

About the history of Multiple Correspondence Analysis

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The CARME 2011 venue (Rennes) has witnessed in 1965 the dissertation of the late Brigitte Cordier-Escofier (Sur l'analyse des correspondances; directed by Jean-Paul Benzécri). It provides an opportunity to call to mind the upsurge of exploratory multivariate data analysis that follows the year 1965 (under the name: "Analyse des données" in francophone countries). Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) has emerged as such in the seventies, but its history, indissoluble from the history of Correspondence Analysis (CA), of which it is a variant, goes back much further in the past. The history of MCA and the simultaneous revival of induction in statistics will then be a pretext to talk about the giants on whose shoulders we were seated...