QUOTES

- “Take wrong turns. Talk to strangers. Open unmarked doors. And if you see a group of people in a field, go find out what they are doing. Do things without always knowing how they’ll turn out. You’re curious and smart and bored, and all you see is the choice between working hard and slacking off. There are so many adventures that you miss because you’re waiting to think of a plan. To find them, look for tiny interesting choices. And remember that you are always making up the future as you go.” Randall Munroe

- “Since there is not ending quotation mark, everything after this is part of my quote” Randall Munroes

- “Things are rarely just crazy enough to work, but they’re frequently just crazy enough to fail hilariously” Randall Munroe

- “A million people can call the mountains a fiction, yet it need not trouble you as you stand atop them.” Randall Munroe
UPCOMING DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

- None

INTERESTING READS

- Interesting listen
  - S+S Episode 49, "Balancing rigor and entertainment when telling stories about data" is now available. Nick Thieme (@FurrierTranform), research fellow at University of California Hastings Institute for Innovation Law and freelance writer for a variety of outlets, talks about some of the challenges of writing about data. Currently, his work focuses on AI regulation, cybersecurity, and pharmaceutical patent trolling. His writing has appeared in Slate Magazine, BuzzFeed News, and Significance Magazine. He was the 2017 AAAS Mass Media Fellow at Slate Magazine, writing about technology, science, and statistics. In particular, he wrote about the role of p-values in the replication crisis, the overblown, existential fear caused by the dangers of AI, and the NotPetya cyberattacks in Ukraine. He is also part of an ASA team currently in the process of helping found a new blog, aimed at undergraduates, practicing statisticians, and the general public.
  - To listen now, please visit www.statsandstories.net or Apple Podcasts.
ASA NEWS

- The American Statistical Association and the Interface Foundation of North America are holding the Symposium on Data Science & Statistics (SDSS) in Reston, Virginia on May 16–19, 2018. This will be a yearly event. Information can be found here: [ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2018/conferenceinfo.cfm](http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2018/conferenceinfo.cfm) and here: [ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2018/index.cfm](http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2018/index.cfm)
  - The invited sessions are grouped into six concurrent tracks covering areas such as data science, machine learning, computational statistics, data visualization etc. The short courses include topics such as data munging, machine learning, and data visualization within large computing environments (R, Spark, H2O, and SAS) using platforms such as Docker/Kubernetes, Shiny, Cloudera, and SAS Viya. The short courses and invited talks, as currently developed, are listed here: [ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2018/onlineprogram/...](http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2018/onlineprogram/...)

Although most of the sessions are invited, there will also be contributed sessions and e-posters. The deadline for submitting contributed abstracts is next Monday, January, 29, whereas contributed e-posters can be submitted until March 8. See: [ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2018/submitanabstract.cfm](http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/sdss/2018/submitanabstract.cfm)

Early registration begins February 1. If you are a student, you should have received an email from ASA concerning the potential for support, but an abstract must be submitted.
WORKSHOPS

- Last year, Steve Qin joined an interdisciplinary tour of Israel. This year, the Jewish National Fund’s first-ever interfaith trip. You will have an opportunity to tour Israel from the JNF lens as well as from multi-faiths and backgrounds. The dates for the trip are April 12 – 19, 2018 and is part of Jewish National Fund Israel @ 70 Tour. Lou Rosenberg, Executive Director, Greater LA will be the Jewish National Fund professional in charge of this exciting mission. If interested in learning more, please contact Steve about his experiences or feel free to call Lou at 212-879-9305 x963.

