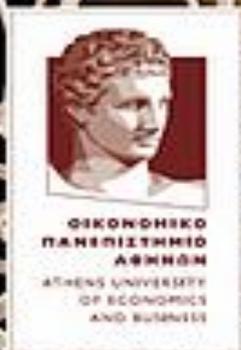


# AUEB SAW2021

5th AUEB Sports Analytics Workshop  
Virtual Conference

24-25 May 2021

Featuring A Short course on  
FOOTBALL ANALYTICS



## Topics of the workshop

- Football Analytics and Machine Learning
- Basketball Analytics
- Basketball Performance Analysis
- Volleyball Prediction
- Sport Economics
- Competitive Balance in Football
- Scheduling



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Register at: <https://aueb-analytics.wixsite.com/saw2021/>

**Speakers**



[Abdullah Zafar](#) is currently studying mathematics and physics at the University of Toronto. Post- secondary school, he pursued a career as a professional footballer (soccer player), before transitioning into coaching and then pursuing a mathematics and physics education to apply his knowledge towards human movement and performance. His most recent work involves the development of integrative models of football which capture the technical, tactical and physical/physiological aspects of the game and produce features which are able to directly inform and impact team training/preparation/scouting



[Marica Manisera](#), Associate Professor of Statistics at the University of Brescia, she coordinates, together with Paola Zuccolotto, the international project Big Data analytics in sports (BDsports, bdsports.unibs.it). She is Chair of the Special Interest Group on Sport Statistics of the International Statistical Institute and Associate Editor of the Journal of Sports Analytics. Her scientific research activity is carried out in the field of Statistical Sciences, both with a methodological and applied approach. She has authored/coauthored over 40 scientific articles in international journals and books, she participated to more than 50 national and international conferences, also as organizers of specialized sessions, often on the topic of Sports Analytics. She guests co-edited special issues of international journals on statistics in sports. She co-authored, with Paola Zuccolotto, the book Basketball Data Science.



[Ioannis Ntzoufras](#) is a Professor of Statistics at the Department of Statistics at Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB). He is working in the area of Bayesian modeling and computation with emphasis in variable selection. He has published a worldwide best seller book on Bayesian modeling. In parallel with his main research activities he has worked on modeling football data, measures of competitive balance in sports leagues and performance analysis in Volleyball.



[Dr. James Reade](#) is an associate professor in economics in the Department of Economics at the University of Reading. Dr. Reade is interested in supervising research in applied economic areas, in particular applications in the area of sport. As sports are very well measured, and the incentives well understood, they can be ideal for the investigation of economic theories. Sport also enables classic economic issues to be analyzed within the context of sport, for example the demand for attendance at sport, and strategic decisions made on the field. Data on sport has been extensively collected for decades, even centuries, enabling economic history analyses over long periods of time, and studies of important periods of change in sports.



[Konstantinos Pelechrinis](#) joined the University of Pittsburgh in Fall 2010, where he serves as an Associate Professor at the School of Computing and Information. He is the director of the Network Data Science Lab. He is a graduate of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens while he received his Phd degree from the Computer Science department at the University of California at Riverside. His research interests include network science, Urban informatics and Sports analytics. Concerning Sports Analytics, he is interested in the development of evaluation metrics for sports teams and players, as well as in the theoretical modeling of sports that will allow us understand deeper the game.



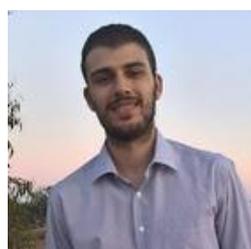
[Christophe Ley](#) is an Associate Professor of Statistics at the Department of Applied Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics at Ghent University, and President of the Luxembourg Statistical Society. The research field of Christophe Ley is methodological statistics (both theoretical and applied), more precisely the development of new methodology to deal with the increasingly complex modern data sets. His research output spans over flexible modeling, efficient semi-parametric inference, directional statistics, high-dimensional statistics, Stein's Method, Bayesian inference, outlier detection, and inter-disciplinary work, where he is particularly interested in sport statistics, psychological, financial and meteorological applications. For instance, in sport statistics he is developing improved ranking and prediction methods in football (domestic leagues and national teams) and machine learning methods for sports medicine. He is also the leader of the international network S-TRAINING (s-training.eu)

[Marius Ötting](#) is a postdoc within a project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) on detecting fraud in live-betting markets (Bielefeld University) since 10/2020. He is a PhD in Economics (Bielefeld University) since 2020. The title of his thesis is, "Sports statistics in the data age: betting fraud detection and performance evaluation". In 2017 he earned his Master's of Science in 'Statistical Sciences' (Bielefeld University). In 2014 he gained his Bachelor's degree in 'Economics' from Bielefeld's University. He was born on May 23rd 1991 in Minden (Germany).



