Brief CV Iven Van Mechelen

Biosketch

Iven Van Mechelen is Full Professor of Quantitative Psychology and Individual Differences at KU Leuven (Belgium). He received an MSc degree in mathematics from U Antwerpen (1980), a master of psychology degree from KU Leuven (1984) and a PhD in psychology (1989) from KU Leuven. Dr Van Mechelen published methodological work on clustering models, multiway models, benchmarking, optimal treatment regime estimation (along with treatment-subgroup interactions), and data fusion, in addition to substantive work in the areas of individual differences and personality psychology, and the psychology of emotions. He served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Classification*, and undertook numerous refereeing tasks for international journals, funding organizations, and appointments/promotions of faculty members abroad. Dr Van Mechelen has been President of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS), after having served during many years on the IFCS Executive Committee. He is Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute and Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science. He received research funding from FWO, IWT, Belgian Federal Science Policy, and KU Leuven.

Positions

1985-1989 Junior fellow of the National Fund for Scientific Research (KU Leuven, Belgium)
1989-1991 Senior fellow of the National Fund for Scientific Research (KU Leuven, Belgium)
1991-1993 Postdoctoral fellow of the Research Fund KU Leuven, Belgium
1993-now Professor [Assistant with tenure (Hoofddocent) 1993-1997; Associate (Hoogleraar) 1997-2001; Full (Gewoon Hoogleraar) 2001-present] at KU Leuven, Belgium

Supervision of PhD students and postdocs

Iven Van Mechelen has directed 16 PhD students as supervisor and 6 as co-supervisor. In addition, he has supervised a large number of master thesis students and interns, and 17 postdocs.

Involvement in North-South collaborations

2015 prospecting visit to 7 South-African universities, scientifically sponsored by the International Federation of Classification Societies and the South African Statistical Association, and funded by a prospecting grant from the KU Leuven Interfaculty Council for Development Cooperation; follow-up visits to U. Polokwane and UKZN in South-Africa, with explorations for starting mentoring relations with PhD students and PhD holders

2016 co-promoter of VLIR-UOS cross-cutting project “Statistics for development”; follow-op visit at U. Polokwane, with mentoring of PhD student and PhD holder during and after this visit; organization of workshop at Addis Ababa U. on mentoring junior supervisors of PhD theses in statistics; discussions during and after visit on overall situation of Ethiopian statistics with ESA president

2017 recipient of Global Minds funding on mentoring in statistics; mentoring of a few PhD holders in South Africa and Ethiopia; deep reflection and discussion on how a conceptually well-founded academic trajectory in statistics should look like, with workshops and follow-up talks at UWC (South Africa) and Addis Ababa U.

2018-2020 co-promoter of VLIR-UOS JOINT project “Statistics for development”; in-person and online mentoring of a few PhD holders; deep reflection and discussion on how a first principles, conceptually well-founded academic trajectory in statistics should look like, with workshops and follow-up talks in Guayaquil (Ecuador, with ESPOL-staff members), and Bishoftu (Ethiopia, with representatives from 10 Ethiopian universities); meeting with representatives from eight 1st generation Ethiopian universities to prepare follow-up workshop; follow-up workshop and meetings (in-person and online) to identify and prioritize problems on the way forward towards the desired academic trajectory.

2023 promoter of Erasmus+ CBHE project “Sustainably Strengthening Statistical Science – Socio-economic Community Interaction”, involving eight first-generation Ethiopian universities, and with two specific objectives: (1) strengthening statistics education to deliver MSc graduates who can effectively address societally and economically relevant questions from a broad range of customers in statistical consultancy; (2) strengthening PhD holders in statistics to enable them to build a research program of their own as a sustainable basis for an effective, South-owned PhD supervision. (After having been awarded, the project could not be started due to a disagreement between the funding agency and a few partner universities in the project consortium, unrelated to the project itself.)

Honors and Awards

1993	Award of the Research Council of KU Leuven
2000	Advisor of the doctoral dissertation of Iwin Leenen, who was given the Dissertation Award of the Psychometric Society.
2006	Award for best 2005 paper in *Journal of Research in Personality* (for paper co-authored by Kristof Vansteelandt and John Nezlek)
2007	Fellow Association for Psychological Science
2017	Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute

Publications

About 173 international publications, of which 148 international peer-reviewed journal papers, 1 edited book, 3 edited special issues of international journals, and 21 book chapters and chapters in proceedings of international conferences.

(for all publications since 1999, see http://ppw.kuleuven.be/okp/people/Iven_Van_Mechelen/)