

# Preface

In this volume many of the plenary lecturers of the *33rd Conference on Stochastic Processes and Their Applications* present their personal snapshots of recent important developments that they have been involved in within the area of stochastic processes and their applications. This reflects the idea leading us to compose this congress report: to present a collection of survey type articles that offer a glimpse of the state-of-the-art in many of the promising and thriving fields of the area of stochastic processes and their applications at the moment this SPA conference was held.

One of our hopes is that this collection may help young scientists in setting up research goals in the wide scope of fields represented in this volume.

To our knowledge, this is the first time that proceedings of an SPA conference has been published. The idea for this volume grew among the organizers in Spring 2009, and after a meeting with Professor Marta Sanz-Solé from the Bernoulli Society in Berlin and upon approval by both the CCSP<sup>1</sup> and the publishing committee of the Bernoulli Society we decided to go ahead with it. As a particularly welcome effect of this volume we could imagine starting a tradition for forthcoming SPA events.

We wish to thank all contributing plenary speakers, anonymous referees and the EMS publishing house for making this volume possible.

On behalf of the 33rd SPA organizing committee: Enjoy reading!

Berlin and Potsdam, June 2011

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<sup>1</sup>'Committee for conferences on stochastic processes' of the Bernoulli Society.

