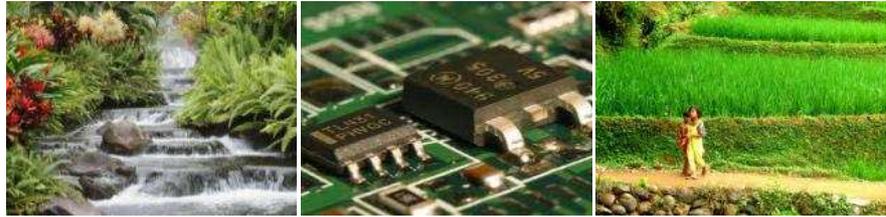


Newsletter, June 2011

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ABNMS 2011 Conference

Queensland University of Technology
21st to 25th November 2011

Conference Convenor: Sandra Johnson

ABNMS 2011 Key Dates

Deadline for abstracts:
31st July 2011

Deadline for final papers:
21st October 2011

Deadline for registration:
21st October 2011

CALL FOR PAPERS

www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2011

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
31st July 2011



The ABNMS Board

The purpose of the Australasian Bayesian Network Modelling Society (ABNMS) is to promote the understanding and use of Bayesian network (BN) models in scientific, industrial and research applications. The ABNMS aims to provide opportunities for BN modellers to exchange ideas and socialise, by organising conferences and regular events, as well as maintaining mailing lists for discussion.

The ABNMS was formed in November 2009 at the inaugural ABNMS conference (ABNMS2009) held at Melbourne University. At that meeting the 2010 board members were elected and a draft constitution was prepared by Kevin Korb (www.abnms.org/constitution.php). The second meeting of the society (ABNMS2010) was held in November 2010 at the Australian National University. At that meeting the 2011 board members were elected. The third meeting of the society will be held at the Queensland University of Technology during ABNMS2011 in November 2011.

The ABNMS Board consists of a President, President Elect, Past President, a Treasurer, Secretaries, and Members at large. Presidents

are elected on an annual basis. Therefore a new President Elect is elected at every annual general board meeting. The President Elect position is held for one year and that person becomes the President the following year and the Past President the year after that. Member at large appointments last for 3 years, and every year two new members at large are elected.

Anyone who is a full member of the society can nominate for a position on the board. For details on membership, visit the ABNMS website (www.abnms.org/membership.php).

Several mailing lists have been established for communication with the board of the society. These are:

abnms2011@abnms.org – to contact the convener of the ABNMS2011 conference

contact@abnms.org - to contact the membership secretary

past-president@abnms.org – to contact the past president of the society

president-elect@abnms.org – to contact the president-elect of the society

president@abnms.org – to contact the president of the society

ABNMS Board Members 2010

Board Position	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
President	Associate Professor	Ann	Nicholson	Monash University
President-Elect	Dr.	Carl	Smith	The University of Queensland
Past President	Dr.	Kevin	Korb	Monash University
Members at large (3 years)	Dr.	Jenifer	Ticehurst	The Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU
	Dr.	Carmel	Pollino	The Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU
Members at large (2 years)	Mrs.	Tali	Boneh	CAWCR, Bureau of Meteorology
	Mr.	Andrew	Ling	The University of Queensland
Members at large (1 year)	Dr.	Adam	Liedloff	CSIRO
	Mr.	John	Bally	CAWCR, Bureau of Meteorology

ABNMS Board Members 2011

Board Position	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
President	Dr.	Carl	Smith	The University of Queensland
President-Elect	Dr.	Sandra	Johnson	Queensland University of Technology
Past President and Treasurer	Associate Professor	Ann	Nicholson	Monash University
Members at large (3 years)	Dr.	David	Albrecht	Monash University (Membership Secretary)
	Dr.	Trent	Penman	University of Wollongong
Members at large (2 years)	Dr.	Jenifer	Ticehurst	The Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU
	Mrs.	Charisse	Farr	Queensland University of Technology (Proxy for Jenifer Ticehurst)
	Dr.	Carmel	Pollino	CSIRO Land and Water
Members at large (1 year)	Mrs.	Tali	Boneh	CAWCR, Bureau of Meteorology
	Dr.	Kevin	Korb	Monash University (Public Affairs Secretary)