- The 6th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
  - Event dates: May 4-6, 2018
  - Event location: Georgia State University, Atlanta
  - Biostatistics and Bioinformatics have been playing key and important roles in statistics and other scientific research fields in recent years. The goal of this workshop is to stimulate research and to foster the interaction of researchers in Biostatistics & Bioinformatics research areas. The workshop will provide the opportunity for faculty and graduate students to meet the top researchers, identify important directions for future research, facilitate research collaboration.
  - The keynote speaker of our workshop is Dr. Hongyu Zhao, the Ira V. Hiscock Professor of Biostatistics and Professor of Statistics and Genetics at Yale University and the recipient of the Mortimer Spiegelman Award.
  - There will be invited talks by distinguished researchers, and a poster session by young researchers and graduate students. For more information, please visit the website: math.gsu.edu/yichuan/2018Workshop for details.
  - The registration is open now. Please register and submit the abstract on the website. In order to encourage graduate students and young researchers to conduct a cutting-edge research, we are currently organizing a poster session. The workshop will be providing partial travel awards to selected conference participants. Priority will be given to senior graduate students, post-graduate, recent Ph.D's, junior faculty, and under-represented groups.
INTERNSHIPS

- Alcon provides real-world impact and work experience to university students through **internships and co-op programs**. Students who work with us can demonstrate their potential through meaningful and relevant work assignments, experience our value-based culture, and interact with leaders in the ophthalmic medical device industry. We offer exciting career development for students in the areas of research & development, technology, finance, marketing, sales, human resources, supply chain management, and engineering. We also provide students the opportunity to socialize and network throughout the duration of the summer internship program.
  - For 2018 we have one paid statistics internship available in the surgical franchise, specifically dealing with IOLs (intraocular lenses). No prior ophthalmic experience is required, and this is a great opportunity to learn about the pharmaceutical and medical device industry from the inside.
  - The application window remains open until 28-Feb-2018. A link for students to apply to Alcon’s Internship Program is here: [www.alcon.com/careers/internships](http://www.alcon.com/careers/internships)
  - Interested statisticians should choose and apply to the
    - **Summer 2018 Internship – Biomedical Engineering – R&D (Fort Worth, TX)** internship, which will include the statistical internship. If there is any confusion in this, please contact [RND.internships@alcon.com](mailto:RND.internships@alcon.com).
The University of Massachusetts Amherst, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, is looking to fill a full-time lecturer position to teach Health Promotion and Policy within the Online MPH-PHP program. Specific information on the position can be found on our HR website. Here is the direct link: https://umass.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=93651&CNTRNO=0&TSTMP=1517427996110.

The University of Wollongong, Australia, is seeking to appoint a lecturer in statistics with research expertise in statistical learning, machine learning or similar. The successful applicant will participate in a new research project involving novel methods for modelling and making inferences from spatio-temporal data. This is a Level B position, equivalent to an Assistant Professor position in the USA.

- Primary Location: Australia-New South Wales-Wollongong
  - Employee Status: Fixed Term (Three years)
  - Schedule: Full-time
  - Closing Date: 12/03/2018, 11:59:00 PM (Sydney time)
  - Salary Details: Level B: AUD$98,019 - AUD$113,353 + 17% Superannuation
- For more information and a detailed position description please visit https://jobs.uow.edu.au/careersection/ext/jobdetail.ftl?job=170344&tz=GMT%2B11%3A00

Postdoc positions at University of Colorado Denver

- Postdoctoral opportunity in medical imaging and genomics available. Details are at https://cu.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=12429&lang=en
- Postdoctoral fellowship program in computational biosciences open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, available at http://compbio.ucdenver.edu/pages/jobopportunities.html
JOB OPENINGS

