assistant Lecturer. While he was there, he realized that there was a real need to develop the applied nature of statistics. In 1966, he decided to join the Sheffield College of Technology in order to achieve this desire and to teach applied statistics. Sheffield College of Technology was later renamed Sheffield City Polytechnic and then became Sheffield Hallam University.

Since 1966, along with the various changes within the institution, Gopal progressed from Assistant Lecturer to Head of Department in Applied Statistics. Being an active member of the Royal Statistical Society and the Institute of Statisticians, he has been elected to serve as council member of the Royal Statistical Society and the Institute of Statisticians. He has also been an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He has published about 50 research papers and five books, and acted as Editor of *The Statistician*. He has presented papers both in applied statistics and total quality management all over the world including the US, Canada, Argentina, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India, Thailand, France, Italy, Philippines, Israel, Bahrain and Egypt. In addition to his teaching and research, his expertise in statistics and total quality management has been invaluable to many organizations including UNDO, UNDP and the Ministry of Defence (UK) Project, British Steel, Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive, the Government of India, and other UK and non-UK industries.

In 1974, as a part of this commitment, Gopal decided to produce a home-grown applied statistics journal suitable for practising statisticians and applied research workers. The humble beginning of this journal, which was then known as the Bulletin in Applied Statistics (BIAS), has now transformed to a top international journal of statistics known as the *Journal of Applied Statistics*. This issue sees the *Journal of Applied Statistics* move into its thirty-fifth volume. In this time the Journal has grown from its homespun beginnings to a leading international publication in the mathematics and statistics arena producing twelve issues per year in. The Journal provides a forum for communication between both applied statisticians and users of statistical techniques across a wide range of disciplines. As a benchmark of its quality it has been included in the Sciences Citation Index since 1995, enjoying more than ten years amongst the highest ranked statistics journals in the world. One of the greatest achievements of the Journal is that it has achieved a broad international appeal which is evidenced by the wide geographical spread of authors publishing in any given issue.

In 1987, as a part of his further commitment to applied statistics, he started exploring the area of quality improvement. He not only started researching in total quality management but also offered short courses for managers and helped research students to develop the subject. To create opportunities for worldwide development of research activities in total quality management, Gopal established the first international journal in this area, *Total Quality Management (TQM)*, in 1990. As a result Gopal has edited two extremely successful Journals with huge efficiency for more than a decade. He will continue to edit TQM following stepping down from the *Journal of Applied Statistics*.

Today Gopal is Director of his own company Kanji Quality Culture Ltd UK and an Emeritus Professor of Applied Statistics at Sheffield Hallam University. Having published more than 90 research papers and 15 books in Statistics and Total Quality Management, Professor Kanji is a very active fellow member of the American Society for Quality (ASQ) and was appointed as Vice Chair of the International Chapter of the ASQ for Europe and the Middle East. In addition to presenting papers at other high profile international conferences he presents papers at the Annual ASQ Congress. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Statisticians and of the Royal Statistical Society, a Member of the International Statistical Institute and an Academician of the International Academy for Quality (IAQ). As a renowned teacher and consultant, his lectures have inspired audiences and individuals around the world and as Chairman of the EMPTQM group he has helped to develop a European Masters programme in Total quality management under the umbrella of EFQM.

Professor Kanji has organised and chaired 11 World Congresses for Total Quality Management, in the UK, Russia and Italy, United Arab Emirates and Canada and recently took the event to New Zealand. He has been appointed by the European Commission to act as a technical expert for the development of the European Customer Satisfaction Index. Through his company, Kanji Quality

Culture Ltd., he has introduced Kanji's Business Excellence Measurement System to measure stakeholders' satisfaction within organisations for many companies.

In 2002 the American Society for Quality (ASQ) awarded professor Kanji the prestigious Grant Medal for his contribution to Quality.

With a career spanning 40+ years in the field of statistics and quality, incorporating teaching, publishing journals and books, writing technical papers and presenting research findings around the world Gopal's enthusiasm as a teacher, trainer, researcher and innovator has shone through. Gopal has been supported during this time by his wife Valerie who in recent years has assisted greatly with the administration of both these Journals.

