

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday 5th February 2018 7:15 for 7:45

The Wilkins Room, Downing College, Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1DQ

Cambridge Statistics from Venn to Fisher and Beyond

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Abstract: The Cambridge statistical tradition can be traced back to A. de Morgan (4th Wrangler 1827) and R.L.Ellis (Senior Wrangler 1840), both pupils of G.Peacock, one of the founders of the Analytical Society. Through J.W.L.Glaisher we arrive at J.Venn and his lectures on 'Theory of Statistics' in 1890 and on to F.J.M.Stratton's lectures which influenced R.A.Fisher, E.S.Pearson and D.Brunst (whose book 'The Combination of Observations' was based on them). G.Udny Yule was appointed Lecturer in Statistics in 1912, succeeded by J.Wishart in 1931. J.M.Keynes, H.Jeffreys, F.P.Ramsey, and R.A.Fisher dominated the scene after the first world war, and, after the second, Wishart, M.S.Bartlett, H.E.Daniels, F.J.Anscombe, D.V.Lindley and D.R.Cox. Fisher became Professor of Genetics in 1943 and retired in 1957. Amongst his research students was C.R.Rao. All this and as much more as time permits!

Speaker: Anthony retired as Professor of Biometry in 2003. His interest in *Ars conjectandi* stems from his writing of *Pascal's Arithmetical Triangle* in 1979-81. A geneticist who was the last undergraduate taught by R.A.Fisher, he worked with L.L.Cavalli-Sforza in Italy for three years, establishing the field of the statistical estimation of evolutionary trees. Three years as a Senior Lecturer in D.J.Finney's Department of Statistics in Aberdeen were followed by a Bye-Fellowship of Gonville and Caius College devoted to the writing of *Likelihood* (1972). From 1970 he held appointments in the Postgraduate Medical School and its successor, the Clinical School, becoming Reader in 1978 and Professor in 2000. *Foundations of Mathematical Genetics* appeared in 1977 and *Cogwheels of the Mind, The Story of Venn Diagrams* in 2004. Other books include *Annotated Readings in the History of Statistics* (2001) with H.A.David.

Directions: A map of the college is at <https://www.downing-conferences-cambridge.co.uk/information/college-map/>. To get to the Wilkins Room walk straight through the front gate on Regent Street a short way until you see a large open space to your left (the Quadrangle). Turn left. A set of staircases should now be on your left. Go up the 'R' staircase. Once inside continue to follow the signs. The nearest car park is at the Grand Arcade. Arrivals after 7-45pm may gain admittance by contacting the secretary on 07761769436. You can also obtain directions to the Wilkins Room by enquiring at the Porters' Lodge (on left by Regent Street entrance).

Provisional Next Meetings:

1st March – Nicole Janz (Sociology) on 'Solving the Reproducibility Crisis'. 28th March – Sylvia Richardson (Biostatistics). 26th April – Robert Kozarski (AstraZeneca) on 'Pre-clinical and clinical drug development from a Pharmaceutical Statistician perspective'. October – Sarah Walters (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). 20th November – Fabio Rigat (GSK) & Nicky Best (Imperial). 4th February 2019 – Sian Evans (Public Health England).

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting **at 5-45pm**. All welcome !

Subscriptions: of 1 pound are now due for attending the 2017-2018 session.

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

Slides and .mp3 files of old talks: <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/people/peter.watson/csdg.html>