

Introduction (translated from French) by Dean Jean-Philippe Bonardi, Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Lausanne, June 4, 2021*

It is a great honor to stand before you today to award an Honorary Doctorate to Professor Bin Yu. This is obviously a difficult task given the breadth and importance of her contributions, but I will nevertheless try.

After obtaining a BS degree in Mathematics in 1984 from Peking University, Professor Bin Yu went on to study Statistics at the University of California, Berkeley, where she obtained a PhD in 1990. Since 2006, she has held the Chancellor's Professorship in the Department of Statistics and the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at Berkeley.

There are several reasons why the Faculty of Business and Economics suggested her name to the University of Lausanne's administration. The first is related to her international reputation, which is nearly unrivalled in her field. Professor Bin Yu is considered one of the most influential statisticians of her time. She has received numerous prizes and awards, including the Guggenheim Fellowship in 2006 and the Elizabeth Scott Award in 2018, a distinction that recognizes a statistician for their efforts in fostering the careers of women in statistics. Bin Yu is also an elected member of several prestigious scientific institutes and societies such as the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, for which she served as President from 2012 to 2015. She was also one of the first action editors of the Journal of Machine Learning Research.

The second reason why we are extremely pleased to award this Honorary Doctorate to Professor Bin Yu is related to the impact of her work in the discipline of Data Science, that will undoubtedly be central to tomorrow's economy. In her research, Professor Bin Yu is actively involved in the development of theoretical foundations for random forests, deep learning, artificial intelligence, interpretable machine learning, and veridical data science, all with the aim of better understanding these models from a mathematical, statistical, and computational perspective. This work contributes to solving scientific problems in many fields, such as neuroscience, genomics and remote sensing.

The final reason why we are so proud to recognize Professor Bin Yu today is because of her character and her openness to others and to the world. Her contributions are far from being confined to the scientific community, and are part of collective efforts to build a better world. In this sense, Professor Bin Yu has recently received significant media coverage, particularly with respect to her work on the prediction of COVID-19 severity in the United States.

So there you have it, reputation, impact, and openness: three things that guide us at the Faculty of Business and Economics. Thank you, Professor Bin Yu, for leading the way. We look forward to working with you for years to come!

I would now like to invite you to watch an interview of Professor Bin Yu by journalist Nathalie Randin.

** Introduction written in French and translated into English by Professors Jean-Philippe Bonardi and Valerie Chavez-Demoulin. Thanks to Professor Sandrine Dudoit for her input on the English version.*