

INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUE

PERSPECTIVES MAGAZINE

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Perspectives* magazine.

It is an honor and a real pleasure to take over the role of Editor in Chief (EiC) of the magazine, after the amazing work of Roy Streit since 2015. Roy put *Perspectives* magazine on track and I will do my best to bring it to its next destinations. I would like to sincerely thank him and the International Society of Information Fusion (ISIF) Board of Directors (BoD) for this exciting opportunity.

As roles are changing, I would like also to thank Jason Williams, who has been Associate Editor-in-Chief (AEiC) since 2019, and Kristy Virostek of Conference Catalysts who has been Production Manager (PM) over the same period. Since the magazine would not see the light without such key roles, it is my great pleasure to welcome Roy Streit, who kindly accepted the new role of AEiC and Reta Wehmeier of Conference Catalysts who is now the new PM.

Just before issuing the third edition in Spring 2020, the postscriptum by the EiC, Roy Streit, highlighted the two areas of research, “mathematical modeling of the spread of infectious diseases” and “spatial-temporal data modeling”, that would be key in fighting the COVID-19 virus. And indeed since then, from the United Kingdom (UK), to Sweden, to Italy, to the USA, the Fusion community joined forces for this “frontierless” challenge.

So naturally, this fourth issue of *Perspectives* magazine provides us with a large forum for reporting thoughts, ideas, and results of several initiatives. Simon Maskell, the ISIF president “looks in the mirror” at the extraordinary collaborative work of the Liverpool researchers’ team since the first lockdown in the UK and draws the path for Data Fusion for 2021. In Sweden, Fredrik Gustafsson (Linköping University) and Kristian Soltesz (Lund University) bring a critical analysis of nonpharmaceutical intervention models, supported by data from Sweden, summarizing work published in *Nature* and previously presented as a plenary session at the Fusion 2020 conference by K. Soltesz. Domenico Gaglione, Paolo Braca, Giovanni Soldi, Nicola Forti, Leonardo Millefiori (NATO STO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation), together with Stefano Marano (University of Salerno) and Peter Willett and Krishna Pattipati (University of Connecticut), present results from a collaborative work with predictive analytic models for Italian regions and the state of Connecticut in the USA. These three initiatives provide only a sample of contributions as surely the 2021 Fusion conference

will cover the topic with original work and insightful results.

This issue also includes a report on the first ever virtual FUSION Conference in 2020, originally planned in South Africa. The organizing committee, chaired by Pieter de Villiers (University of Pretoria), Fredrik Gustafsson (Linköping University), and Alta de Waal (University of Pretoria), had to invent a new format to allow conference attendees across the world to participate in live Questions & Answers sessions. The FUSION 2020 Best Paper and Best Student Paper awards are themselves presented by N. Rao. A retrospective of the ISIF award program is provided by Dale W. Blair, together with updates about the two active ISIF working groups by Darin Dunham, Erik Blasch, and Simon Maskell: the “Evaluation of Techniques for Uncertain Reasoning Working Group (ETURWG) and the Open Source Tracking and Estimation Working Group (OSTEWG)”.

You will also have the pleasure to read a detailed and stimulating review by Christoph Degen (Fraunhofer FKIE) of the book *Analytic Combinatorics for Multiple Object Tracking*, by Roy Streit, Robert Blair Angle, and Murat Efe. The Information Fusion History department focuses on the Canadian Tracking and Fusion Group (CTFG), which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, with a review of the yearly CTFG workshops since 2011. Finally, several advertisements for future ISIF events are available together with an update of International Conferences and Workshops held, cancelled, or postponed during the pandemic. In particular, the exceptional sanitary conditions due to COVID-19 led the ISIF BoD to give the FUSION 2020 team another opportunity to host the conference in South Africa in 2021, while postponing for one year all successive events. These announcements will hopefully stimulate your next conference’s participation.

This fourth issue would not exist without the contributions of all authors, the careful reviews of the Associate Editors Wolfgang Koch, Lyudmila Mihaylova, Murat Efe, Emre Ozkan, and Jesus Garcia Herrero, the precious advice of the AEiC, and the hard work of the PM and the Administrative Editor, David W. Krout. Thank you to all for your time, ideas, and energy. We hope you will enjoy flipping through and reading this new issue of *Perspectives* magazine, maybe during a coffee break in Sun City.

Anne-Laure Jousselme
Editor-in-Chief,
Perspectives Magazine