- Postdoc at Emory (!)
  - **Position Title:** Postdoctoral Fellow
  - **Duties & Responsibilities:** The Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University invites applications for a post-doctoral fellow position with a starting date in 2018. The position is open until filled and the appointment is for two years, with a possible extension for a third year.
  - This position will offer opportunities to develop statistical methods for the analysis of high-dimensional clinical and biological longitudinal data to better understand the heterogeneity underlying neurodegenerative diseases. The following two research areas are of particular interest: 1) scalable and robust methods of latent trajectory class analysis with adjustment for informative missing data patterns; and 2) joint models of latent trajectory classes and times to competing-risks events. The postdoc will be mentored by Drs. John Hanfelt and Limin Peng in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics.
  - The successful candidate is expected to conduct independent methodological research including writing peer-reviewed publications for statistical journals, giving presentations at professional conferences, and developing stand-alone statistical software, such as R packages. Extensive interactions with graduate students and faculty are expected. In addition, the successful candidate will have opportunities to conduct collaborative research at the Emory Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.
  - The starting date is negotiable and the successful candidate can start immediately.
  - **Position Qualifications:** PhD degree in biostatistics, statistics, or related quantitative field. The following skills are desirable: excellent methodological training in statistics; excellent programming skills in R/SAS and optionally Python or Julia; and excellent written and oral communication skills.
  - **Company Information:** The Department includes 35 primary faculty members, and approximately 40 PhD students and 70 masters students. Rollins School of Public Health currently employs over 190 full-time faculty members and enrolls over 1200 full- and part-time graduate students in its MPH, MSPH and doctoral programs. The School is located on the Emory University campus in Atlanta, Georgia, adjacent to the CDC, Emory's Schools of Medicine and Nursing, and a number of laboratory and clinical facilities. Emory is a major research university and member of the AAU; its endowment is among the largest of US universities. The university enrolls over 14,000 students, approximately half in undergraduate programs and half in graduate and professional programs, taught by 3,000 faculty.
  - Emory University is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action / Disability / Veteran Employer. Minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and Veterans are encouraged to apply.
  - **Application Instructions:** Applicants should email a cover letter, research statement, CV, and contact information (email and phone) for three references to Dr. John Hanfelt, ihanfel@emory.edu. In addition, applicants must apply on the Emory Careers Site at the following link:
    - [sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/...](sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/...)
MIT’s Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS) seeks candidates for Postdoctoral Associates starting in 2018. Applications will be accepted through Friday April 13, 2018.

- Financial support will be provided by IDSS for the selected Postdoctoral Associates with appointments to start between July 1 and September 1, 2018 for one year, renewable for a second year based upon satisfactory performance.
- The ideal candidate will have a strongly interdisciplinary research agenda with a demonstrated track record of interest in complex social problems.
- Candidates can find the application process at the MIT jobs site (http://careers.mit.edu), req# 15514, and it is also appended below. A committee consisting of IDSS leadership and selected core faculty will review and select applications. Selections will be made between May 1 and June 15, 2018.

**POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS), to perform independent research in areas combining social science knowledge with technical analyses of complex social and technological systems. Areas of interest may include quantitative and qualitative approaches to understanding social and institutional behavior through analyses of digital technologies including theory and applications of networks and connection sciences to social systems.**

- Specific duties to include:
  - Performing independent research in areas combining social science knowledge with technical analyses of complex social and technological systems
  - Leading activities within IDSS to increase participation and integration of MIT social science faculty and staff with IDSS core and affiliate faculty; for example PDA may (with appropriate IDSS administrative staff support):
    - Design, develop and implement plan for new seminar series, propose speakers for series, speaker outreach and scheduling, etc.
    - Organize and direct a social science workshop at MIT
    - Organize and direct IDSS SES PhD student poster sessions as needed
    - Assist IDSS core and affiliate faculty with research proposal writing
  - Writing on and publishing original documents, such as: quarterly interviews or research reviews highlighting work conducted by faculty in social science areas of domain applications; publishing own work in recognized journals
  - This will be a one-year appointment beginning between July 1 and September 1, 2018 or a later mutually agreed upon date, with the possibility of renewal for a second year based upon satisfactory performance.
- REQUIREMENTS: Ph.D. (expected or obtained) in Statistics, Engineering, Computer Science, Operations Research, Economics, Mathematics or a related field; strong analytical and written communication skills, ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary environment and commitment to participating in IDSS activities.
- In addition to applying online (cover letter and CV), please submit the following documents in .pdf format to idss-postdoc-search@mit.edu.
  - Two additional letters of support; at least one should be external to MIT
  - Sample of your scholarly work (either as an electronic doc or URL)
  - Suggestions for two IDSS faculty supervisors (one from Engineering, one from another MIT school) who are doing work that intersects with your research interests and might be potential mentors
CARTOONS SOURCES:

- Happy Groundhog Day!  
- Cartoon about quotes!!  https://xkcd.com/1942/