

PROBABILITY, DYNAMICS AND  
CAUSALITY

*Essays in Honour of Richard C. Jeffrey*

*Edited by*

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## PREFACE

The present volume contains the proceedings of the conference on “Probability, dynamics and causality” that took place in Luino on June 15–17, 1995. This was the third conference on topics related to the foundations of probability and statistics held in Luino, following that on “Probability, statistics and inductive logic” (1981) and that on “Statistics in science” (1988).<sup>1</sup>

Like the previous ones, the conference brought together people working on the foundations of probability and statistics, as well as their application to science. The meeting opened with a session on “Exchangeability” including the papers by Persi Diaconis and Susan Holmes, Eugenio Regazzini and Attilio Wedlin, followed by one on “Sufficiency, frequentism and analogy”, including the papers by Colin Howson, Alan Hajek and Roberto Festa. The second day of the meeting was in honour of Dick Jeffrey, on the occasion of his forthcoming 70th birthday (August 5, 1996). Dick also took part in the previous meetings and, to use a term dear to him, we consider him the guru of the Luino conferences. The papers by Maria Carla Galavotti, Sandy Zabell, Brian Skyrms, Cristina Bicchieri and Richard Jeffrey himself all belong to this section of the conference. The third day included two sessions, devoted to “Probability and quantum mechanics” and “Probability in physical science”. Abner Shimony, Giancarlo Ghirardi, Francesco De Martini, Nino Zanghi, Domenico Costantini and Ubaldo Garibaldi gave talks in these sessions. The order in which the papers appear in the following pages reflects the programme of the conference.

All the papers were followed by a very stimulating discussion, that went on over lunch and dinner and continued during participants’ strolls along the shores of the lake, in the charming atmosphere of Luino, where this time we were lucky enough to have three bright sunny days.

On publication of the proceedings we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who helped us to make the third Luino conference first possible, and then fruitful and pleasant.

The meeting was sponsored by the following institutions: Istituto di Statistica, Università di Genova; Dipartimento di Filosofia, Università di

Trieste; Department of Philosophy, Princeton University; Interdisciplinary Program in History and Philosophy of Science, University of California, Irvine; Società Italiana di Logica e Filosofia della Scienza. Financial support from the Comitato Nazionale delle Ricerche and from the Township of Luino is gratefully acknowledged. Many thanks to Brian Skyrms and Bas van Fraassen, who participated with us in the Organizing Committee, and to the editors of *Erkenntnis*, in particular Wolfgang Spohn, for having agreed to publish the proceedings. Special thanks are due to the Major of Luino, Dr. Piero Astini, who opened the conference in the wonderful setting of Palazzo Verbania and supported the initiative in various ways.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to Dick Jeffrey for his advice and for his presence at this, as well as at the previous Luino conferences. This volume is dedicated to him, as a sign of our intellectual debt and warm affection.

As a special gift to the guru, the collection will be opened by a piece of poetry written by Abner Shimony to celebrate Dick's 70th birthday. Happy birthday Dick, may you enjoy many a happy and fertile year to come!

DOMENICO COSTANTINI  
MARIA CARLA GALAVOTTI

#### NOTE

<sup>1</sup> The proceedings of the first two conferences held in Luino appeared as a special issue of *Epistemologia*, vol. 7 (1984), edited by E. Agazzi and D. Costantini and as volume n.122 of the "Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science" (Kluwer 1990), edited by R. Cooke and D. Costantini.

## FOR THE BIRTHDAY OF A DECISION THEORIST

You nymphs and shepherds, fly away,  
Here rationality holds sway.  
The frivolous, the light of brain  
Are banished from this stern domain.

But come, you deities austere,  
With lucid thoughts and visions clear,  
Olympians of our iron age  
Bestow your blessings on this sage.

Let Foresight, who imported fire,  
His deep inductive powers inspire,  
That he may see the distant trends  
Of increments and dividends.

Algebra and Inference  
Set wings upon his eloquence,  
And Methodology refine  
His neo-Bayesian design.

Let divine Analysis  
Implant an intellectual kiss  
And give him instruments to see  
Through fogs of hedonometry.

And lest his speech lack precedents,  
Statistics, facts, and arguments,  
Let Erudition grant him these  
Incontrovertibilities.

Then in solemn pageantry  
And decked with wreaths of theory,  
Let all the Muses round him wind  
And celebrate his fertile mind.

ABNER SHIMONY