

Opening Ceremony

IMPMS 2026

Dear Vice-Rector Enrico Napoli,

Dear Vice-Rector for Education and International Affairs Fabio Mazzola,

Dear President of PRISMA Antonio Di Crescenzo,

Dear Head of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Cinzia Cerroni,

Dear Head of the Department of Economics, Business and Statistics Marcantonio Ruisi,

Dear Head of the Department of Physics and Chemistry “Emilio Segrè” Massimo Palma,

Dear President of the Italian Statistical Society Marcello Chiodi,

Dear Vice-President of AMASES Andrea Consiglio,

Distinguished plenary speakers, colleagues, guests, and friends,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 5th Italian Meeting on Probability and Mathematical Statistics, taking place in Palermo from June 8 to 12, 2026.

This meeting continues a tradition that began in Turin in 2017 and subsequently brought together our community in Vietri sul Mare, Bologna, and Rome. Since its establishment, the Italian Meeting on Probability and Mathematical Statistics has become an important occasion for scientific exchange among researchers working in probability, mathematical statistics, and related fields. A distinctive feature of the meeting has always been its commitment to supporting early-career researchers, providing opportunities to present their work, share ideas, and establish new collaborations.

The fifth edition of IMPMS is promoted by the PRISMA group (PRobability In Statistics, Mathematics and Applications) of the Italian Mathematical Union and is organized by the Palermo Association of Mathematics and Computer Science (PAMCS), the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, the Department of Economics, Business and Statistics, and the Department of Physics and Chemistry “Emilio Segrè” of the University of Palermo.

We are grateful for the support received from the University of Palermo, the Department of Mathematics of the University of Rome “Tor Vergata,” the Department of Mathematics “G. Peano” of the University of Turin, and the Department of Mathematical Sciences “G. Lagrange” of the Polytechnic University of Turin. We also sincerely acknowledge the patronage of the Italian

Mathematical Union (UMI), the Italian Statistical Society (SIS), the Association for Applied Mathematics in Economics and Social Sciences (AMASES), and the Sicilian Regional Assembly (ARS).

The response from the scientific community has been remarkable. IMPMS 2026 received proposals from a broad range of research areas and ultimately hosted 81 accepted contributed sessions involving more than 320 talks. These sessions reflect the vitality, diversity, and excellence of contemporary research in probability and mathematical statistics.

We are particularly honored to welcome our plenary speakers: Francesca Biagini, Stefano Favaro, Franco Flandoli, Silvio Micali, and Giuseppe Savaré. Their presence and contributions greatly enrich the scientific program and provide inspiration to all participants, especially for the many young researchers attending the meeting.

During the conference, the PRISMA group will also hold its annual meeting, chaired by its President, Antonio Di Crescenzo. We are pleased that the President of the Italian Mathematical Union, Marco Andreatta, will present the report *The Economic Impact of Mathematical Research in Italy*.

In addition to the scientific program, we are pleased to host a special exhibition of historical books which will be held on Tuesday.

The exhibition has been organized through the valuable collaboration of the libraries of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (DMI), the Department of Economics, Business and Statistics (SEAS), and the Department of Engineering. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the SEAS Library. When I first arrived in Palermo, I discovered there an impressive collection of books on probability, thanks in large part to Luciana Vianelli, who carefully selected and ordered many of these volumes over the years.

We warmly invite all participants to visit the exhibition and discover a selection of historical works.

The detailed conference program is available on the official meeting website, and we encourage all participants to take advantage of the many opportunities for scientific discussion, collaboration, and networking throughout the week.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all institutions that supported this event, to the plenary speakers, session organizers, authors, and participants whose contributions have made this meeting possible. We also warmly thank the members of the Steering Committee and of the Local Organizing Committee, the founding members of PAMCS, Professor Cinzia Cerroni, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Giuliarosa Amerio, Administrative Manager of the Department, and all members of the departmental staff for their dedication and invaluable assistance.

Special recognition is due to Antonio di Crescenzo, Barbara Brandolini, Andrea Consiglio, Angela Sciammetta, Marco Tabacchi, and Michele Tumminello for their outstanding commitment and significant contributions to the organization of the meeting, and to Rosario Corso for the careful editing of the Book of Abstracts. I would also like to express my gratitude to my son, Lorenzo, who has supported me throughout these past months and helped me resolve

numerous technical issues related to the website.

We are delighted to welcome you to Palermo, a city rich in history, culture, and hospitality. We hope that this meeting will offer not only an excellent scientific experience, but also an opportunity to meet colleagues, strengthen existing collaborations, start new ones, and contribute to the growth of our community in probability and mathematical statistics.

We wish you a productive, stimulating, and enjoyable conference.

Let me conclude with a personal remark. When I attended the Probability course lectured by Angelo Gilio in Catania, I was puzzled by the many different definitions of probability that I met in textbooks. Then I read Bruno de Finetti's book and everything became clearer when I found the sentence:

“Probability does not exist.”

This sentence reminds us that probability is not only a mathematical concept, but also a way of thinking about uncertainty and making sense of the world around us. May this meeting inspire new ideas, fruitful collaborations, and further advances in probability, statistics, and their many applications.

Thank you, and welcome to 5th Italian Meeting on Probability and Mathematical Statistics

I would now like to invite our distinguished guests, in the following order, to offer a few remarks: Vice Rector Enrico Napoli; Vice Rector for Education and International Affairs Fabio Mazzola; President of PRISMA Antonio Di Crescenzo; Head of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Cinzia Cerroni; Head of the Department of Economics, Business and Statistics Marcantonio Ruisi; Head of the Department of Physics and Chemistry “Emilio Segrè” Massimo Palma; President of the Italian Statistical Society Marcello Chiodi; and Vice-President of AMASES Andrea Consiglio.

June 8, 2026
Palermo

On behalf of the Steering and Local Committee
Giuseppe Sanfilippo

“Il est remarquable qu’une science qui a commencé par la considération des jeux, se soit élevée aux plus importants objets des connaissances humaines”. Pierre-Simon Laplace