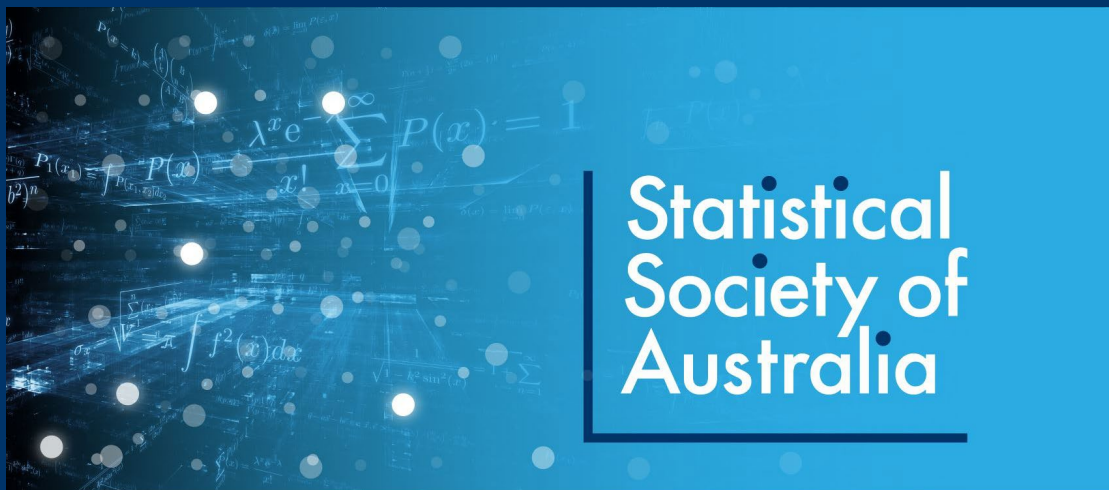


**From:** [Statistical Society of Australia](#)  
**To:** [Contact us](#)  
**Subject:** Stats Matters & Events  
**Date:** Thursday, 9 March 2023 3:58:57 PM



## STATS MATTERS & EVENTS

9 March 2023

Dear Contact,

We have talked a lot about surveys these last couple of weeks, as the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) is conducting some research to help us create a Strategic Plan that will serve all our members. I understand though that the constant request for surveys can get tiring. When I go through the emails in the inbox of my home email account, it sometimes seems as if every other email is about a survey. Posted a parcel lately? There will be an email, asking how my experience at the Post Office was. Gone for dinner? For sure the restaurant or the booking facilitator will enquire about my dinner. Bought a gift for someone else? Once again – there is the email, asking me how happy I am with the purchase, when I really have no idea, as I gave it away.

Every time I have my car serviced, I receive a follow-up invitation to complete a survey. However, when picking up my car, the technician handing it over will already ask me not to give a score of anything less than ten out of ten. On a recent cruise we had to endure a public announcement on the last night, imploring passengers to please, please complete the survey coming our way after our return home. Not only that, but it was essential that we should give a score of ten out of ten. When the survey arrived, it contained the question: "Were you asked to give a score of ten out of ten?" I was puzzled. Was the management after the top score, and is the crew therefore instructed to call for

top reviews? What would be the point of conducting a survey if you demand specific answers? Or was the management checking to see if passengers were harassed by requests for good reviews? My overall feeling was that it was the cruise line's management chasing top scores.

I just know that as a manager of an enterprise I would want to know what customers honestly think, and it would never occur to me to request a positive review.

As for SSA's [survey](#): Thank you to everyone who has participated and shared their honest views with us. The time you have spent answering the questions and taking a moment to reflect on the direction you would like the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) to take in the future is truly much appreciated.

[Marie-Louise Rankin](#)  
SSA Executive Officer

*Read newsletter in your [browser](#)*

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### **In this newsletter:**

[Real World Data Science](#)

[A hydrologist, a climatologist, a statistician, an economist, and a geospatial scientist walk into a bar](#)

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[Oceania Stata Conference 2023](#)

[SSA Events](#)

[Other Events](#)

[Job vacancies in SSA's Career Centre](#)

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### **Real World Data Science**

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) has launched [Real World Data Science](#), a new data science content platform that aims to inform, inspire and strengthen the data science community by showcasing real-world examples of data science practice and bringing together data scientists to share knowledge.

Case studies of data science applications will be a core feature of the site, as will “explainers” of the ideas, tools, and methods that make data science projects possible. The site will also host exercises and other material to

support the training and development of data science skills.

Real World Data Science editors welcome content proposals from SSA branches, sections and members. All published content is free to read. To discuss content ideas, please email [Brian Tarran](mailto:brian.tarran@rwdscience.com).

