QUOTES

- Happy May the 4th!
- “I find your lack of faith disturbing.” — Darth Vader
- “Do. Or do not. There is no try.” — Yoda
- “Never tell me the odds!” — Han Solo
- “There’s always a bigger fish.” — Qui-Gon Jinn

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UPCOMING DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

• None

KUDOS

• Congratulations to Ziyi Li, the initial recipient of the Michael and Pinina Haber Award, given each year to the doctoral student who completes a dissertation in the fewest number of months since passing the qualifying exams. Congratulations Ziyi! (And we are excited that you will be staying with us as a postdoc working with Hao Wu, we look forward to continuing our collaborations with you!)

INTERESTING READS (good things to “Read, read read!”)

• Why you should be reading books every day, according to science.
  ▪ Reading increases your vocabulary.
  ▪ Reading literary fiction helps you understand the feelings of others.
  ▪ Reading can lower your stress level (Yes!)
  ▪ Reading can make you self-confident.
  ▪ Reading changes the circuitry in your brain (so you can be studied by CBIS!)
    ○ [https://www.inc.com/christina-desmarais/why-you-should-be-reading-books-every-day-according-to-science.html](https://www.inc.com/christina-desmarais/why-you-should-be-reading-books-every-day-according-to-science.html)
• What’s the best way to report air emissions?
  ▪ *Significance* article by former post-doc Jenna Krall!
  ▪ April issue, page 12!
• Statistics, ecologic inference, and gerrymandering. Three of Lance’s favorite things in one podcast by Harvard’s Gary King. Well worth the listen!
  ▪ S+S Episode 55, "Abstract art or modern congressional districts- statistical thinking to fix gerrymandering" is now available. [Gary King (@kinggary)](https://twitter.com/garyking) is the Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor and Director of the [Institute for Quantitative Social Science](https://www.qss.harvard.edu/) at Harvard University. King focuses on innovations that span the range from statistical theory to practical application. His methods are used extensively in many fields of academia, government, consulting, and private industry. He is a founder, and inventor of the original technology for, Learning Catalytics, Crimson Hexagon, Perusall, and other firms. He is a founder, and inventor of the original technology for, Learning Catalytics, Crimson Hexagon, Perusall, and OpenScholar. He talks about quantifying the impact of gerrymandering along with other topics on this S+S episode.
    ○ [http://www.cas.miamioh.edu/statsandstories/index.html](http://www.cas.miamioh.edu/statsandstories/index.html)
WEBINARS

- Interesting webinar: Inherent Trade-Offs in Algorithmic Fairness
  - CISE Distinguished Lecture - Jon Kleinberg - Cornell University - May 3 - 2pm - Room W2220
    - May 3, 2018 2:00 PM to May 3, 2018 3:00 PM EDT
    - NSF Room W2220
  - Abstract: Recent discussion in the public sphere about classification by algorithms has involved tension between competing notions of what it means for such a classification to be fair to different groups. We consider several of the key fairness conditions that lie at the heart of these debates, and discuss recent research establishing inherent trade-offs between these conditions. We also consider a variety of methods for promoting fairness and related notions for classification and selection problems that involve sets rather than just individuals.
  - This talk is based on joint work with Sendhil Mullainathan, Manish Raghavan, and Maithra Raghu.
  - BIO: Jon Kleinberg is the Tisch University Professor in the Departments of Computer Science and Information Science at Cornell University. His research focuses on issues at the interface of algorithms, networks, and information, with an emphasis on the social and information networks that underpin the Web and other on-line media. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, and has served on the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board (CSTB) of the National Research Council and the Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Advisory Committee of the National Science Foundation. He is the recipient of research fellowships from the MacArthur, Packard, Simons, and Sloan Foundations, as well as the NSF CAREER and ONR Young Investigator awards, and the Harvey Prize, Nevanlinna Prize, and ACM Prize in Computing.
  - To join the webinar, please register at: [www.tvworldwide.com/events/nsf/180503](http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/nsf/180503)

- Another interesting webinar: TGun Violence a Public Health Issue: Effective Messaging
  - Date and time - 5/1/2018 1:00PM EST
  - To register - Please copy and paste the link below:
The Committee of Presidents of Statistical Sciences (COPSS) announced the establishment of two lectureships named after women: The Elizabeth L. Scott Lecture, and the F.N. David Lecture. The lectures will be given in alternate years at the annual Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) beginning in 2019.

