From: Statistical Society of Australia
To: Contact us
Subject: Stats Matters & Events
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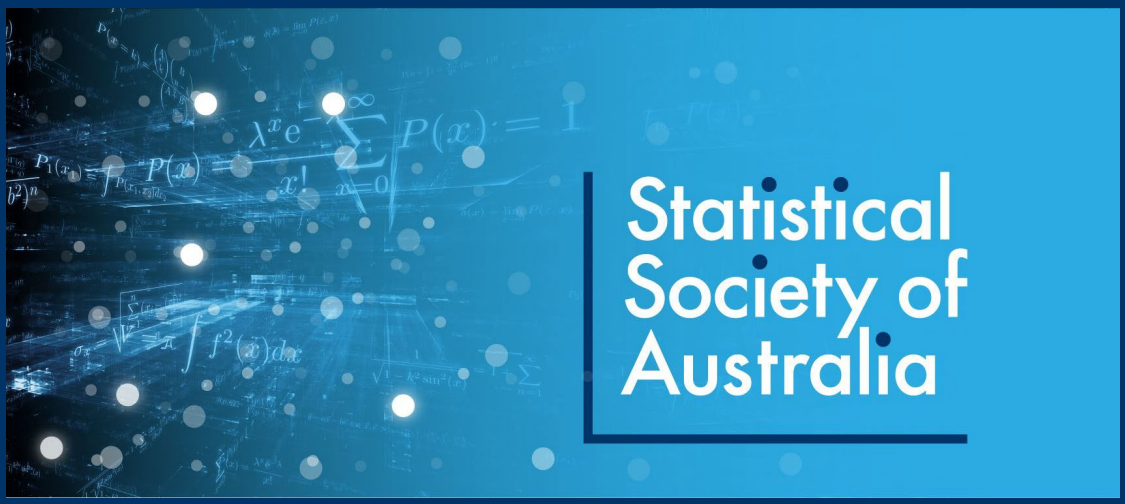


STATS MATTERS & EVENTS

14 December 2023

Greetings from the Australian Statistical Conference & OZCOTS 2023. It's day four of our first in-person ASC since 2018, and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many of our members again. Then there are the new members who only signed up recently. It's been wonderful to meet them and to be able to put a face to the name.

The vibe at the conference has been fantastic. I think most delegates feel the way I do: just so pleased to meet in person again. While there were obviously many serious conversations going on, it was uplifting to hear so much laughter and a bit of banter at our event.

I'll leave the write-up of the specific talks to the people who actually know what they were listening to. For those who missed all the action in Wollongong, I'll treat you to some of our many photographs, allowing you you participate from afar. Hopefully you'll be able to make it to ASC2025 in Perth!

Until next week!

Marie-Louise Rankin
Executive Officer

Read newsletter in your browser

In this newsletter:

John Carlin awarded Pitman Medal at ASC23

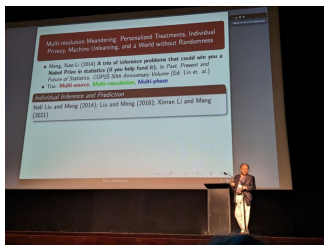
The Tjanpi Award for best Student paper in Environmental Statistics

Latest issue of Significance out now!

SSA events

Other events

Current Job Vacancies



A few shots of our days in Wollongong. From top left to right:

ASC Local Organising Committee members Thomas Fung, Gordana Popovic with Committee Chair Clara Grazian

Beautiful Wollongong

Wollongong harbour

Next line: Sir David Spiegelhalter with Event Coordinator Jodi Phillips, Statistical Consulting workshop panel Julie Simpson, Karin Lamb, Emily Karahalios, Sue Finch

Professor Xiao-Li Meng delivering the Foreman Lecture

Wollongong Lighthouse

Executive Officer Marie-Louise Rankin

Afternoon activity - Rock climbing - Fiona Evans showing off her skills (thanks for the photograph, Fiona!)

If you have good photographs of the conference that you don't mind sharing, please email them to me (eo@statsoc.org.au).

Congratulations to John Carlin on being awarded the 2023 Pitman Medal

The Pitman Medal is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in, and contribution to, the discipline of Statistics.

Professor John B. Carlin has, and continues to make significant contributions to statistical methodology and biostatistical education in Australia as a teacher, mentor and program coordinator.

Image: Jodi Phillips

The Society Awards for 2023 will be announced this afternoon. More about the awards in next week's issue.

The Tjanpi Award for best Student paper in Environmental Statistics

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2023 Tjanpi Award, the annual

student prize for best student paper in environmental statistics, sponsored by the SSA Environmental Statistics Section. To be eligible a student must be:

- An author of a paper that has been accepted during 2023, having made a substantial contribution to the work
- A student as of 30 June 2023
- A current member of the SSA and the Environmental Statistics Section

The winner will receive $500 and will be asked to present in an invited session on environmental statistics at the next annual stats conference.

Please submit your nominations to eo@statsoc.org.au (self-nominations welcome), with Tjanpi Award submission in the header, by 5 PM AEDT Friday 1st March 2024, including:

- Full name, institution

- Paper, as one pdf file.

- Letter of support from supervisor or other academic at the institution, confirming student status of applicant and describing the student's role in the paper.

David Warton
Chair, Environmental Statistics Section

Central Australian landscape dominated by Tjanpi, photo by Sara Winter

Tjanpi is the Pitjantjatjara word for Triodia, a spiny tussock-forming grass that dominates the vegetation across more than 20% of Australia's land mass. It is a long-lived plant that makes deep roots and can withstand the hardiest of conditions. It can grow over decades into characteristic ring formations three metres in diameter. As a source of food and shelter, Tjanpi is fundamental to life in some of Australia's most extreme conditions, being central to highly diverse ecosystems dominated by termites and ants, as well as reptiles, birds and small mammals. It has also been traditionally used by Indigenous people for a range of purposes, including building shelters, making an adhesive resin, basket weaving, fishing and using its seeds as a food source.

