

From: [Statistical Society of Australia](#)
To: [Contact us](#)
Subject: Stats Matters & Events
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STATS MATTERS & EVENTS

16 November 2023

Compared to many other organisations, the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) is still in its infancy where social media is concerned. We started with Facebook and LinkedIn back in 2008, followed by Twitter, now called X, in 2014. Over time, some of our branches and sections have created their own pages and we support each other by following, liking and sharing each other's posts. Over time we have seen a direct link between our social media engagement and an increase in membership numbers. If you happen to be one of our many followers: Thank you for your support. To those having managed or still managing our social media pages: Thank you as well.

We have found that social media is a valuable tool for engaging with current members, reaching out to potential members and promoting statistical awareness and conversations within the community. With our social media presence we seek to enhance our visibility and facilitate communication among statisticians and anyone interested in the field.

Once in a while a little tidy-up is required and somehow SSA has found itself to be the owner of three (yes 3!!) LinkedIn pages. Since this makes no sense at all, we will be removing two of those pages on 4 December. If you are one of SSA's LinkedIn followers, would you please make sure you are following this

LinkedIn page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/68912581/admin/feed/posts/>.

If you want to continue to stay in touch with SSA via LinkedIn, please subscribe to this page as the other two pages will be removed shortly.

Thank you!

[Marie-Louise Rankin](#)

Executive Officer

Read newsletter in your [browser](#)

In this newsletter:

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Belz Lecture 2023: Mathematics, Gender, and Statistics - Empowering Women in Mathematics

This year's Belz Lecture was given by Professor Inge Koch in her talk titled "Mathematics, Gender and Statistics". The event started out with a Welcome to Country given by Uncle Colin, then Professor Koch delivered her talk. We heard about the work that had been done through [AMSI's Choosemaths](#)

program, designed to encourage participation of women and girls in mathematics starting off in school, and what impact changing perceptions of one's own maths ability and the mindset children had in relation to learning. So you might not be surprised to find the answer to the questions "Can girls and boys learn mathematics equally well?" and "Can women be great mathematicians?" is a resounding "yes, of course!".

Ben Harrap
SSA Vic&Tas Branch President

Science Meets Parliament 2024 - Apply Now!

Science and Technology Australia (STA) will hold "[Science meets Parliament](#)" (SmP) again next year from 20-21 March 2024 in Canberra. This event provides the opportunity for scientists and technologists to interact with the Government's key decision makers. SmP 2024 comes at a time when science, technology, engineering and mathematics are high on the political agenda. SmP 2024 will build on the strong tradition of fostering relationships and understanding between scientists and technologists, MPs and Senators.

As a member of STA, SSA is invited to be represented at SmP. This is a unique development opportunity which we would like to give to one of our "Early Career or Student Statisticians". Our definition of an "Early Career or Student Statistician" (ECSS) is a person enrolled for a degree who is studying either full-time or part-time without age limit, OR a person who graduated with a Bachelor's degree within the past five years, OR a person awarded a postgraduate degree within the past year. The Society will pay the registration fee and reasonable travel expenses for our representative at SmP.

If you would like to be SSA's representative at SmP 2024, please email your expression of interest to eo@statsoc.org.au. Please include your current CV and 300 words or less explaining how SmP 2024 could help further your career and why you would be an excellent representative of SSA.

Application deadline: Wednesday, 29 November 2023 – 5 pm AEDT

Harnessing data in times of crisis: strategies required for improved data management

In the letter to the editor of the Financial Times, published on 11 November 2023, Sir David Norgrove, former Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, responds to an article by British journalist Camilla Cavendish about the handling of Covid

data in March 2020. In an article published on 4 November 2023 Cavendish had highlighted issues with contradictory data sets and a lack of proper analysis. Norgrove acknowledges the efforts made by statisticians, led by Sir Ian Diamond, to improve the data and statistics over time, but he also points out persistent problems, such as double counting of tests and misleading data presentation.

Norgrove agrees with Cavendish that the main focus of the Covid inquiry should be to provide recommendations for better crisis management in the future. He suggests that in any crisis, there should be strong central direction for data and statistics from the start, with the Prime Minister giving the National Statistician responsibility and authority for these matters. This centralised approach would enable quicker and more consistent responses, filling gaps and resolving interdepartmental issues, benefiting both decision-making and public understanding.

Read the full letter [here](#).

Can you help SSA member Hannah Fenwick?

Investigating Expertise in Probabilistic Reasoning

My name is [Hannah Fenwick](#), I am currently a PhD Candidate in the School of Psychology at Murdoch University seeking individuals with expertise in mathematics and statistics to participate in a psychological research study that explores human reasoning using probabilities.

About the Study:

My research seeks to understand performance differences in probabilistic reasoning between people with expertise in mathematics or statistics and two novice control groups. Given the nature of the study, having participants with expertise in mathematics and statistics is essential to achieving accurate and meaningful results.

Participant Requirements: aged 18 -65.

