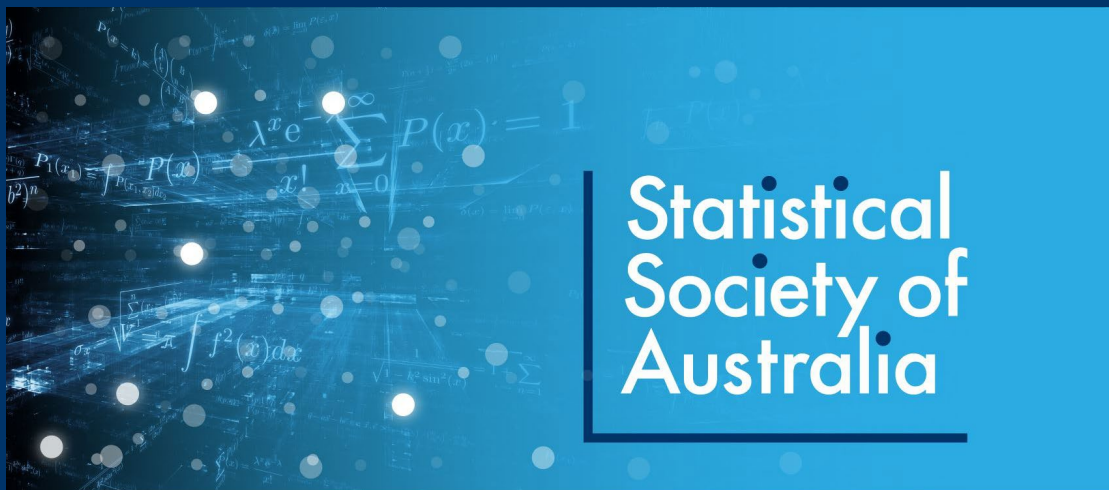


From: [Statistical Society of Australia](#)
To: [Marie-Louise Rankin](#)
Subject: Stats Matters & Events
Date: Thursday, 30 November 2023 3:02:12 PM



STATS MATTERS & EVENTS

30 November 2023

Yesterday I learned a new word: “Sharenting”. Have you heard of it? Perhaps you are doing it?

In 2010 the Oxford English Dictionary defined “sharenting” as “the action of sharing the responsibilities of being a child’s parent or caregiver.” This makes perfect sense of course and was the first thing that sprung to my mind when I heard it. Shortly after though, from 2012 the word “sharenting” took on another meaning: “The action or practice of sharing news, images or videos of one’s children on social media websites.”

Many of us have been posting them, and we all have read about those proud parent moments: “So proud of xxx graduating! All that work paid off!” or “Happy birthday, xxx. So proud of the person you have become.”

Our son asked our family members not to post pictures of him on our respective Facebook pages without his permission. Is he worried about a data breach or misuse of the images? No, in his case it has nothing to do with security concerns or privacy issues and everything to do with the option of weeding out the less flattering photographs. Initially I was somewhat grumpy about not being able to do what everybody else does and share those proud

parent moments. However, a campaign for Deutsche Telekom by adam&eve Berlin stopped me in my tracks.

The #ShareWithCare campaign focuses on the dangers of data misuse and artificial intelligence, especially in relation to 'sharenting'. This initiative was launched in July this year with a compelling deepfake video titled "A Message from Ella", which serves to illustrate the potential risks of posting children's images online. Directed by Sergej Moya and produced by Tempomedia in Berlin, the campaign aims to educate about the hazards of sharenting.

The central figure of the campaign is a nine-year-old actress, known as "Ella". Utilising advanced AI technology, a deepfake of Ella is created, portraying her as an adult. This deepfake, a blend of video, images or sounds created using machine learning, shows an adult Ella confronting her parents about the repercussions of sharing her childhood photos online. This marks the first instance of a deepfake being used to age a child, allowing her to communicate as an adult. Ella symbolises a whole generation of children who might be affected by such practices. Watch the fascinating video [here](#).

Experts anticipate that by 2030, two-thirds of identity theft cases could stem from sharing children's photos and personal details on social media and messaging platforms, which can inadvertently expose them to various risks, including data broker profiling, hacking, facial recognition misuse, paedophilia and other privacy and security threats.

Take care and be aware,

[Marie-Louise Rankin](#)

Executive Officer

Read newsletter in your [browser](#)

In this newsletter:

[Mapping disease: regional variations in prostate cancer treatment rates in Australia](#)

[Inspirational advice for your career at the 2023 UQ Alumni Awards](#)

[Survey: The role statisticians play in the interpretation of statistical findings from randomised trials](#)

[Cutting-edge AI breakthrough: rapid antibiotic resistance detection from Oxford](#)

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Mapping disease: regional variations in prostate cancer treatment rates in Australia

SSA members Kerrie Mengersen and Susanna Cramb were involved in the research leading to a recently published paper discussing the significant disparities in the rates of surgical treatment for prostate cancer across different regions of Australia. Several factors contribute to this variability, including variations in diagnosis rates, access to treatment due to geographical and financial factors, age at diagnosis, disease progression at the time of diagnosis and the preferences of healthcare professionals.

