

Long-time DSI member Rhonda Lummus recommended the annual meeting to me for its supportive and welcoming atmosphere combined with excellent research. And she was so right. After attending my first DSI in 2016 I have not missed a single annual conference and also enjoyed the eDSI events in Udine and Nottingham. The DSI conferences are so awesome for connecting with old friends and making new ones during the social events, breakfasts, luncheons and dinners. Conference sessions provide access to cutting-edge research and methodological topics while the keynotes present current insights from industry. New members are greeted with the DSI New Member Reception and Buddy Program where they meet experienced DSI members who help them get the most out of the conference. I also found the mid-career consortium extremely helpful for understanding and planning out the next career steps. A true highlight for me was the 50th annual meeting in New Orleans with its packed program, including a NASA Michoud Assembly Plant Tour and a Welcome Reception at Mardi Gras World. For me it is the wonderful and welcoming members that make DSI so special!

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