

Preface

This is the first of two special issues of *Mathematical Methods in Economics and Finance* devoted to the *International Conference MAF 2012 – Mathematical and Statistical Methods for Actuarial Sciences and Finance*.

The conference was held in Venice (Italy), from April 10 to 12, 2012, at the prestigious Cavalli Franchetti palace of the *Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti*. It was organized by the Department of Economics of the Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy).

The conference was the fifth in an international biennial series, which began in 2004. It was born out of a brilliant idea by colleagues – and friends – of the Department of Economics and Statistical Sciences of the University of Salerno (Italy): the insight following which the cooperation between mathematicians and statisticians working in actuarial sciences, in insurance and in finance could improve the research on these topics.

The proof of the merits of this idea is given by the wide participation to the conference. In particular:

- more than 120 accepted communications, organized in 40 parallel sessions;
- about 180 attendants, including academics, researchers and professionals;
- attendants and contributors from more than 20 countries.

This special issue collects a series of original papers freely submitted to the journal by contributors of the conference. Following the standard praxis of *Mathematical Methods in Economics and Finance*, each of these papers has been peer reviewed by at least two anonymous referees.

Guest Editor (and co-Chair of the conference):

Marco Corazza