The Journal and Gopal have gathered many friends and supporters over the years and on the eve of Gopal's retirement from the journal, some of the readers and contributors to the *Journal of Applied Statistics* (JAS) have offered their messages to celebrate Gopal's achievements.

The *Journal of Applied Statistics* has scaled great academic heights since its inception in 1974 and has come to be identified with Professor Gopal Kanji who has put in devout devotion and singular service to ensure that the journal carves out a niche globally for itself in the minds of applied statisticians. Prof. Kanji, when he steps down, has every reason to be elated and proud over the outstanding achievements as the founder-editor of a journal which has flourished under his able stewardship. I wish him all the best and a long active life.

M.C. Agrawal
University of Delhi, Delhi, India

Your stepping down as Editor of the *Journal of Applied Statistics* is a loss for both readers and contributors. However you can take great pride in a job well done. You deserve credit for the two hallmarks of the JAS today: international prominence and scope. As a direct result of your hard work, the JAS has grown into one of the leading journals in the area of applied statistics. Your journal is also impressive because of its scope—the JAS is truly a journal of applied statistics. One may find articles from economists, like me, juxtaposed with contributions from biologists or physicists. This is a credit to your vision.

I wish you success in your future endeavours, whatever they may be, and I am confident in your ability to achieve. There are few areas where hard work and vision do not bring success.

Steven B. Caudill
Auburn University, Auburn, AL, USA

It has been a real pleasure to be associated with the Journal of Applied Statistics. I read it regularly, I have published in it more than once, and I have come to expect the high standards and the quality of the publications which of course wouldn't have been possible without the untiring efforts of the editor, Professor Kanji. For over twenty five years he has been at the helm, leading this journal from its inception to the point where it is today. As I wrote a few years ago during the journal's 25th anniversary, we all have appreciated his hard work and his dedication to the profession. Now the time has apparently come for Professor Kanji to move on. We will surely miss him and his leadership. I thank him for his kindness, congratulate him for a job well done and wish him good luck in whatever he chooses to do next. Good luck also to the journal; let it reach newer, higher, heights in the years to come."

S. Chakraborti
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, USA

Gopal Kanji's long service as Editor of *JAS* is appreciated by authors all around the world. It is difficult to perform such a task for a handful of years. To perform it so fairly and so well for as long as Gopal has, is a remarkable feat!

Norman Draper
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA

Gopal Kanji has carried out a superb job in crafting the *Journal of Applied Statistics* into its current form. As well as a long list of interesting articles on diverse topics, the special volumes of the journal have been excellent expositions of up and coming research areas. The journal will always be known as Gopal Kanji's great legacy.

Ian Dryden
University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

Every practising statistician would like to join me in wishing Professor Gopal Kanji a happy retirement, after his long and successful editorship of the *Journal of Applied Statistics*. He founded the journal 34 years ago, and has been its Editor ever since: he has made the journal essential reading for researchers in the area.

One can only be grateful for his outstanding dedication. We wish you well for the future, Gopal: we shall miss your editorial guidance.

Joe Gani
Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

I congratulate Professor Kanji on his achievement in founding the *Journal of Applied Statistics* and continuing to edit it for so many years. As a fellow editor, I know that this requires continual effort and can only admire such commitment. The *Journal of Applied Statistics* has succeeded in creating its own distinct identity and appearance. In one of my own areas of interest, design and analysis of industrial experiments, some of my favourite papers have appeared in this journal.

Steven G Gilmour
*School of Mathematical Sciences, Queen Mary,
University of London, UK*

Dr. Gopal Kanji founded the *Journal of Applied Statistics (JAS)* and nurtured it from the beginning. Today it is one of the leading journals of statistical methodology in great Britain and elsewhere. The credit certainly goes to Gopal for bringing it to its present status and he certainly deserves some rest after serving as the editor of *JAS* for the last 35 years. Gopal always maintained the high standard of quality of published materials in *JAS* and I wish him well during his retirement.

I know Gopal personally because we met at various international conferences and I have known the journal as an author, contributor and a referee for many years. My best wishes and personal regards go to Gopal, on the eve of his retirement from *JAS*.