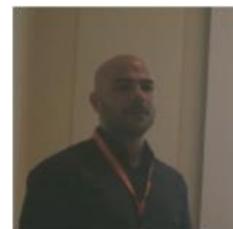
[Vasilis Palaskas](#) is a Sports Analytics Statistician & Data Scientist at Fantasy Sports Interactive, Ltd with a Master's degree in Statistics at the Department of Statistics AUEB. He is currently working in the area of Bayesian Modelling in several Fantasy Sports such as Fantasy Soccer, Basketball, NFL. As a member of AUEB Sports Analytics Group, he has recently published an article, joint with Prof. Ntzoufras and Dr. Sotiris Drikos, on Bayesian Modelling of Volleyball match outcomes and in parallel, he is currently working with a second research work focused on the impact of skills in a volleyball match outcome.

[Bill Mexias](#), COO at Fantasy Sport Interactive Limited, a service provider for fantasy sports software and for athletes' performance data feeds, specializing in the betting sector, enabling operators to reach a diverse audience through a skill-game offering. Bill holds an MSc in Risk Management from Cass Business School in London and a BSc in Economics from the Athens University of Economics and Business. Previous roles include risk management positions in investment banks as well as senior management and leadership positions in start-up firms.



[Dimitris Gkoumas](#) is data scientist working in the technology consulting area. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Statistics and Insurance Science from the University of Piraeus and a Master's degree in Business Analytics from the Athens University of Economics and Business. His Master's Thesis focused on clustering methods for the Balloon D'Or partial ranking datasets. His recent interest in sports research is related to tracking data and xG (expected goals) models.

**[Pavlos Kolias](#)** is a second year Ph.D. student in the Department of Mathematics of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He has a BSc in Mathematics and a MSc in Statistics and Modelling (with Distinction) from the same university. He is currently working on the theory of non-homogeneous semi-Markov systems of high order. His main interests include stochastic processes, probability theory and statistics, with applications in Psychology, Sports science and Health-related subjects.



**[Sotiris Drikos](#)** is a teacher of Physical Education, he holds an MSc specializing in coaching of sports and a Ph.D. in Sports & Data analysis. He has published articles in scientific journals, in proceedings of scientific congresses and has presentations relating to volleyball in Greek and international scientific conferences. He is member of academic group Sports Analytics in the Athens University of Economics & Business. Drikos served as head coach in Greek Men National Team from 2013 until 2016 and guided NT in silver medal of Euro league 2014 and in bronze medal in World League 2016 group 3. He has worked in several teams in A1 Men's division such as Aris Nikaias, AE Nikaia, Olympiakos Piraeus, AO Kifissia, Iraklis Thessalonikis and claimed two Greek cups and one championship.

**[Angelos Alexopoulos](#)** is working as Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. His main research interests are computational statistics and statistical modelling of data arising in scientific fields such as biology, economics and sports. He has worked as Research Associate at the University College of London (UCL) and the University of Exeter. He obtained his PhD in Statistics from the Athens University of Economics and Business (Greece).



**[George Marinakos](#)** leads the Online Customer Analytics Team in the division of CRM & Customer Intelligence of OPAP SA since 2018. He has worked as a customer data scientist over a decade in several industries as Gambling, Marketing Consulting, Credit Risk Banking & Pharmaceuticals. He is an MBA Econometrician and PhD on applied Data Science. He has published scientific research in the field of Business Data Mining.

**[Christos Marmarinos](#)** holds a Ph.D. in Basketball Analysis by University of Athens. He worked as an assistant coach in Olympiacos Basketball team for 14 years (2004-18). He has been involved in numerous high-level basketball projects. Currently he is serving as a head coach in Kosovo men's national team and as a consultant for the Sacramento Kings.



**[Tsagris Michail](#)** serves as Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Crete. His current research interests include compositional data analysis, computational statistics, directional data analysis and quantitative methods in economics. Additionally, he employs machine learning algorithms for analyzing basketball (NBA) data.

# SAW 2021

Organized by



*Ioannis Ntzoufras*

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