Follow Real World Data Science on [GitHub](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Mastodon](#) and [Twitter](#).

You might be wondering how this new platform relates or differs to [Significance](#), the magazine we publish together with the RSS and the ASA?

*Significance* is produced as a magazine and aims to reach a very broad audience, including non-statisticians. Typically, articles would not go into very much technical detail.

Real World Data Science is an online platform and aims at a somewhat narrower audience: data scientists, but including students and teachers, not just practitioners. Content on Real World Data Science can be interactive and can go into some technical detail. In fact, the whole platform is built on [Quarto](#), which will be familiar to many of us.

If you are interested in writing for either *Significance* or Real World Data Science and would like some 'local' advice, feel free to email our representatives on the Significance Editorial Board: [Damjan Vukcevic](#) or [Susanna Cramb](#) (currently filling in for Karen Lamb).

By Brian Tarran (Editor, Real World Data Science) and Damjan Vukcevic (SSA representative, Significance Editorial Board)

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## **A hydrologist, a climatologist, a statistician, an economist, and a geospatial scientist walk into a bar**

The bar is located near a dam, and while the scientists share a drink, they each have their own particular thoughts about the nearby dam, influenced by their professional field of expertise. While one scientist may wonder how the region around the dam has been affected by climate change, another one may think about the location of the communities upstream and downstream, while the third scientist may be concerned about how local businesses may be struggling due to flooding. They all bring their own knowledge to the table.

Soon they realise that their questions are more complex than any of them have considered before, and they will require collaboration. They recognise that they need data, which may be big and difficult to access, organise, and process. They need a variety of data types, such as precipitation and streamflow data from past and present, census and elevation data, and text data from local

news media and government sources. None of them know how to obtain and clean the data from outside their fields, let alone combine and analyse it in a valid and meaningful way. Now if only there was a way to collect data centrally across different disciplines and have it all in one spot! But wait - there is.

In their article "Many sciences make light(er) work in a big problem, big data world" published by Directions Magazine on 28 February 2023, authors Sue Nichols, Deanna Hence, Shaowen Wang and Diana Sinton explain how the Institute for Geospatial Understanding through an Integrative Discovery Environment (I-GUIDE) has created a computing environment to support interdisciplinary research and education.

I-GUIDE's platform is designed to harness vast, diverse and distributed geospatial data to make it accessible and usable to convergence research and education enabled by cutting-edge cyberGIS and cyberinfrastructure. Its aim is to transform convergence and geospatial sciences for solutions to complex societal problems. The I-GUIDE platform is where separate cyberinfrastructure components converge to form a seamless environment to support scientific research. This is the platform where interdisciplinary sciences meet.

I-GUIDE's tagline is "Map, Connect, and Discover.", and the Institute does just that by enabling easier access to data that drives our maps, inspiring our connections, and accelerating our discoveries.

[Read the full article here](#)

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### **Only five days left to have your say!**

Thank you to everyone who has already shared their views in SSA's Strategic Planning survey. Haven't had a chance yet? No worries, you still have until next Monday. By sharing your views, we will make sure to consider your needs as we plan our activities for the next few years.

One question in particular has generated a lot of interest: "How should the Statistical Society of Australia interact with data science?" So many views, so many opinions! What is your view?

Follow this [link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y9V66JF) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y9V66JF) and let us know.

Thank you in advance!

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**Statistics | Data | Analytics | Solutions**

### **Oceania Stata Conference 2023**

The Oceania Stata Conference 2023 was held online on 9 February 2023. Presenters from Australia, Austria, UK and US spoke on a range of topics including building connected dashboards in Stata; advanced graphics in Stata; and Difference-in-Differences. Well-known econometrician Jeff Wooldridge from Michigan State University presented “Rolling Estimation Methods for Staggered Difference-in-Differences” while Annalivia Polselli from the University of Essex spoke on “Influence Analysis with Panel Data using Stata”. The conference brought together more than 200 people keen to learn more about Stata and learn techniques, tools and features of Stata.

The conference organiser, [Survey Design and Analysis Services \(SDAS\)](#), the distributor of Stata in Australia, Indonesia, and New Zealand is a regular sponsor of SSA events.

Recordings of the conference are now available and can be accessed [here](#).

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### **Awards and opportunities**

#### **Eureka Prizes**

The 2023 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are now open for nominations. Winners will take home a share of a total prize pool of \$180,000.

There are 18 prizes this year across the four prize categories: Research & Innovation, Leadership, Science Engagement and School Science.

Key dates:

- Entries close 7pm AEST Friday 14 April
- Finalists announced Wednesday 19 July
- Winners announced at Award Ceremony Wednesday 23 August

See more information on the [Australian Museum website](#).

