

# Editorial

*by Rob J Hyndman*

## Editorial changes

At the start of each year, one of the Executive Editors of the R Journal steps down and a new Executive Editor is appointed. This year, we say farewell to Simon Urbanek, and thank him for his service as Executive Editor over the period 2021-2024, including being Editor-in-Chief in 2023. And we welcome Emily Zabor, who joins the team of Executive Editors. Emily is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, and is an active contributor to the R community responsible for several CRAN packages. She has been an Associate Editor of the R Journal since 2020, and has also been on the editorial boards of the Journal of Urology, European Urology, and the Journal of Clinical Oncology. We are delighted to have her step up to the role of Executive Editor for the next four years.

The other change at the start of each year is that the Editor-in-Chief changes. We thank Mark van der Loo for his service as Editor-in-Chief for 2024; he will continue as an Executive Editor for one more year. I will be the Editor-in-Chief for 2025, and I look forward to working with the editorial team to continue the development of the R Journal. The other continuing Executive Editor is Emi Tanaka.

We also welcome some new Associate Editors: Tomasz Woźniak, Alexander Kowarik, Thomas Nagler, Robin Lovelace, Valentin Todorov, Julia Wrobel, and David Ardia. We are grateful to them for their willingness to contribute to the R Journal. Several Associate Editors have stepped down, and we thank them for their contributions: Nicholas Tierney, Chris Brunsdon, Ivan Svetunkov and Romain Lesur. We also thank the many Associate Editors who continue to contribute to the R Journal.

Mitchell O'Hara-Wild has been providing valuable technical assistance to the R Journal for several years, and we have decided to formalize his role as Technical Editor of the journal for 2025. We are grateful to him for his ongoing contributions to the R Journal.

## In this issue

On behalf of the editorial board, I am pleased to present Volume 17 Issue 1 of the R Journal. This issue features ten research articles, plus news from CRAN and the R Foundation.

The ten articles relate to R packages on the following diverse range of topics.

### Forests and trees

- Random Forests for Time-Fixed and Time-Dependent Predictors: The DynForest R Package
- Structured Bayesian Regression Tree Models for Estimating Distributed Lag Effects: The R Package dlmtree

### Longitudinal and panel data

- latrend: A Framework for Clustering Longitudinal Data
- panelPomp: Analysis of Panel Data via Partially Observed Markov Processes in R

### Sampling tools

- CDSampling: An R Package for Constrained D-Optimal Sampling in Paid Research Studies
- LCCR: An R package for inference on latent class models for capture-recapture data with covariates

**Spatial smoothing**

- `spheresmooth`: An R Package for Penalized Piecewise Geodesic Curve Fitting on a Sphere
- Space-Time Smoothing of Survey Outcomes using the R Package `SUMMER`

**Statistical simulation**

- `SimEngine`: A Modular Framework for Statistical Simulations in R

**Factor analysis**

- `SIREN`: An Hybrid CFA-EFA R Package for Controlling Acquiescence in Restricted Factorial

All packages discussed are available on CRAN. Supplementary material with fully reproducible code is available for download from the Journal website.

*Rob J Hyndman*  
*Monash University*

<https://journal.r-project.org>  
[r-journal@r-project.org](mailto:r-journal@r-project.org)