Individuals make decisions regarding prostate cancer testing and treatment with guidance from their physicians. The findings of the study underscore the disparities in these decisions based on geographical locations. These disparities emphasise the importance of gaining a deeper understanding of the decision-making process and eliminating any obstacles that may be encountered.

The authors of the paper conclude that in a country that takes pride in its universal healthcare system and boasts a five-year prostate cancer survival rate exceeding 95% in the general population, treatment decisions should be aligned with recommended best practices rather than being influenced by the availability of care based on one's place of residence.

Read the article [here](#).

Inspirational advice for your career - 2023 UQ Alumni Awards

This week the University of Queensland celebrated the UQ Alumni Awards, recognising nine prestigious categories of accomplishment and celebrating alumni who have achieved outstanding success in their careers and in service to their communities.

UQ invited their award recipients to offer a piece of advice for recent graduates. They generously shared valuable insights that could potentially

inspire you, regardless of where you currently stand in your career journey:

The Honourable Dr Anna Bligh AC emphasised the importance of staying true to oneself and resisting external pressures in public life.

Karina Holden encouraged graduates to see themselves as blank pages and write an interesting, diverse and challenging story for their lives.

Dr Alicia Veasey advised Indigenous graduates to ground themselves in their heritage and use education to confront colonial systems.

Tim Neale suggested that personal and professional limits are defined by one's imagination and that confidence in oneself is crucial.

The Honourable Dr Mary Crawford AM advised seizing every opportunity that comes along, as they may not come again.

Famin Ahmed emphasised the responsibility of using privilege to help others, whether through donations or volunteering.

Hailey Brown encouraged graduates to choose a job that genuinely makes them happy and to embrace risks early in their careers.

Jordan English reminded us that everyone is just human, and it's essential not to compare oneself to others or prioritise one kind of success over others.

May these insights provide inspiration and guidance for our members at various stages of their career paths.

Read more about the UQ Alumni Awards [here](#).

Attention clinical trial statisticians!

The misinterpretation of statistical findings from randomised trials can harm patients. To address this, we would like to invite trials unit statisticians to participate in a survey aiming to understand the role statisticians play in the interpretation of statistical findings from randomised trials, particularly the interpretation of non-significant primary outcomes. Participants who take part can choose to enter a prize drawer to win a **£250 Amazon voucher**. There is no obligation to participate.

To learn more about this study, please click [here](#). If you would like to be acknowledged for your replies in any reports or publications arising from this work, you will have an option to provide your name and affiliation. Your individual responses will not be publicly linked with your name.

To participate, click [this link](#) to complete the [survey](#).

We plan to close the survey in approximately 1 month. **Please forward this email invitation to your statistical colleagues who provide statistical support to randomised trials.**

If you have any further questions about this study or the survey, please email the study investigator, Professor [Karla Hemming](#).

Cutting-edge AI breakthrough: rapid antibiotic resistance detection from Oxford researchers

Researchers from the Oxford Martin School have made a significant breakthrough in using artificial intelligence (AI) to detect antibiotic resistance more rapidly than traditional methods. Antibiotic resistance is a global health concern and this development aims to address the need for faster detection.

The new approach combines fluorescence microscopy and AI to analyse bacterial cell images and identify structural changes that occur when cells are exposed to antibiotics. It boasts an accuracy rate of at least 80 percent per cell across multiple antibiotics. In tests using clinical isolates of E.coli, the AI-based method detected antibiotic resistance ten times faster than established clinical methods considered as the gold standard.

The research conducted at the Oxford Martin School, a prominent department at the University of Oxford, showcases how AI can reliably and rapidly detect changes in bacterial cells caused by antibiotics. This detection forms the basis for identifying antibiotic resistance.

The next steps involve further development to make the method more scalable for clinical use and adaptable to various antibiotics and bacteria. Given the urgency of antibiotic resistance, this innovation has the potential to reduce treatment times, minimise side effects and slow down the rise of antibiotic resistance.

Traditional antibiotic resistance testing methods involve growing bacterial colonies in the presence of antibiotics, which can take days and is too slow for patients with urgent conditions like sepsis. This new AI-based approach offers a faster alternative and could lead to more precise treatments for critically ill patients.

The integration of AI in healthcare research and development holds promise for revolutionary advancements in medicine. This development represents a significant step forward in the fight against antibiotic resistance, which poses a growing threat to global health.