Z. Govindarajulu
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

Few editors of scientific journals, in any field, have a track record as substantial as that of Professor Gopal Kanji. To found a journal, and to lead it from small beginnings to a leading status in its area, over a period of some thirty years, is a striking achievement, representing exceptional

commitment to the field and the scientific community. In the particular context of statistics, while several statistical journals have the word 'applied' in their title, few have been as successful as the *Journal of Applied Statistics* at resisting the pull towards theoretical abstraction and keeping their feet on the grounds of practice. In view of this it is entirely proper that the *Journal of Applied Statistics* has a leading reputation as an applied statistics journal, and Gopal deserves the gratitude of the entire discipline.

David J. Hand
Imperial College, London, UK

Professor Gopal Kanji has made the Journal of Applied Statistics into what it is now. It is an excellent journal which blends theory and practice, and it includes some very often-cited articles. Being an editor myself, of *Statistica Neerlandica*, the Netherlands Statistics Journal, I am quite jealous to see what Professor Kanji has established. I warmly congratulate him with his achievements.

Philip Hans Franses
*Erasmus School of Economics, Erasmus University,
Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Dr. Gopal Kanji has been a tireless leader in promoting applied statistics through editorship of the *Journal of Applied Statistics*. This journal through the editorship of Professor Kanji is recognized as one the highest ranking in the field. Thank you Dr. Kanji. With best wishes for your new adventures.

Raghu Kacker
National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD USA

Serving as editor for a major journal for over 30 years is an outstanding feat by anyone's standards. The contributions of Professor Gopal Kanji to applied statisticians and statistical practitioners through his longstanding editorship of the *Journal of Applied Statistics* are enormous. One can only guess at how much statistical practices and statistical methodology have improved over the past three decades as a result of this journal. Along with so many other practicing statisticians, I express my deep appreciation to Professor Kanji for his considerable contributions to applied statistics, and best wishes for the future.

Harry Khamis
Wright State University, Dayton, USA

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Professor Gopal K. Kanji for his outstanding editorship of the *Journal of Applied Statistics (JAS)* for the past 35 years. This is a remarkable record he has successfully accomplished in addition to serving as the founding editor of this journal. Professor Kanji has truly adhered to the stated goal of *JAS* of "providing a forum for communication between both applied statisticians and users of applied statistical techniques across a wide range of disciplines." At a time when several other statistics journals are becoming narrowly focused, drifting, or perhaps, shying away from what I consider as mainstream topics such as ANOVA, linear models, and experimental design, *JAS* has remained a patron of such topics and many others. Professor Kanji has skilfully steered his journal to maintain a healthy balance between methodological innovation and meaningful statistical applications. For this alone I believe that many statisticians and applied scientists owe Professor Kanji a great deal of gratitude. He was the right person to lead *JAS* since its inception because he

actually practiced what he had preached. With a career spanning 37+ years in the field of statistics, quality teaching, and the chairing of the Kanji Quality Culture, he is a true teacher, researcher, consultant, and innovator. In addition to *JAS*, Professor Kanji was also the founding editor of another international journal, namely, *Total Quality Management*. His many accomplishments are just too numerous to mention. It is therefore only befitting that Professor Kanji be recognized for his outstanding contributions to the fields of statistics and total quality management.

It saddens me, however, to see him step down as Editor of *JAS*. I sincerely hope that his successor will continue along the same path he has meticulously carved. I wish Professor Kanji success and happiness in his future endeavours and would like to say, "thank you, Professor Kanji, for all your hard work and pioneering contributions to our profession."

Andre I. Khuri

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

After the 1998 celebrations of 25 years of *JAS* under your editorship, we are fortunate to have had a further nine years of your invaluable contribution to statistical science and its application. Warmest thanks Gopal and congratulations on your splendid achievement.

Toby Lewis

University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk, UK

Gopal Kanji should be admired for his vision, determination and entrepreneur spirit for creating and editing the *Journal of Applied Statistics* for now three decades. The future of statistics in the 21st century lies in interdisciplinary research and such a journal fulfils the objectives of statistical science in the 21st century. The demand to publish in the journal has been heavy, so there has been steady increase in the number of issues. But that did not change his enviable personal style of going through each and every article from refereeing to the publication stage.

One of the greatest things I admire is his innovative idea of special issues on newly emerging scientific topics. I have had a great pleasure to have edited number of special issues (later on in the book form) - still the volumes on Image Analysis (1993, 1994) are in demand! One of the volumes has a merged image of both of us!!