PhD in of Mathematics/ statistics or 10yrs expertise in mathematics/ statistics or Expert Knowledge in statistics / mathematics

Availability to complete a 1 hr Qualtrics Survey online at your convenience.

Willingness to engage in 4 reasoning problems, 3 cognitive surveys and completing a short demographic questionnaire.

Benefits of Participation:

An opportunity to contribute to a better understanding of the interplay between expertise and probabilistic reasoning. Your participation would immensely enrich my data and the overall quality of the research. I assure you that all personal and professional information will be kept strictly confidential, and results will be reported anonymously.

If this opportunity interests you, or should you have any questions regarding the study, please don't hesitate to reach out. If you know of colleagues who might also be interested, I would appreciate it if you could share this invitation with them.

[Find out more.](#)

[Hannah Fenwick](#)

Are paid surveys the way to go?

According to an article by Delphine Strauss, published in the Financial times (International Edition) on 12 November 2023, the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) is planning to offer increased cash rewards to incentivise people to fill out questionnaires, aiming to address data flaws and enhance the reliability of labour market statistics. This decision comes after a series of revisions and qualifications of core data by the ONS.

The author explains that evidence from a £20 payment incentive in Northern Ireland's labour force survey led officials to consider more generous financial incentives nationwide to boost response rates and resume the publication of essential job data. The ONS is exploring various incentives to effectively improve response rates and has yet to settle on a specific amount.

Read the full article [here](#).



ASC & OZCOTS t-shirts available now

The conference is coming up quickly and we are offering a limited edition conference tee shirts for sale.

The tee shirt logo was designed by Ben Harrap (who also designed our SSA T-Shirt "[Great Statisticians](#)") and his explanation for the design is "In line with the theme of the conference, the logo represents several of the many different ways that we as statisticians attempt to communicate uncertainty to those who we do data analysis for."

Order one now and collect it at the registration table at the ASC.

Pick up only at the conference. For size information, to view it and to order yours click [here](#).

Mentioned previously:

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Presenter for SSA CPD Courses/Workshops 2024

Are you interested in sharing your expertise and skills in hosting and presenting a workshop for the SSA?

Do you feel you have something to share with the SSA Community?

If so, please register your interest [here](#).

Upon receipt, the SSA CPD coordinator will review the interests, including title or area, proposed presenter's experience, and the alignment thereof with SSA's and its branches'/sections' course and workshop demand and will be in touch with you accordingly for further arrangement and moving forward if the EOI is chosen.

Thank you!

Tasadduq Imam
CPD Coordinator

SSA Events

Canberra Branch Meeting - Knibbs lecture 2023 Presented by Professor Hans-Peter Piepho

21 Nov 2023, 5:45 PM – 7:00 PM (AEDT), In-person and online via Zoom

A lot of applied research is comparative in nature, meaning that the focus is on differences between groups or treatments. This is also true in my main field of application, agriculture. Differences further play a key role in the mechanics of a number of statistical methods. In this talk, I will provide an overview of recent work I have been involved in, all of which makes use of differences in some way. The applications cover experimental design, recovery of inter-block information, network meta-analysis, heritability, goodness of fit for GLMMs, and spatial methods for field trials. As will be pointed out in my talk, there are interesting inter-connections between these different applications.

.After the talk we will be holding a dinner at Blu Ginger Indian Restaurant, 2/5-21 Genge Street, Canberra City. If you are interested in obtaining the Zoom link and/or registering for the dinner, click [here](#).

Statistical Consulting Network Monthly Meet-Up

24 November 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](#)

Password: 660145

[Slack Workspace link](#)

SSA's Statistical Computing and Data Visualisation Section is now offering tutorials, starting from Friday, 1st December 2023:

[Deploying your model code into Production with Microsoft Azure, presented by Dean Marchiori](#)

1 Dec 2023, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM (AEDT), online

[Interactive web applications with Shiny for R presented by Mitchell O'Hara-Wild](#)

1 Dec 2023, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM (AEDT), online

[Creating data plots for effective decision-making using statistical inference with R, presented by Dianne Cook](#)

1 Dec 2023, 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM (AEDT), online

[Australian Statistical Conference \(ASC\) and Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics \(OZCOTS\)](#)

Program available [here](#).

Last chance: Registrations for the ASC workshops will come to a close

on November 17th. Don't miss out.

10 Dec 2023, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM (AEDT), Sage Hotel, Wollongong, NSW

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

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

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

ASC and OZCOTS 2023 Social Events

[Early Career and Student Statisticians Network ASC Social](#) on 12 December 2023, held at the Illawarra Brewery's outdoor terrace at WINN stadium. The ECSSN is organising a social get-together during the ASC2023! They are inviting students, early career and more senior statisticians to join them a lovely beach view and network with like-minded people you might not see very often, plus have some fun, nibbles, and drinks!