Read the full article, published on the Datanami website on 22 November 2023 [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

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](#).

Other events

[**WIMSIG Conference 2024, 1 - 2 October 2024, Sydney Mathematical Research Institute \(SMRI\)**](#)

WIMSIG is excited to announce the upcoming WIMSIG Conference 2024, which will be held on 1–2 October 2024 at the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute (SMRI). WIMSIG Conference 2024 will celebrate the achievements of women, trans and gender diverse people in the mathematical sciences, with plenary speakers and special sessions spanning pure mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics, and mathematics in industry. Confirmed plenary speakers:

- Grace Chung (co-lead, Google Research Australia)
- Leah Edelstein-Keshet (University of British Columbia)
- Antoinetta Mira (Università della Svizzera italiana)
- Valentina Wheeler (University of Wollongong)

We are now inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) for organising Special Sessions at WIMSIG 2024, each focused on a specific area of the mathematical sciences. Key responsibilities for Special Session organisers:

- Session Theme: Define a single topic of interest in the domain of the mathematical sciences.
- Select Speakers: Identify and invite 8–11 women, trans or gender diverse speakers who can offer valuable insights and knowledge within the session's chosen theme. We encourage the inclusion of research students among the speakers to provide emerging scholars with a valuable opportunity to showcase their work.
- Speaker Coordination: Liaise with confirmed speakers, ensuring that they provide you with their presentation title and an abstract by a date to be specified.

If your group is smaller than the recommended number of speakers, you also have the option to merge with a related session.

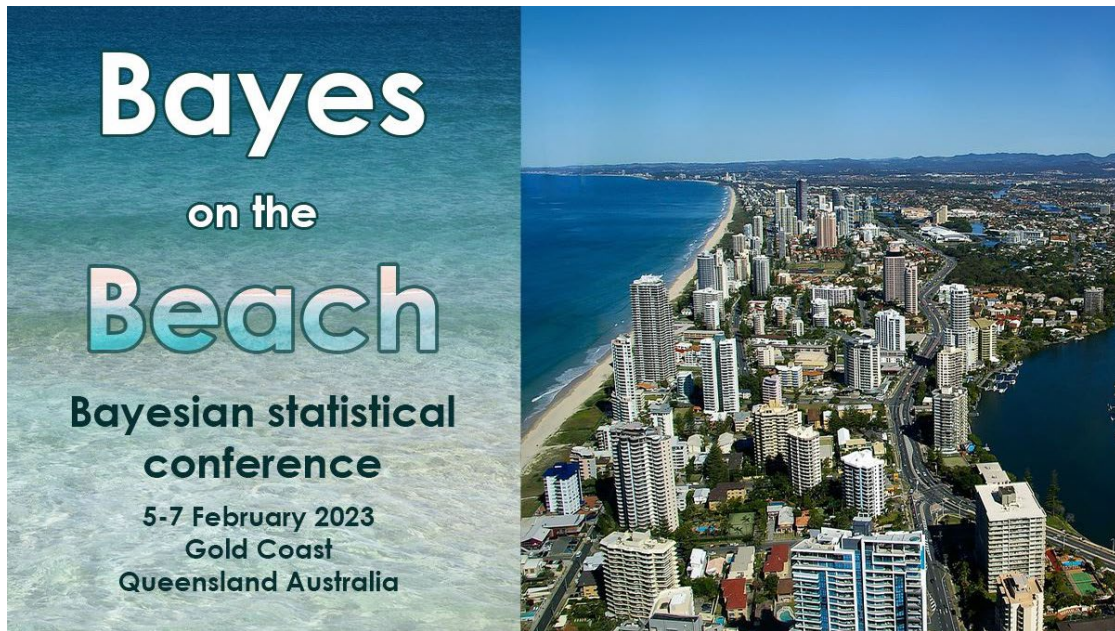
Prospective Special Session organisers are asked to submit a proposal consisting of a title, a description (not to exceed 100 words), the name of at least one co-organiser, and a list of potential speakers using [the online submission form](#). We strongly recommend that every special session has at least two organisers.

Deadline for EOI submissions: 16 February 2024. For enquiries contact Catherine Greenhill <c.greenhill@unsw.edu.au>

WIMSIG Conference 2024 Organising Committee:

- Harini Desiraju (SMRI)
- Kate Doyle (SMRI)

- Catherine Greenhill (UNSW Sydney) - Chair
- Xiaoping Lu (University of Wollongong)
- Catherine Penington (Macquarie University)
- Rachel Wang (University of Sydney)



[Registrations now open!](#)

[AMSI Summer School](#)

8 January - 2 February 2023, Canberra

Current Vacancies in SSA's Career Centre

[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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