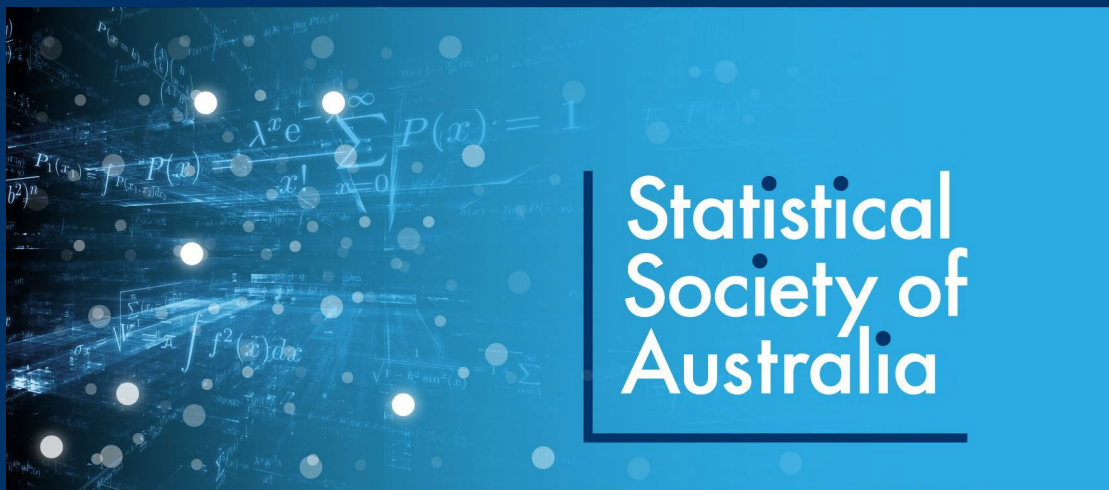


From: [Statistical Society of Australia](#)
To: [Contact us](#)
Subject: Stats Matters & Events
Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023 2:04:51 PM



STATS MATTERS & EVENTS

16 March 2023

Dear Contact,

Last weekend, I joined four other statisticians in a skydive. We were treated to [marvellous views](#) of Melbourne as we floated down to the ground early on Saturday morning.

Some of our colleagues were disturbed to hear of our plans, and even thought it reckless to be putting so much local statistical expertise at risk! That got me thinking, how dangerous was it? Of course, I waited until after our skydive to look this up...

A convenient measure of this type of risk is a [micromort](#): representing a one-in-a-million chance of dying due to a given event or activity. We can look back at historical data to get a rough assessment for any activity. For skydiving, it is about 8 micromorts. This is averaged across a large number of skydives. In our case, since we were jumping in tandem with very experienced instructors, I would guess our risk would be lower than this average.

How does this compare to other, more familiar, activities?

Running a marathon or doing a scuba dive are of similar risk to a skydive. As is riding a motorbike for 80 km (Melbourne to Geelong), driving a car for 3000 km

(Adelaide to Darwin) or flying 13,000 km (Melbourne to Seattle). I don't know if that would reassure my risk-averse colleagues, or terrify them to stay at home.

Some much riskier activities are BASE jumping (430 micromorts) and climbing Mount Everest (40,000 micromorts). I'm definitely staying away from these!

For more on this topic, I recommend Hassan Vally's 2017 article in *The Conversation* on [how deadly our daily activities are](#).

Damjan Vukcevic
SSA Treasurer

Read newsletter in your [browser](#)

In this newsletter:

[2023 SSA PhD Top-Up Scholarships: the SSA wants to support you!](#)

[The Random Sample - latest episode out now](#)

[SSA Events](#)

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


2023 SSA PhD Top-Up Scholarships: the SSA wants to support you!



Are you undertaking a PhD or Masters degree with a project in the development of statistical or data science methodology, in the assessment of statistical or data science methodology, or in the development of statistical/data science software?




The Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) wants to support you!

Up to 4 Scholarships, worth \$2500 each, will be awarded to *SSA student members*. Find out more about the [eligibility criteria](#) and find the application form [here](#).

**THE
RANDOM
SAMPLE**

**Large Language Models
& ChatGPT** 

**Simon
Angus**   **Cynthia
Huang**

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The Random Sample

The latest podcast of season 7 is now live! It explores large language models and ChatGPT.

Your host, Cynthia Huang, speaks with guest Associate Professor Simon Angus from Monash University. To listen, just search for "The Random Sample" where you get your podcasts, or click [here](#).

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

SSA Events

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](#).

A dark blue graphic with a background of faint charts and data points. In the top left is the KBI logo. In the top right is the Statistical Society of Australia logo. The main text reads: "KBI Specialist Insurance Brokers & Statistical Society of Australia Tailored Insurance Webinar Series". Below this, a blue box contains the topic: "Topic: Why Statisticians should have a tailored insurance program." To the right, the date is "Date: 21/03/2023", the time is "Time (AEST): 11:30AM - 12:30PM", and the host is "Hosted by Tyler Speers". At the bottom center is a large blue button with the text "REGISTER NOW".

KBI

Statistical Society of Australia

**KBI Specialist Insurance Brokers & Statistical Society of Australia
Tailored Insurance Webinar Series**

Topic: Why Statisticians should have a tailored insurance program.

Date: 21/03/2023
Time (AEST): 11:30AM - 12:30PM
Hosted by Tyler Speers

REGISTER NOW

The Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) and KBI Insurance Brokers are pleased to announce the following webinar:

Why statisticians should have a tailored insurance program

When: 21 Mar 2023 11:30 AM, AEST, held online (Microsoft Teams)

The Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) and KBI are working together to offer SSA members tailored insurance options at competitive rates. Please join SSA and KBI specialist insurance brokers for this special event.

Register [here](#).

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)

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](#).

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.

ECSSN SSA and NZSA Joint Webinar Series: Academia vs Industry: A

statistical viewpoint

Presented by Dr Clair Alston-Knox, Senior Statistician, Head of Visualisation Development and Statistical Modelling, Predictive Analytics Group

30 Mar 2023, 2:00 PM AEDT, held online

Statistics is a skill that is essential for progress in multiple environments. In academia, we apply these skills to understanding measurements produced in research. In industry, these skills are required to make sound decisions based on the best available information. However, the mindset needed to approach problem-solving in these sectors has many subtle and sometimes not-so-subtle differences.

In this talk, Dr Alston-Knox will discuss, based on her personal experience, aspects of academia and industry that differ and the pros and cons for each. This will include the level of statistical difficulty, biased perceptions between workers in each sector, timeframes, technology, extraneous responsibilities, communication, teams and administration.

To register click [here](#).

Statistical Consulting Network March Meet-Up

31 Mar 2023, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM AEDT, held online

Come along with your thinking cap, maybe a problem, and some lunch!

The Statistical Consulting Network invites you to their monthly meet-up, a virtual lunchtime meeting where statisticians help each other out with problems that they aren't sure how to deal with. This virtual meeting is held on Zoom at lunchtime on the last Friday of each month, 12:30-1:30 PM (AEDT). We start each meet-up with announcements, or occasionally a special topic discussion, then discuss problems that attendees have brought along with them.

We also have a Slack workspace where members of the consulting network can communicate between meetings, or post problems or relevant materials they would like to discuss during a meeting.

[Zoom link](#)

[Slack Workspace link](#)

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](#).

[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

The ASC2023 workshops are now open for registration:

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](#)



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](#)

Job Vacancies in SSA's Career Centre

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

Victoria

Symbolix

We are looking for an early career Consulting ...

[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.

[Unsubscribe](#)