Presidents Report

Welcome to the first ABNMS newsletter. Back in November 2007, a group of BN modellers from across Australia met for 2 days at the University of Queensland. At that meeting, initial discussions were held around the formation of a society. The society was formalised in November 2009 at the inaugural ABNMS conference in Melbourne.

At our 2010 conference in Canberra we had 40 attendees and 18 presentations of BN applications over 2 days. The breath of applications presented at the conference was exciting to see. Applications spanned ecology, bio-security risk, legal decision support, fire management, water management, vessel detection and consumer credit rating. Modelling methods and tools were also discussed, such as dynamic and object oriented BNs. Prior to the conference, we ran 2 day tutorial covering BN basics, Netica software, decision networks, knowledge engineering, conceptual modelling, BNs and GIS, Object Oriented BNs and learning BN structure from data. I would particularly like to thank Jennifer Ticehurst, Carmel Pollino and Ann Nicholson for organising the 2010

conference and the Fenner School for Environment and Society at ANU for hosting the conference.

We are looking forward to the society's 3rd annual conference to be held at the Queensland University of Technology from the 21st to 25th of November 2011. The conference convenor for ABNMS2011 is Sandra Johnson. The society welcomes submissions on BN applications, methods and tools from all discipline areas so please submit an abstract to our 2011 conference or attend.

We have deliberately kept membership and conference registration fees for the society low to encourage new members. Full membership is only \$50 per year and student membership is free. Conference registration is free for full members and student members, and only \$50 for non-members. If you are interested in becoming a member of the society, or would like to renew your membership, please visit our membership website (www.abnms.org/membership.php). Looking forward to seeing you at QUT in November. Carl Smith

Events

ABNMS2011

When: 21st to 25th November 2011

Where: Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane

The format for the conference this year will be a 2 day pre-conference Bayesian network tutorial (21st and 22nd of November) followed by a 3 day conference in which there will be poster and paper presentations and discussions (23rd to 25th of November). You are able to register for the pre-conference tutorials and the conference separately. You will also need to register for the conference dinner if you wish to attend. A full conference program, along with registration fees for the pre-conference tutorial, conference and conference dinner, will be made available shortly on the conference website (www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2011).

Below are important dates for ABNMS2011:

- Call for papers: 1st July 2011
- Abstract submission deadline: 31st July 2011
- Decision on abstracts: 21st August 2011
- Deadline for submission of full papers: 21st October 2011
- Deadline for conference registration (including preconference tutorials): 21st October 2011

To register for the pre-conference tutorial and the conference, please visit the conference website

(www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2011).

Remember that full members of ABNMS can attend the conference at no additional charge. Members are still required to register to attend the conference and registration fees for the pre-conference tutorials also apply to members. Pre-conference tutorial registration

fees also apply to student members. An extra charge will apply to those wishing to attend the conference dinner. To become an ABNMS member, please visit www.abnms.org/membership.php.

Abstracts for ABNMS2011 should be no longer than 300 words. Please submit your abstracts via email to abnms2011@abnms.org. Include the title of your paper, authors, affiliations, contact details for the corresponding author and abstract within the body of the email. Please also state whether your submission is for a presented paper or a poster. The abstract should be self-contained and explicit, covering the aims, methods, results and main conclusions of the research. The abstract should not contain figures, tables or references. For full papers, please follow the instructions for authors provided on the ABNMS2011 website. This is a Word document that specifies the formatting requirements for full papers.

QUT Gardens Point Campus is located within Brisbane's CBD (<http://www.qut.edu.au/about/location>) and a short ferry trip from Brisbane's University of Queensland (UQ) St Lucia Campus (<http://www.uq.edu.au/about/st-lucia>).

