THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 9th October 2012 7:15 for 7:45

Large Lecture Theatre,
MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit,
Chaucer Road, Cambridge, CB2 7EF

Evaluating Cambridgeshire Constabulary's "No Cold Calling" scheme: an application of spatial-temporal data modelling

Bob Haining
Department of Geography, University of Cambridge

Abstract: The availability of offence, offender and victim data (referenced by time and place) from local police forces in the UK presents social scientists with opportunities to examine the small-area geography of crime and disorder. With the impetus provided by so-called "reassurance policing" in the UK (the targeting of police resources at small areas to meet local concerns), the police too may have an interest in the findings from such research. Their interest tends to focus on two linked issues: how to better target resources to reduce the incidence of crime (e.g. identification of crime hotspots); having targeted resources, to carry out an assessment whether such policies have had a positive impact on crime rates. This lecture will focus on a project that falls within the second area and which demonstrates some of the challenges associated with working with small-area data. It will describe results from a collaborative project with colleagues at Imperial College London examining the effects of introducing "no cold calling" zones in Cambridgeshire between 2005 and 2007, by Police and Trading Standards. The evaluation, using Bayesian Hierarchical Modelling, compares zones in the aggregate and individually against different control groups in terms of burglary rates to try and identify whether the scheme has had any measurable impact on rates in the targeted areas. The modelling revealed some striking contrasts, raising some interesting issues.

Speaker: Bob Haining is a graduate of the University of Cambridge and Northwestern University, USA. From 1974-77 he lectured at Queen's University Belfast and from 1977-2000 at the University of Sheffield where he was awarded a Personal Chair in 1993. Since 2000 he has worked at the University of Cambridge where he is Professor of Human Geography. He has long standing research and teaching interests in the development and application of spatial statistical methods to problems in epidemiology, criminology and economic geography.

Annual General Meeting: Bob Haining's talk will be preceded by a brief Annual General Meeting.

Directions: Chaucer Road is off Trumpington Road – if you are heading away from the city centre it is the first right after the junction with Brooklands Avenue. Number 15 is at the end on the left and is a large Victorian House with a more modern extension to its right. The entrance is in the porch located in the middle of the older section on the left as you come in and is accessed by ascending a few steps from the car park. Cars may be parked there. The outside door will be locked at 7:45.
Arrivals after 7:45pm can gain admittance by contacting the secretary on 07761769436. A map showing the location of the unit is at http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/contacts/directions.
Provisional Next Meetings:
26th November – Simon Griffin (MRC Epidemiology Unit & CEDAR).
4th February 2013 – Vern Farewell (MRC Biostatistics).
Supper: Some members eat before a talk at the University Centre meeting in the downstairs bar at **5-45pm**. All welcome!
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 7EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 801; E-mail `peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk`
For security purposes could you please let Peter Watson know if you intend attending the talk.
Take a look at our website: http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/people/peter.watson/csdg.html

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Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting will be followed immediately by Bob Haining's talk 'Evaluating Cambridgeshire Constabulary's "No Cold Calling" scheme: an application of spatial-temporal data modelling'**.**

Agenda:

0.   Approval of Minutes of previous A.G.M.
          (http://imaging.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/statswiki/csdg/newtalks)

1.   Treasurer's Report.

2.   Secretary's Report.

3.   Election of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, plus 3 other members of the Committee.

4.   Any Other Business.

Rules for Election:

1.   FRANCISE: All paid-up members may vote or stand for office.

2.   NOMINATIONS: The offices to be filled are Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and three other members of the Committee.

          An outgoing Chairman will be a member of the Committee ex officio. At the end of each year the entire Committee will stand down, but may stand again for the same office as they are leaving without nomination. To be elected to a different office a candidate must be nominated by one person from the paid-up membership, not including himself. Nominations do not require a seconder to be valid, but do require the consent of the nominee. One person can be nominated for more than one office, but hold only one. If a person is elected to a higher office (according to the ordering given below) he or she automatically ceases to be a candidate for a lower office. A candidate for the post of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer is automatically a candidate for the Committee if he or she fails to gain election to one of these three posts.

TURN OVER for directions to the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit and abstract of Bob's talk