

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 14th November 2017 7:15 for 7:45

The Statistical Laboratory,
Centre for Mathematical Sciences,
Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, CB3 0WB

The frequency of 'America' in America

Adam Kashlak

Statistical Laboratory

Abstract: From nascent European colonies to a global superpower, the United States of America has risen in many aspects throughout its history. One such aspect is rhetoric. Specifically, each successive American president speaks more and more frequently of America. In this talk, we will examine historical speeches from present day Barack Obama to the founding father George Washington who in 1790 first addressed congress in what has now come to be known as the State of the Union (SOTU) address. Across the 227 years worth of SOTU speeches and written reports as well as inaugural addresses, we will track the usage of one specific word, "America," and attempt to predict the rhetoric of the profoundly unpredictable President Donald Trump. This talk is based on the winning article of the Royal Statistical Society's 2016 Young Statisticians Writing Competition.

Speaker: Adam B Kashlak is an assistant professor of statistics at the University of Alberta and a recent PhD graduate from the Cambridge Centre for Analysis. Working under professors Richard Nickl and John A D Aston from the Cambridge Statistical Laboratory, his thesis was focused on the estimation and inference of covariance structures for high and infinite dimensional data making use of tools called concentration inequalities.

Prior to this, Adam was an applied statistics researcher for the US Department of Defense.

Directions: The main entrance is reached from Clarkson Road by going along the footpath to the right of the Newton Institute, and turning left through the gatehouse towards the main building (Pavilion A), which has a glass front and a curved grassed roof. The main entrance is in the middle of the glass front. Coffee before the talk will be in the common room in Pavilion D, and the talk will be in Meeting Room 4 in Pavilion A. Free parking is available after 5pm on Clarkson and Wilberforce Roads.

Provisional Next Meetings (2018):

5th February 2018 – Anthony Edwards (Gonville & Caius) on 'Cambridge Statistics from Venn to Fisher and Beyond'.

1st March – Nicole Janz (Sociology).

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).

4th February 2019 – Sian Evans (Public Health England).

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at **5-45pm**. Feel free to join them.

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>

Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2015-2016

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2015-2016 was held at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit on 11th October 2016. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Brian Bond, Mary Garratt, Katrina Gore, Jurek Gurycz, Peter Jacko, Stephen Kaptoge, Paul Nelson, Nadja Pfetzer, Mark Pilling, Ioanna Tachmazidou, Rosemary Tate, Simon Tavare, Jenny Thomas, Kate Tomlinson, Adam Wagner, Klaudia Walter, Peter Watson. **Apologies:** Margaret Corbett, Peter Freeman, David Galloway, Martin Gibson, Pamela Morris, Ian Nimmo-Smith, Haidee Philpott, Peter Treasure. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved. The secretary reported a total attendance of 95 for the 2015-2016 session. Anyone with suggestions for speakers or venues or anyone interested in joining the committee please contact a committee member.

Treasurer's Accounts and Report 2015-2016:

The CSDG started the year in October 2015 with £43.43 cash in addition to £212.57 in the Cambridge Building Society. The table below shows the financial activity during the current year (Oct15 to Sept16).

Expenditure		Income	
Speakers' expenses	£14.70	Balance at Sep 2015	£43.43
Added to Bank a/c	£40.00	Subscriptions	£55.00

Cash balance at 1st October 2015 £43.43, cash remaining 1st October 2016 £43.73. There is now £252.57 (£212.57 + £40, as above, added from the 2015-2016 session plus interest) in a Community account at the Cambridge Building Society. The account holders are Ted Harding (current chairman), Peter Watson (current secretary) and Adam Wagner (current treasurer). These names can be changed on application. The principle holder is the treasurer. Any of the three account holders can deposit and withdraw money. It is suggested subscriptions remain at £1 for the 2016-2017 session.

Election of officers and committee: Warm thanks go to Margaret Corbett who has stepped down from the committee after many years including a spell as treasurer. She is replaced by Martin Gibson. Committee for 2016-2017: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Adam Wagner; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Martin Gibson, Haidee Philpott, Tony Sabin.

Any Other Business: None.

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2016-2017

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2016-2017 was held at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit on 10th October 2017. Present included: Ted Harding (in chair), Angelos Alexopoulos, Marion Chatfield, Jonathan Chuang, Tim Cole, Celine Cunen, Vuckovic Dragana, Gareth Funk, Zoubin Ghahramani, Shenghan Gao, Alex Hawkins-Hooker, Jules Hernandez-Sanchez, Peter Jacko, Edmund Jones, Stephen Kaptoge, Nelson Kinnersley, Jing Xuan Koh, Alexey Larionov, Kwut Sin Lee, Xin Lin, Kevin McConway, Bernard McKeown, Marieke Mur, Garabet Panikian, Jayantha Ratnayake, Joe Rennie, Emma Rocheter, Pantelis Samartsidis, Simon Schoenbuchner, Shaun Seaman, Maria Skoularidou, Colin Starr, Rosemary Tate, Jenny Thomas, Adam Wagner, Klaudia Walter, Peter Watson, Chris Wells, Lorenz Wermisch, Faye Williamson, Jing Xu, Yuejia Xu, Jie Yeo, Jing Hua Zhao. **Apologies:** Alun Bedding, Margaret Corbett, Mary Garratt, Martin Gibson, Clive Moncrieff, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott, Roger Sewell. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved. The secretary reported a total attendance of 75 for the 2016-2017 session. Anyone with suggestions for speakers or venues or anyone interested in joining the committee please contact a committee member.

Treasurer's Accounts and Report 2016-2017:

The CSDG started the year in October 2016 with £43.73 cash in addition to £252.57 in the Cambridge Building Society. The table below shows the financial activity during the current year (Oct16 to Sept17).

Expenditure		Income	
Speakers' expenses	£44.85	Balance at Sep 2016	£43.73
Added to Bank a/c		Subscriptions	£46.00

Cash balance at 1st October 2016 £43.73, cash remaining 1st October 2017 £44.88. There is now £252.69 plus interest in a Community account at the Cambridge Building Society. The account holders are Ted Harding (current chairman), Peter Watson (current secretary) and Adam Wagner (current treasurer). These names can be changed on application. The principle holder is the treasurer. Any of the three account holders can deposit and withdraw money. It is suggested subscriptions remain at £1 for the 2017-2018 session.

Election of officers and committee: Committee for 2017-2018: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Adam Wagner; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Martin Gibson, Haidee Philpott, Tony Sabin. **Any Other Business:** None.