## **ATSE Awards**

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering recognising excellence in STEM with awards including:

- Clunies Ross Awards
- Batterham Medal for Engineering Excellence
- ICM Agrifood Award
- Ezio Rizzardo Polymer Scholarship
- David & Valeria Solomon Award
- ATSE President's Medal

Visit the [awards portal](#).

## **ABC Top 5 Media Residency**

The ABC are searching for Australia's emerging thinkers and communicators.

The ABC TOP 5 is for dynamic early-career PhD scholars or Arts practitioners, with a flair and passion for communicating their work to a non-academic audience.

The TOP 5 media residencies are designed to develop the communication skills and media awareness of Australia's emerging thinkers, helping researchers share their knowledge and expertise with audiences seeking credible information and informed debate.

The successful applicants spend two weeks 'in residence' at ABC Radio National, working alongside some of the country's best journalists and broadcasters, training in media communication and developing content for different ABC platforms.

In addition to audio, they will also get the opportunity to engage with other teams across the ABC including in TV and digital.

Applications will be announced on the [ABC website](#) soon.

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**Mentioned in previous newsletters (click on the relevant heading to find out details)**

[Society Awards](#) - Do you know anyone deserving of one of SSA's Society Awards?

[ASC 2023: Call for Abstract Reviewers](#) (deadline 31 March 2023)

[Expression of Interest in Survey and Data Science Courses in 2023–24](#)

[2023 Venables Award for Developers of Open Source Software for Data Analytics](#) - Call for submissions

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## SSA Events

**SSA WA Branch: 2023 Annual General Meeting followed by talk “High-resolution analysis of the human immune response to pathogens: implications for vaccine design”**

Tuesday, 14 March 2023, 5:15PM to 6:00PM AWST (AGM), 6:00PM to 7:00PM AWST (Guest Lecture).

Cheryl Praeger Lecture Room, The University of Western Australia and online via Zoom.

Non-members of the SSA WA Branch may be present but cannot vote on AGM matters. Following the AGM, at 6:00PM, we shall hear from Associate Professor Silvana Gaudieri who will deliver the guest lecture.

High-resolution analysis of the human immune response to pathogens: implications for vaccine design

*Dr Silvana Gaudieri - Associate Professor, The University of Western Australia.*

Our group utilises next generation sequencing technologies to examine how variation in the host and viral genome impacts specific anti-viral immune responses at the single cell level. Such analyses have identified signatures of an effective immune response to specific viruses and following sequential vaccinations. Overall, our high-resolution approach can help understand the differential outcomes following viral infection and inform vaccine design.

Learn more and register [here](#).

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**SSA NSW Branch: 2023 Annual General Meeting and Lancaster Lecture**

16 Mar 2023, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM (AEDT)

We are happy to announce the 75th (2023) Annual General Meeting (AGM), to be followed by the Lancaster Lecture given by Professor Samuel Muller “Ctrl-Alt-Delete & Repeat: Learning more from Complex Data”.

In this lecture, motivated by popular work from Henry Oliver Lancaster from the 1950s, we will explore how we can learn more from complex data. A premise is that all data are more complex than what they may seem to be at first sight: no matter their shape and structure, modality and messiness, their correlation and cohesion.

To register and to access the materials for the AGM, click [here](#).

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### **SSA SA Branch: 2023 Annual General Meeting.**

22 Mar 2023, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (ACDT), 182 Victoria Square, Flinders University, Level 2 Room 2.1

NEW PHARMACOTHERAPY FOR SLEEP APNOEA presented by Dr Amal Usman

To see more information and to register click [here](#).

The Zoom link is available [here](#).

Dinner will be held following the meeting. Details to follow.

RSVP to Aarti Gulyani ([aartigulyani@gmail.com](mailto:aartigulyani@gmail.com))

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### **SSA Vic Branch: 2023 Annual General Meeting**

28 Mar 2023, 5:15 PM – 6:00 PM (AEDT) at the Staff Tea Room, Peter Hall Building, The University of Melbourne, 813 Swanston St, Parkville VIC 3052 OR Online via Zoom

Following the conclusion of the AGM we will be hearing from Professor Gordon Smyth for our March event, titled "20 years of statistical bioinformatics: a brief history of the limma and edgeR packages".

To register for this talk and to find out more visit the [event page](#).

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### **SSA QLD Branch: Annual General Meeting and seminar**

29 Mar 2023, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM @ GP-P-419, P Block, Gardens Point Campus, QUT



Understanding the interpretation and presentation of statistical methods in the Australian criminal justice system presented by Lani Cronin .

