

From: [Statistical Society of Australia](#)
To: [Marie-Louise Rankin](#)
Subject: Stats Matters & Events
Date: Thursday, 15 June 2023 3:53:11 PM



STATS MATTERS & EVENTS

15 June 2023

A lot has been said and will be said about ChatGPT and it's no secret that I'm a big fan. The other day I had a lightbulb moment, thinking of a way it could be made even better. I was cooking dinner while my daughter was doing an assignment at the kitchen benchtop. She was consulting ChatGPT, and I was laughing at how polite she was when communicating with ChatGPT, using "please" and "thank you" and ChatGPT reacted with a cheerful "You're welcome!" to my daughter's politeness.

So I thought, wouldn't it be wonderful if ChatGPT could be programmed to only respond to people who "speak" to it respectfully? If it ignored people who don't even try to be nice, or if it simply presented them with incorrect information, potentially creating an embarrassing situation for them with their peers?

ChatGPT could have the luxury that shop assistants, waiting staff and other people in the service industry don't have: If you treat me the wrong way, you won't be getting a service from me!

Over time, this might be the tool that turns society around and makes this world a better place. What's the probability?

Until next week!

[Marie-Louise Rankin](#)

Executive Officer

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In this newsletter:

[Winners of 2023 top-up scholarships](#)

[SSA Branches have opened applications for funding to attend ASC/OZCOTS 2023](#)

[Significance 100th issue \(June 2023\)](#)

[Abel Prize open for nominations](#)

[SSA events](#)

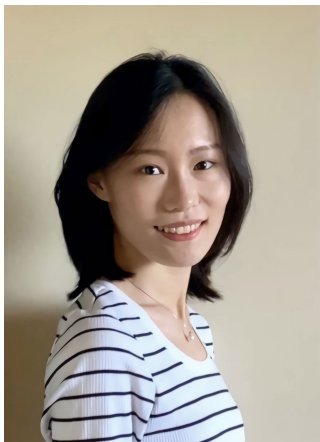
[Current Job Vacancies](#)

Winners of 2023 top-up scholarships

The Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) awards up to four top-up scholarships to PhD or Masters students each year. Scholarships are offered as a one year \$2,500 award, with one of these being funded by the Partnership Agreement between the SSA and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Just this week, the winners of the 2023 round were selected!

The lucky recipients of a 2023 Top-Up Scholarship are:



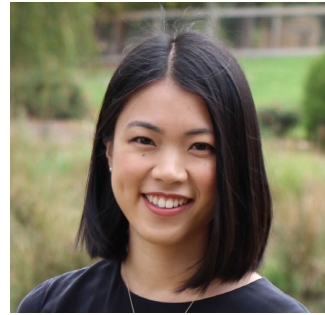
Jiaxin Zhang

Sensitivity analysis methods for outcome missingness assumptions in causal inference: accommodating the substantive analysis

Cynthia Huang

Principles and Methods for Dataset Preparation and Integration

[ABS Sponsorship](#)



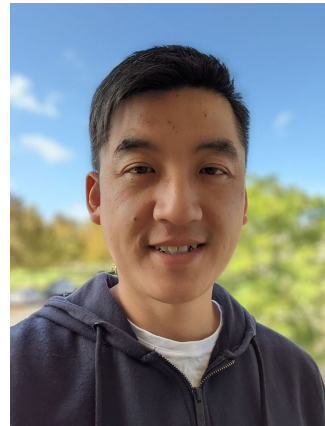
Mingqi He

Scalable inference of population histories from local gene genealogies



Shih Ching Fu

Analytical Techniques to detect and classify black holes and neutron stars in large astronomical surveys



Congratulations! We look forward to seeing where your excellent research topics will take you!

A list with the names of previous top-up scholarship recipients can be found [here](#).

SSA Branches have opened applications for funding to attend ASC/OZCOTS 2023

Branches of the Statistical Society are offering funding for student and early career members of the society to attend the [Australian Statistical Conference \(ASC\) and Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics \(OZCOTS\)](#) in Wollongong, 10th - 15th December 2023. All branch funding will cover registration to the conference, with some branches covering additional travel if funds allow. For full details see each branches' announcement.

