

Winter in Statistics

UC Riverside Department of Statistics
GSA Newsletter

In this issue:

- Faculty Spotlight
- Conference Travel Funds
- Graduate Student Seminar
- Spring 2021 Courses and Dates
- Alumni
- Favorite Food

Statistics is such a broad field and graduate school is a great opportunity to try some things on. Say “yes” to unexpected experiences - apply for an internship in a field you’re unsure of, teach a summer class, get involved with the GSA - you never know where you’ll find your calling!

-- Lauren Cappiello, PhD



Photographer: Debaleena Sain

Faculty Spotlight

Where did you receive your graduate degree?

I received my PhD in Applied Statistics from UC Riverside. I've been a part of the Stats Department for a long time!

Did you work anywhere before UCR? If so, where, and what did you do there?

Nope! I have been employed by UCR since just before completing my PhD. I spent 10 years as a Lecturer and then a short time working at MARC (Mathematical Analysis Research Corporation) as a statistician/consultant before rejoining UCR as an Assistant Professor of Teaching.



What kind of research have you done? How can your research be applied to other data sets?

My graduate research was in experimental design. My dissertation identified fractional factorial designs with constant variance properties under the advising of Dr. Ghosh. As an Assistant Professor of Teaching I hope to focus on curriculum development and effective teaching designs.

How did your interest in statistics begin?

I majored in math at Cal Poly Pomona because I was good at math and enjoyed it. After taking my first stats elective, I was hooked. It combined the logic of math with the real-world. I took all of the stat courses offered and found myself applying to Stat graduate programs shortly after.

What advice would you give to other graduate students?

Take each opportunity presented to you and make the most of it. Have a chance to go to your professor's office hours? Take it! You'll have an opportunity to really get to know them. Have a chance to participate in research? Take it! It's a great chance to take what you learned in the classroom and apply it. Have a chance to teach a course? Take it! What if you discover you love (or hate) teaching? Have a chance to attend a conference? Take it! There's no better time to network than now. Have a chance to give a presentation? Take it! It's an invaluable skill and the only way to get better is practice. So I guess my point is - don't just go through the motions. Every opportunity is a chance to grow and learn.

What hobbies have you recently picked up?

I've recently become a Kindergarten and 2nd grade teacher! All jokes aside, I love reading and spending my time with my family.

Conference Travel Funds

The Department of Statistics will provide travel funds to students who are attending conferences. Below is a brief description about the available funds.

Amount awarded for each individual: Up to \$1,000.

Deadlines:

Due by Mar 01 (funding decision by the end of Mar).

Due by Sep 01 (funding decision by the end of Sep).

2021 Deadline: June 01

Minimum Requirement: Students must give an oral and poster presentation. Students should also have applied for other financial support from college or campus (such as GSA travel support). Priority will be given to students who never receive the department travel award before.

Application form: [Statistics Graduate Student Funding Application](#)

Questions: Please direct your questions to Dr. Shujie Ma (shujie.ma@ucr.edu), Dr. Esra Kurum (esra.kurum@ucr.edu), or Dr. Weixin Yao (weixin.yao@ucr.edu).

Upcoming Conferences

Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM)

Seattle, Washington; Aug 7-12, 2021

<https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2021/>

ASA Biopharmaceutical Section Regulatory-Industry Statistics Workshop

Rockville, Maryland; September 21-23, 2021

<https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/biop/2021/>

Graduate Student Seminar

A Seminar for Graduate Students

The GSS series is an opportunity for graduate students in our department to showcase some of the cool things they are doing, gain presentation practice, and get to know each other. The presentations can be on a variety of topics, including research, projects, internships, a topic you wanted to investigate, a paper that you found interesting, and more. Anything that is appropriate for the graduate-student level audience that could be of interest to the graduate students of this department is welcomed.

The image shows a screenshot of a PDF presentation slide. The slide title is "Estimation in a Semi-Parametric Location-Shifted Mixture Distribution" in white text on a blue background. Below the title, the presenter's name "Bradley Lubich" and his major professor "Major Professor: Dr. Daniel Jeske" are listed. The date "December 10, 2020" is at the bottom. The slide is viewed in a browser window with a navigation bar at the top containing "Background and Problem Definition", "Related Work", "Proposed Ideas", and "Path Forward". A video feed of the presenter is visible in the top right corner. The browser window also shows a search bar and navigation controls.

The GSS welcomes, and ENCOURAGES, anyone who is interested to attend. This includes undergraduates, faculty, and staff. This is open to ALL graduate students. We are hoping to get a variety of topics and perspectives. Please email ucr.grad.stat@gmail.com with your name as soon as possible if you would be willing to put together a presentation, we would be delighted to have you.