Leeds have helped in some way consistently to promote the Journal - some of the review editors for many years have been from Leeds (for example, Ian Dryden, Robert Aykroyd, Stuart Barber) and it is now we have his successor, Robert Aykroyd, from Leeds. I am sure Leeds will fly the flag of the journal high - there are already a great sign, eg to keep pace with the new technology, there will be electronic submission.

Once again, well done Gopal! You do need a break!!

Kanti Mardia

University of Leeds, Leeds, West Yorkshire, UK

I wish to congratulate and thank Gopal for founding a journal that has played a most valuable role over the years in disseminating new methodological results and case studies on a wide variety of topics in the field of applied statistics. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

Geoff McLachlan

The University of Queensland, Queensland, Australia

Congratulations Professor Gopal Kanji! Over the past 35 years, your baby, the *Journal of Applied Statistics*, has blossomed and grown into adulthood with full of beauty and character. Over the years you have shaped the journal to have its own unique place in the statistics community. You, through the journal, have made lasting impression on many young statisticians. Wish you a very happy retirement from the journal.

Dayanand Naik
Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, USA

It seems like only yesterday that *JAS* celebrated its Silver Jubilee, but since then, nearly ten more years have passed, with Professor Gopal Kanji resolutely continuing as Editor. Over many years he has worked hard to develop the Journal from its initial type-written booklet form into a professionally and stylishly presented quality publication of international standing in applied statistical research. From the beginning, it has covered a wide range of practical areas and has included many special issues on specific topics. Throughout this period Professor Kanji has successfully maintained a balance between publication of practical applications and of rigorous theoretical research. Through his efforts, many researchers have found *JAS* to be the appropriate forum to publish their applied statistical work, while others, particularly younger statisticians, have used the Journal as an extensive source of examples and illustrations to develop and extend their own research and to enhance their teaching of statistical methods. Professor Kanji's contribution has been immense and I hope that the efficient publication team that he has built will continue to publish research papers of high quality for many years to come. I extend my thanks to him for all his efforts over an unprecedented time-period as Editor and wish him the very best for the future.

Phil Prescott
University of Southampton, Southampton, UK

Professor Gopal Kanji has done an excellent job of shaping the *Journal of Applied Statistics* as one of the foremost international Journals with great reputation. I congratulate him for the marvellous work done by him. *100 Statistical Tests*, authored by him is a very useful handbook for the users of statistical materials and consumers of statistical information at all levels including the non- statistics students and across all disciplines throughout the world. As a part of his further commitment to applied statistics he explored the area of quality improvement to establish another international journal: *Total Quality Management & Business Excellence*. His Quality Culture indeed is helping us to obtain a complete solution, right from the design of questionnaire, data cleaning, analysis and submission of reports in areas such as performance management, total quality management and so on and so forth. My best wishes to him to continue his noble work as an applied statistician.

V.S. Sampath Kumar
*Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli,
Tamilnadu, India*

I am very happy to congratulate Professor Gopal Kanji for many excellent works as editor of the *Journal of Applied Statistics*. *JAS* contributes to many readers who become to feel a great interest in analyzing various data statistically and in the field of applied statistics through this journal. My research in statistics is the categorical data analysis. I had written four papers in *JAS* (in 1992, 1998, 2004, and 2006). I would like to thank Professor Gopal Kanji for publication of these papers

in *JAS*. I sincerely hope that *JAS* will continue to publish many interesting articles from all areas of statistics including applied problems with novel theoretical developments.

Sadao Tomizawa

Tokyo University of Science, Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

Professor Kanji has done a wonderful job in maintaining such a high standard in a very important branch of science. Applied statistics, perhaps considered by some as the Cinderella of the subject, has now finally achieved world-class status. This is partly because the understanding of randomness and uncertainty is essentially for our survival. The list of areas in which statistical thinking is now considered critical reads like a guide to the human condition: medicine, biology, finance, engineering, climate change, species diversity, hydrology, welfare, business and more. During a period in which our research is rated, counted, scored, assessed, ranked and pigeonholed, journals with a broad, liberal and progressive outlook are gold dust and should be cherished. *Applied Statistics* is such a journal and for this much of the credit and congratulations should go to Gopal.

Henry Wynn

*London School of Economics, University of London,
London, UK*