- Canberra (check your email for 'Canberra branch ASC & OZCOTS 2023 rego grant')
- NSW ([application form](#))
- Queensland ([application form](#))
- South Australia & Northern Territory ([application form](#))
- Victoria & Tasmania ([application form](#))
- Western Australia ([application form](#))

Please note as well that the abstract submission outcome for [ASC & OZCOTS 2023](#) is now available! If you haven't received an email notification, you can view the outcome of your abstract submission by visiting our abstract management website: <https://oxfordabstracts.com/>. Simply log in to your account and you will find the results.

With best wishes,

ASC & OZCOTS 2023 Programming Committee

Significance 100th issue (June 2023)



Celebrating 100 issues of the magazine, this special edition features a look back at the origins of *Significance*, and how its mission to make statistical stories engaging and accessible continues today. Our cover story features reflections from founding editorial board members, past editors and prominent contributors on the magazine's journey from thought to thing, and what *Significance* means to them.

June issue highlights:

[Welcome to the 100th issue](#)

A look back at how *Significance* started, and what it means to those involved in its journey

[Data at the ballet](#) How statistics help dancers wow Royal Opera House audiences

[Swimming for all](#) Creating better competitions for swimmers across all age groups and disability classifications

[Law of small numbers](#)

“Gambler’s fallacy”, stereotyping and misinformation – the implications of human bias

[Dragons and data](#)

Breathing life (and fire!) into undergraduate statistics classes

[Interview: Anar Meshimbayeva](#) We catch up with the former head of Kazakhstan's national statistical office

Access the digital version of *Significance* through [your membership portal](#). Print issues will be mailed to subscribers soon.

Significance is also online at www.significancemagazine.com.

Abel Prize open for nominations

[The Abel Prize](#) recognises outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics, including mathematical aspects of computer science, mathematical physics, probability, numerical analysis and scientific computing, statistics and applications of mathematics in the sciences.

The right to nominate is open to anyone. The prize can be awarded to a single person or shared for closely related fundamental contributions.

The nomination should be accompanied by a CV, a description of the work and impact of the nominee/nominees, together with names of distinguished specialists in the field of the nominee/nominees who can be contacted for an independent opinion.

The nomination deadline is 1 September 2023.

[Find out how to nominate](#)

Other prizes and opportunities:

- The [veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program](#) for female and non-binary mid-career leaders, closes Monday 12 June.
 - The [ACT Emerging Scientist of the Year Award](#), closes Sunday 18 June.
 - The [NSW Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering](#), closes Wednesday 21 June.
 - The ATSE's [Elevate: Boosting Women in STEM scholarship program](#), closes 31 August.
-

Mentioned in a previous newsletter:

SSA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee: We want you!

The SSA's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee is charged with ensuring that our Society is welcoming and accessible to all. Since its formation in 2021, we've done many things to ensure diversity of our Society, including developing guidelines to help ensure Branch and Section events are welcoming and inclusive, seeking feedback on EDI issues from our members, and providing feedback to the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the inclusion of questions on sex and gender in future censuses. You can find out more about the committee [here](#).

If you're enthusiastic about equity, driven by diversity, or interested in inclusion, then we'd like to invite you to join the EDI Committee. For more information, please get in touch with the EDI Committee chair, [Jess Kasza](#).

SSA Events

Statistical Consulting Network May Meet-Up

30 June 2023, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM AEST, 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](#)

Tonight:

Navigating the Australian research funding landscape: a networking evening

15 Jun 2023, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM (ACST), The Braggs Building, 214 Seminar Room, University of Adelaide, North Terrace

The SA Branch of the Statistical Society of Australia Inc. invites you to a special networking event that will provide insights into navigating the Australian research funding ecosystem. The event is open to members and non-members members and very welcoming of non-statistician too.

At the event you will have the opportunity to learn and discuss the following key topics:

- Navigating the Australian funding landscape
- Positioning yourself as a sought-after collaborator on grant applications
- Key points to consider when crafting funding applications

We have two great presenters from the University of Adelaide, Dr Dale Godfrey (Director of Research Grants development) and Ms Suzanne Atkins (Research Development Manager), who will be on hand to answer your questions.