Spring 2021 Courses

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| STAT 201C | Theory of Probability and Statistics | Shujie Ma |
| STAT 202C | Regression, ANOVA and Design | Subir Ghosh |
| STAT 203A | Bayesian Statistics | James Flegal |
| STAT 208 | Statistical Data Mining Methods | Daniel Jeske |
| STAT 209 | Software Tools for Big Data Analysis | Wenxiu Ma |
| STAT 217 | Mixture Models | Weixin Yao |
| STAT 251 | Statistics Colloquium | Analisa Flores |
| STAT 288 | Literature Seminar | Xinping Cui |

Important Dates

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| First Day of Spring Quarter | March 24, 2021 |
| First Day of Spring Class | March 29, 2021 |
| Academic and Administrative Holidays | May 31, 2021 |
| Add/Drop Date Deadline | April 16, 2021 |
| Last Day to Change Grading Basis | April 16, 2021 |
| Last Day of Instruction | June 4, 2021 |
| Final's Week | June 5-11, 2021 |
| First Day of Fall Quarter | Sept. 20, 2021 |
| First Day of Fall Class | Sept. 23, 2021 |

Alumni Update

Javier Suarez-Espinosa PhD

Year of Graduation: 2008

Degree Obtained: PhD

Employment: Director of Campus Montecillo/ Colegio de Postgraduados

Advice: Try to enjoy your time as a student.

Veronica Aispuro PhD MS



Year of Graduation: 2008

Degree Obtained: PhD and MS

Employment: UnitedHealth Group

Advice: Keep learning even after graduation.

Year of Graduation: 2007

Degree Obtained: PhD

Employment: Novartis Pharmaceuticals

Advice: Continue learning. Develop expertise not just in the statistical methods but also the applied area where you work in. Clear Communication is as important as statistical expertise.

Arunava Chakravartty PhD



Jason Wilson PhD



Year of Graduation: 2007

Degree Obtained: PhD

Employment: Associate Professor; Chair, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science / Biola University

Advice: A "Ph.D" is a "Doctor of Philosophy" degree and a "Master's" implies mastery of one's craft. Both imply deep thought and integrated knowledge. Our culture today militates against time spent carefully reflecting upon the ideas, nuances, implications, etc. of our disciplines. Rather, it pushes towards "training" - to know how to perform specific tasks. My advice is to take the time to learn the big picture, consider how statistics connects to the whole, study the ethical implications of your work, and be well rounded. The building you construct over the course of your career can only be big as the foundation you lay.

Updates: Thanks to my amazing experience in Dan Jeske's collaboratory, I was able to start a statistical consulting center at my school in 2018!

www.biola.edu/qcc

Favorite Food

Rebecca Kurtz-Garcia

Homemade lasagna

One of the first recipes I learned as a kid, it is still a favorite of mine

Esra Kurum

Tiramisu

Since you didn't specify the category of the dish, I assume dessert is okay :)

Jericho Lawson

Enchiladas

The best dish.

Dawn Loyola

Chocolate cake with chocolate icing

Evan Mason

Tacos

Weixin Yao

Baked salmon

Daniel Jeske

Buttered Toast

Orowheat Country Potato Bread, buttered first using real butter, and then toasted.

Jeff Ellis

Pinto Beans

A gigantic pot of pinto beans, heavily salted with garlic, onions, and various chiles for flavor.

Bradley Lubich

Cheeseburger

Ideally, medium rare grass-fed beef on a lightly toasted whole wheat bun with mayonnaise, mustard, and a little bit of low-sugar ketchup. Toppings include melted cheddar cheese, crunchy lettuce, a slice of red onion, home-grown tomatoes, and some ripe and creamy avocado. Variations are welcomed, but this is the go-to.

Kim Phan
Bún Chả Giò

"Bún" = noodles and "Chả Giò" = eggrolls. As simple as this Vietnamese dish sounds, it comes with a variety of additions from cooling mint, crispy cucumber, crushed roasted peanuts, to sweet pickled carrots and radishes. The fresh veggies balances the taste of just-fried eggrolls. Finally, it is glazed with a generous spoonful of fragrant fish sauce and a heaping mound of chili sauce. It can be eaten with additional meats if it needs to be a more hearty meal! I could eat it all day, any day...

Isaac Quintanilla Salinas
Pupusas

Maize tortillas stuffed stuffed with food. Recommend Queso con Loroco (cheese with edible flower) and Revueltas (cheese, beans and pork).

Debaleena Sain
Biryani

Biryani is a mix of rice, meat, and Indian spices slowly cooked in low heat using a type of clarified butter known as Ghee. Historians debate about the exact origin of Biryani. What is known today, is a mix of Persian and Indian cuisine which used to be cooked in the royal kitchens of the Mughal Empire since sixteenth century India. Different regions of India has different variants of Biryani these days, but my favorite is Biryani of Kolkata and the slow cooked potato in it.

Noe Vidales
Chiles Rellenos

Stuffed roasted chili peppers with a sauce drizzled on top. Sauce and stuffing varies by region of Mexico. Mama made it with cheese stuffing and tomato sauce yummy