This will be the first time the JSM will have lectures named after women. The JSM has been held annually since 1840. It is the largest gathering of statisticians in North America, and one of the largest in the world. Each year there are over 6,000 participants from over 50 countries. The Elizabeth L. Scott Lecture and the F.N. David Lecture will be included in the COPSS portfolio, which already includes the prestigious Fisher Lecture. According to Nick Horton, Chair of COPSS, “One of the main tasks for COPSS involves granting awards that highlight the work of notable statisticians. I'm proud that starting in 2019, at least one of the lectures at the JSM will be named after a woman. This is long overdue.”

The Caucus for Women in Statistics (CWS) spearheaded the effort to establish the lectureships. Horton reported that the COPSS Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the CWS proposal. CWS partnered with the ASA LGBT Concerns Committee, ASA Committee on Women, SSC Committee on Women, ISI Committee on Women, and IBS/ENAR/WNAR.

The idea that too few women receive national recognitions for their research and scholarship is not new. The National Science Foundation in 2010 established an AWARDS project “to investigate and improve the process of granting awards and prizes for scholarly achievement” in disciplines like statistics. This project led to many association reforms.

Establishing a new named lecture slot at the JSM for the Scott Lecture and David Lecture is another significant step forward in advancing the statistics profession. It adds a face to the profession's ongoing and growing commitment to diversity and inclusion. 2018 CWS President Shili Lin remarked: “I'm so excited and grateful that the long overdue recognitions for women in statistics in the form of two named lectures are finally here, and here to stay!”
OPENINGS

Abt is seeking an experienced Survey Sampling Statistician to join its growing team in the Data Science, Surveys and Enabling Technologies (DSET) Division. This division plays a key role within Abt providing survey sample design, data science methods, statistical consulting, and advanced analytics to a broad range of government agencies, university researchers, foundations, the media, and corporations. Much of their work is focused on public policy and policy evaluation in such areas as health policy, epidemiology, education, food safety, and urban planning, the environment, and public opinion both within the US and internationally.

The Statistician / Sr. Statistician works with internal and external clients on the valid and reliable uses of primary and secondary data, including survey data, administrative records, social media data, sensor and other available data; develops complex sampling designs for data collection, communicating the strength and weaknesses of various sampling strategies; identifying and applying appropriate analytic techniques across a range of data types; provide mentoring and guidance to more junior staff; and representing Abt at research conferences (e.g., the Joint Statistical Meetings, the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Federal Committee on Survey Methodology, Total Survey Error, American Public Health Association, and others).

The location of the position is preferred in Abt’s Rockville, MD office but may be located in our Cambridge, MA or Durham, NC office as well.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

- Lead statistical/methodological/analytic sections of proposals
- Develop sampling designs for complex surveys across various modes – telephone, in-person, web, etc.
- Identify strategies for sampling rare populations
- Work with large federal public use datasets, such as ACS, NHIS, CPS, QCEW and PDB, to develop optimal sampling strata, and to inform weight calibration procedures
- Conduct power analyses to determine required sample sizes
- Develop and implement weighting protocols for complex surveys (including creation of replicate weights)
- Perform hot-deck and/or model-based imputation
- Implement quality control procedures, including nonresponse and mode effect analyses
- Calculate response rates, standard errors and design effects
- Prepare methodological reports on sampling and weighting procedures
- Provide thought leadership through statistical & data science research
- Analyze and model structured data using advanced statistical methods (e.g. classification, clustering, regression, matching, latent variable modeling, etc.)
- Mentor junior staff and others seeking statistical/analytic guidance
OPENINGS

Abt continued:

Preferred Skills / Prerequisites

- Ph.D., ABD or Master's degree in statistics, quantitative survey methodology, or a quantitative social science field. Master's-level applicants should have extensive prior experience working on complex surveys in a setting of a survey research organization.
- Strong SAS, Stata, R or Python programming skills
- Working knowledge of sampling inference and applied sampling strategies
- Working knowledge of the total survey error paradigm, models of survey response, cognitive and social aspects of survey measurement
- Strong writing, presentation, and interpersonal communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to conduct methodological research
- Complementary expertise in one or more areas of statistics and data science, including, but not limited to, mixed models, missing data, machine learning, text analytics, econometrics, or other quantitative social science areas

Minimum Qualifications

- Depending on the education level and years of experience of the successful candidate, the role will be either a Statistician (Senior Analyst) or a Sr. Statistician (Associate).
  - Statistician (Senior Analyst level): PhD with 0-2 years of experience OR MA/MS with 3+ years of experience or BA/BS with 6+ years of experience OR the equivalent combination of education and experience.
  - Sr. Statistician (Associate level): PhD with 4-6 years of experience OR MA/MS with 7-10 years of experience OR the equivalent combination of education and experience.

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CARTOONS SOURCES:


“OK, one more time. The FIRST ‘Star Wars’ movie was ‘Star Wars: IV.’ ‘Star Wars: V’ was the SECOND movie…”