[Statistical Conference Dinner](#) on 13 Dec 2023, at the Grand Ballroom at the Sage Hotel. Just minutes from the beach, come and join us for a three-course dinner. (You register on the same page as the conference registration page)

[OZCOTS 2023 Social](#) on 14 Dec 2023, at Lucia's by the Sea, next to the Novotel Hotel. The OZCOTS committee invites you to come and join them for a lovely meal and catch-up at a beautiful beach front venue.

Childcare available at ASC&OZCOTS 2023, but you need to book ahead!

We are offering low cost onsite childcare to anyone attending ASC&OZCOTS2023 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday through licensed childcare Abracadabra. The cost is \$60 per child per day or \$150 for all three days, the room is in building 11 (same as keynote presentations). There will be age appropriate activities for all children attending. Parents/guardians will need to pick up children for a brief lunch.

[Find out more.](#)

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

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](#).

[SSA Vic & Tas Panel Discussion - Statisticians in Society](#)

21 Nov 2023, 6:00 PM (AEDT), RMIT Building 15, Level 3, Room 10, 124 La Trobe Street Melbourne or online via Zoom

NSW Branch: 2023 Annual Event: JB Douglas award, Annual lecture by Prof. Sally Cripps, Annual Dinner

22 Nov 2023, 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM (AEDT), Cullen Room, The University of Sydney

To register click [here](#) and to register for the dinner click [here](#).

WA Branch End of Year Function

Tuesday, 28 Nov 2023, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM (AWST)

Register [here](#).

Other events

Registrations close this Friday for the 2023 ADSN Conference

The second Australian Data Science Network conference will be held 7-8 December in Adelaide at the National Wine Centre of Australia. The conference is being hosted by the Adelaide Data Science Centre at The University of Adelaide.

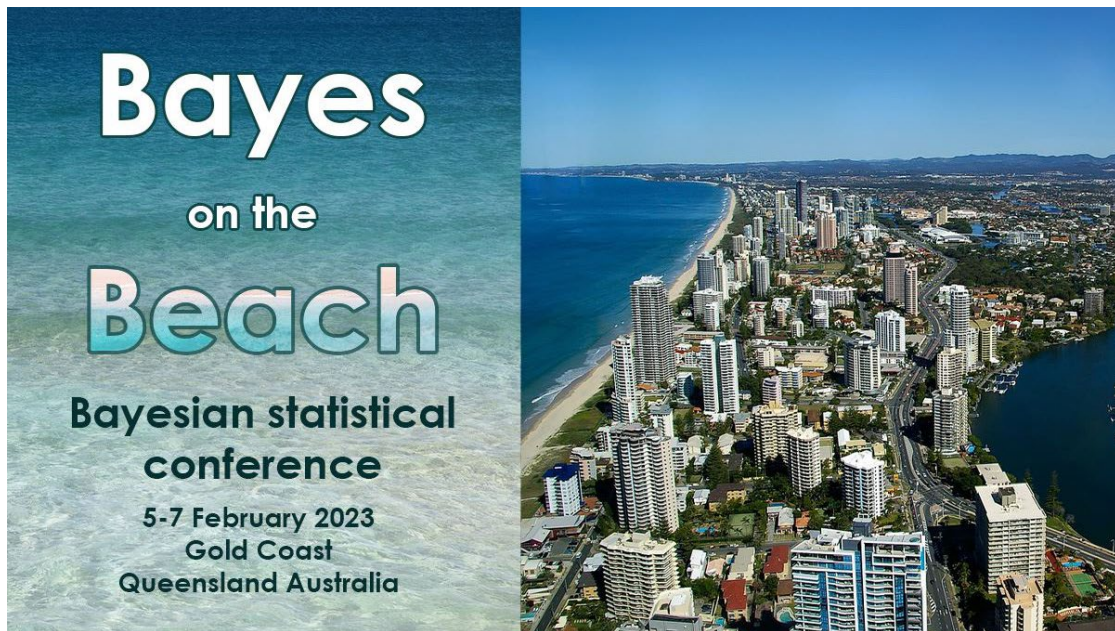
The conference will feature keynote speakers:

- Professor Sally Cripps, University of Technology Sydney
- Professor Xiao-Li Meng, Harvard University
- Associate Professor Fatemeh Vafaei, UNSW Data Science Hub

Registrations close this Friday, 17 November.

For more details about the conference and its schedule, head to the [ADSN website](#).

Register [here](#).



[Registrations now open!](#)

[2023 International Biometric Society Australasian Region conference,](#)
27 Nov 2023 – 1 Dec 2023, Bay of Islands, NZ

[AMSI Summer School](#)
8 January - 2 February 2023, Canberra

Current Vacancies in SSA's Career Centre

[Lecturer/Senior Lecturer - Actuarial Science, Business Analytics and Econometrics](#)

Victoria

Monash University

The Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics ...

[Lecturer/Senior Lecturer - Business Analytics](#)

Victoria

Monash University

The Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics ...

[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.

[Unsubscribe](#)