Lani's PhD thesis (currently under examination) delves into how statistical evidence is presented in the Australian criminal justice system, examining how potential jurors and expert witnesses understand and present this evidence. In this presentation, Lani will provide valuable insights into the complexities of presenting statistical evidence in legal settings, highlight ways in which experts can assist in optimising lay comprehension, and discuss factors that may impact a potential juror's understanding of statistical evidence.

Click [here](#) to register.

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### **Mathematical Engineering of Deep Learning - Part One Foundations**

20 Apr 2023, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (AEST) held at Room 163, 14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Ave Macquarie University, NSW 2109, Australia

This workshop is presented by the NSW Branch and School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Macquarie University. It is targeted at people interested in engineering, signal processing, statistics, physics, econometrics, operations research, quantitative management, pure mathematics, bioinformatics, applied machine learning, or even applied deep learning.

For more details and to register click [here](#).

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### **[Item Nonresponse And Imputation Course](#)**

20 Jun 2023, 5:00 PM (AEST) – 11 Jul 2023, 6:00 PM (AEST), held online - weekly 1 hour live discussions with Professor Dr Jörg Drechsler

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The ASC2023 workshops are now open:

10 December 2023

### **[ASC 2023 Workshops- Essential Skills for Statistical Communication](#)**

### **[ASC 2023 Workshops-Statistical Consultancy – The Essentials for Getting Started and Ongoing Success](#)**

### **[ASC 2023 Workshops-Deep Statistics for More Rigorous and Efficient Data Science](#)**



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The logo for OZCOTS consists of the word "OZCOTS" in a bold, black, serif font, enclosed within a black rectangular border. Two horizontal lines extend from the left and right sides of the border.

### **ASC and OZCOTS 2023**

10-15 December 2023, University of Wollongong, NSW

Abstract submissions now open!

The Scientific Program Committee is pleased to invite authors to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations, to be delivered at ASC and OZCOTS 2023.

Please click [here](#) to submit your abstract. You will be asked to create an account with Oxford Abstract. Just follow the prompts.

Presenters should aim for 10-15 minute presentations. Depending on the number of submissions a final decision on the length of presentations will be made closer to the event.

The abstract submission deadline is 24 April 2023.

[Find out more](#)

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**Other Events**

## **Fundamentals of Choice Modelling and Applied Choice Modelling using Apollo**

The Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated (ACSPRI) and the University of Queensland Business School will be hosting **Stephane Hess**, Professor of Choice Modelling and Director of the Choice Modelling Centre at The University of Leeds (UK). He will offer two courses, in-person, at the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus in the week of 29 May - 2 June 2023.

For more details, including a detailed syllabus, follow the links below or feel free to contact ACSPRI at [info@acspri.org.au](mailto:info@acspri.org.au) or 03 8376 6496.

**ACSPRI has an early-bird discount if you enrol by 26 April 2023.**

**[Fundamentals of Choice Modelling](#)** with Stephane Hess

29-30 May 2023

Choice modelling is a specialised area of micro-econometrics that develops and applies mathematical models that represent human decision making. Choice models are used extensively to understand current behaviour and predict future choices in the applied fields of the economic sciences, especially environmental, health, and transport economics. Other application areas include business and marketing. In addition to addressing questions of academic interest, choice modelling informs policy and strategy making in these applied economic disciplines.

This 2-day masterclass introduces students to choice models, discusses and contrasts the family of available model structures, and also talks about the data requirements, model estimation, and the use of models to produce outputs for policy. The course consists of a mix of theoretical lectures and case studies.

**[Applied Choice Modelling using Apollo](#)** with Stephane Hess

1-2 June 2023

This 2-day masterclass provides participants with an introduction to applied choice modelling using the Apollo software. Apollo is open-source software for estimating choice models available in the R computing environment. The masterclass will be applied and place its emphasis on the implementation of the methods and models used by choice modellers and on the analysis and interpretation of choice modelling results.

The masterclass will introduce participants to the software and to the family of choice models estimable within Apollo. The focus will be “hands-on” exercises

and estimating choice models using Apollo with data provided by the instructor. The masterclass will place particular emphasis on model estimation and interpretation. The exercises will span a range of application areas including environmental, health, and transport economics.

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### Job vacancies in [SSA's Career Centre](#)

#### [Consulting Statistician \(early - mid career\)](#)

Victoria

Symbolix

We are looking for an early career Consulting ...

#### [Postdoctoral Fellow](#)

Australian Capital Territory

Australian National University

Classification:ANU Academic Level A Salary package: ...

#### [Lecturer / Senior Lecturer in Biostatistics](#)

South Australia

School of Public Health, The University of Adelaide

Applications must be submitted through The University ...

[View All Jobs](#)

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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.

[Unsubscribe](#)