Conference delegates visiting from outside Brisbane can choose to stay in one of the many hotels located in Brisbane (<http://www.wotif.com/hotels/australia-brisbane-cbd-hotels.html>) or in on or off campus accommodation at UQ (<http://www.accommodation.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=98142>). There are 32 rooms on

hold at St Leo's college, UQ campus, for conference delegates. Room rates at St Leo's are (rates include 3 meals):

- Single standard rooms with shared bathroom facilities - \$65 per night
- Single rooms with shared ensuite (2 single rooms share one adjoining ensuite) - \$80 per night
- Ensuted rooms - airconditioned, tv and fridge - \$90 per night for 1 person, \$130 per night for 2 people

To book a room at St Leo's college, please download the room reservation form from the conference website and follow the instructions.

If arriving in Brisbane via plane, you can catch the train directly into Brisbane's CBD (<http://www.airtrain.com.au>). Brisbane has an integrated public transport network. For train, bus and ferry timetables visit the Translink website (<http://translink.com.au>). Brisbane also has a fully electronic ticketing system on its public transport network, called the GoCard. Purchasing a GoCard is much cheaper than purchasing paper tickets (<http://translink.com.au/tickets-and-fares/gocard>). If you prefer to travel by taxis, please contact Yellow Cabs (<http://www.yellowcab.com.au>) or Black and White Cabs (<http://www.blackandwhitecabs.com.au>).

If you have a query regarding ABNMS2011, please email abnms2011@abnms.org.

Freshwater Biodiversity Climate Change Adaptation Research Masterclass - call for participants

When: 14th to 18th November 2011

Where: University House, ANU, Canberra

The Water Resources and Freshwater Biodiversity Adaptation Research Network is calling for applications from people interested in attending a technical masterclass on topics relating to the research, management and communication of climate change adaptation for Australian freshwater biodiversity. Specific topics to be covered include:

1. Climate projections and future water scenarios (CSIRO Land & Water)
2. Modelling climate change impacts on freshwater species (Drs Yung En Chee, Nick Bond & Mark Kennard)
3. Bayesian networks for impacts modelling (Dr Carmel Pollino)
4. Science to policy (Dr Fiona Dyer)
5. Science communication (Prof. Julian Cribb)

Applications to attend the Masterclass are sought from researchers or managers currently working in areas relevant to climate change adaptation for freshwater biodiversity. PhD students and early career researchers are encouraged to apply. Up to 15 participants will be selected based on merit and responses to the selection criteria. All travel, accommodation, food and training expenses associated with attending the masterclass will be provided to successful applicants.

To apply, please submit a 2 page c.v. and a statement addressing the following selection criteria:

1. Understanding of broad issues associated with climate change impacts and adaptation

with respect to Australian freshwater biodiversity

2. Aptitude for and willingness to learn new technical skills, e.g. using unfamiliar software
3. Relevance of current employment or studies to climate change adaptation for freshwater biodiversity

4. Capacity to use knowledge gained at masterclass to further research and/or management activities
5. Availability to attend masterclass

Please submit applications by email to Samantha Capon by 5pm Thursday 14th July at s.capon@griffith.edu.au.

Training

Programming Bayesian Networks with the Netica API

When: 4th to 5th August 2011

Where: University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus

This workshop will introduce and guide attendees through the Bayesian network programming tools available with the Netica API family, focusing on the Java implementation. With the assistance of experienced facilitators, attendees will work through programming exercises, designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the API library.

Attendees will learn how to apply the Netica API to:

- Build Bayesian networks and decision networks
- Perform probabilistic inference and make decisions
- Generate CPTs from data and equations
- Evaluate networks with predictive accuracy and sensitivity analysis
- Develop graphical user interface tools

For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.bayesian-intelligence.com/training/NeticaAPITraining.php>