Tjanpi is an analogy for the Environmental Statistics student award – because the development and application of appropriate statistical techniques is fundamental to good environmental research, and our hope is that the recipient of this award will grow over the coming decades to become central to a diverse range of interesting research endeavours!

Latest issue of Significance out now!

Your brand-new December issue of Significance includes a 7-page tribute to C R Rao, as well as articles diving into the stats behind human trafficking, women's football, Robodebt, political parachutists, the rocketing popularity of Korean culture + more.

Access the digital version of *Significance* through your membership portal. You need to be logged in with your membership details to be able to open your digital copy and then go to https://www.statsoc.org.au/SignificanceAccess.

Print issues will be mailed to subscribers soon.

See more here.

SSA Events

Step by Step in Survey Weighting

15 Feb 2024 (AEDT) – 7 Mar 2024 (AEDT), held online- live 1 hour sessions on Thursdays at 6pm AEDT

The Social Research Centre and the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) are very proud to offer statistical training from the International Program in Survey and Data Science (IPSDS), a joint program of the University of Mannheim and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. Places are limited, please register early to take advantage of early bird discounts and secure a place.

About the course:

Step by Step in Survey Weighting is a statistical methods class that combines hands-on applications and general review of the theory for survey weighting giving participants the necessary tools to calculate analysis weights for various survey designs in a real-world setting. The course will focus on methods to

solve practical problems while providing overview of the theory for the underlying assumptions. Weekly homework problems are included to reinforce learning and provide opportunity to apply methods in practice. Participants are encouraged to discuss their own weighting challenges and solutions during weekly online meetings. Click here for more details

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Introduction to Big Data & Machine Learning

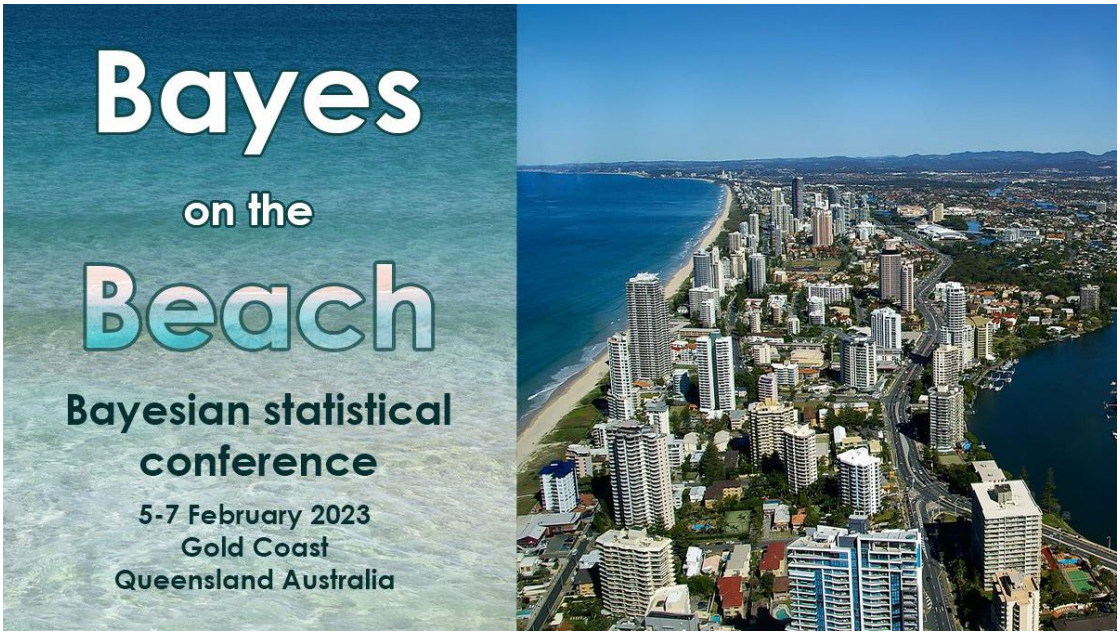
6 Feb 2024 (AEDT) – 27 Feb 2024 (AEDT), held online

The Social Research Centre and the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) are very proud to offer statistical training from the International Program in Survey and Data Science (IPSDS), a joint program of the University of Mannheim and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. Places are limited, please register early to take advantage of early bird discounts and secure a place.

About the course:

The amount of data generated as a by-product in society is growing fast including data from satellites, sensors, transactions, social media and smartphones, just to name a few. Such data are often referred to as "big data" and can be used to create value in different areas such as health and crime prevention, commerce and fraud detection. Big Data are often used for prediction and classification tasks. Both of which can be tackled with machine learning techniques. In this course, we explore how Big Data concepts, processes and methods can be used within the context of Survey Research. Throughout this course we will illustrate key concepts using specific survey research examples including tailored survey designs and nonresponse adjustments and evaluation. For details click here.

Other events



Registrations now open!

Current Vacancies in SSA's Career Centre

Biostatistician - Office of Research and Education

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra Health Services

What can we offer you:City living without the ...

Internal Revenue Agent (Examiner) - DIRECT HIRE (12 MONTH REGISTER)

Multiple Locations (See Description)

Internal Revenue Service

Summary: Positions under this announcement are ...

View All Jobs

If you have news from the Australian statistical community to share in Stats Matters and Events, please get in touch with us! We love getting feedback too.

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