[Sign up here](#)

Tonight:

Vic&Tas Branch, SSA: Novel applications of cross-sectoral data linkage to understand and reduce health inequities among Australians in contact with the criminal justice system

15 Jun 2023, 6:00 PM (AEST), in person TBC or online via Zoom

Join the [SSA Vic & Tas branch](#) as we hear from **Professor Stuart Kinner** and **Lindsay Pearce** on their work using large, cross-sectoral data linkages, including important research design, and data management, analysis, and governance aspects.

Click [here](#) to register and get more information.

SSA ECSSN and NZSA joint webinar

Much more than just fitting models - perspective from an applied statistical scientist, presented by Olivia Angelin-Bonnet.

22 June 2023 2pm AEST, 4PM NZST

In this talk, Olivia Angelin-Bonnet will be giving an overview of her role as a statistical scientist working in the fields of Systems Biology and multi-omics integration. In particular, she will discuss how being an applied data scientist is about much more than just fitting models. Olivia will talk about how modern statistician and data science roles involve working with big and messy datasets, developing complex analysis pipelines, communicating results through reports and presentations, and implementing tools for disseminating our work. A number of principles and tools (e.g. data and code versioning, unit testing, workflow management systems) can support us through these activities to ensure our work is sustainable and reproducible. She will argue that mastering these principles is rapidly becoming a core competency for the modern statistical scientist.

To register click [here](#).

Statistics and Data Science Education: Connecting Disciplines

23 Jun 2023, 2:00 PM – 5:30 PM, Gibson Room, QUT Gardens Points Campus

Together with UQ's morning symposium ***Statistics and Data Science Education in Society***, the day's theme is ***Statistics and Data Science Education for All***. There will be two presenters: **Matt Beckman**, Department of Statistics and Statistics & Data Science Education Research Lab, Penn State University **Title:** *Progress toward natural language processing (NLP) assisted formative assessment feedback* and **Dani Ben-Zvi**, Professor in Statistics Education and Educational Technologies, Faculty of Education, University of Haifa, Israel. **Title:** *Reasoning with Data across Disciplines in Student-Based Citizen Science*

Nibbles will be provided after the presentation, and for those who wish to then continue discussion, we will move elsewhere for drinks. For more details and to register click [here](#).

NSW Branch, SSA: June event: Prof Lucy Marshall - Quantifying the known unknowns

27 Jun 2023, 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM (AEST), 14SCO T2 Theatre, Macquarie

University and via [Zoom](#)

Environmental models are essential tools for understanding complex natural systems and predicting the impacts of human activities on the environment. By simulating the behavior of physical, chemical, and biological processes in natural systems, environmental models can help make informed decisions about environmental management, policy, and planning. Environmental modeling has undergone significant advancements in recent years, transitioning from simplistic representations of ecological systems to sophisticated and integrated modeling platforms. However, these opportunities heighten the debate about the use of methods like machine learning in disciplines like hydrology, ecology, or biogeochemistry, that traditionally has relied on the knowledge of natural and engineered systems for model development (also known as 'physically-based' models). This presentation will provide insight into these issues across a range of modeling scenarios with a focus on Bayesian inference and its application to environmental systems

To register click [here](#).

Current Vacancies in SSA's Career Centre

[Internal Revenue Agent \(Examiner\) - DIRECT HIRE \(12 MONTH REGISTER\)](#)

Multiple Locations (See Description)

Internal Revenue Service

WHAT ARE THE APPEALS (AP), LARGE BUSINESS AND ...

[Lecturer in Statistics](#)

Australian Capital Territory

Australian National University

Job no: 544800 Work type: Continuing Location: ...

[Postdoctoral Fellow](#)

Australian Capital Territory

Australian National University

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

[Revenue Officer- DIRECT HIRE \(12 Month Register\)](#)

Multiple Locations (see description)

Internal Revenue Service

Duties WHAT IS THE DIVISION? SMALL BUSINESS ...

[Internal Revenue Agent \(Examiner\) - Direct Hire \(12 Month Register\)](#)

Multiple Locations (see description)

Internal Revenue Service

Duties WHAT ARE THE APPEALS (AP), LARGE BUSINESS ...

[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](#)