THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 30th April 2019 7:15 for 7:45

Amgen Ltd, Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WG

The Algorithm is Going to Get You: Should We Fear the Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Criminal Justice

Matthew Bland
Institute of Criminology

Abstract: With the use of artificial intelligence techniques increasingly prominent in public discourse, there have been several recent examples of the media focussing attention on the use of algorithms in criminal justice settings. The prevailing sentiment of these pieces has been one of strong caution. A typical consumer of these stories may be left with the sense that algorithms can only lead to at best, a biased outcome and that it would be far better to leave practitioners to their own professional judgements. In this talk I will expand on this important debate in detail, with specific references to my experiences of working with machine-learning techniques in criminal justice forecasts in domestic abuse cases, reoffending and case solvability. My discussion will be mostly non-technical but I draw on practical examples of the use of these methods to illustrate issues around ethics, bias and implementation.

Speaker: Matthew Bland is a PhD candidate at the Institute of Criminology and Research Manager for the Cambridge Centre of Evidence Based Policing. During a 15-year career as a police staff member, Matthew was Head of Strategic Analysis for Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies and concurrently completed a Master's Degree in Applied Criminology and Police Management at Cambridge. His recent professional and research career has predominantly focussed on the field of evidence-based policing, for which he implemented one of the first dedicated policing units in the country in 2013 and has published papers on domestic abuse and patrol strategies. His current work and studies both focus on the application of machine-learning methods to 'big data', predominantly in collaboration with police forces from England and Wales.

Directions: Head north on Milton Road. Two traffic lights before the A14 turn left into the Science Park (clearly signposted). Turn left at the roundabout. The meeting takes place at Amgen in the restaurant in building 214 (the ground floor of the middle building on the attached map which is also at http://imaging.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/statswiki/csdg/amgen). Parking is available on site. There will be no admittance after 7-45pm. Arrivals after 7-45pm can gain admittance by contacting the secretary on 07761769436. **If anyone would like complementary transport to the talk venue from Central Cambridge please inform the secretary in advance of the meeting.**

Provisional Next Meetings:
9th October – Imre Leader (Department of Pure Mathematics) on 'Clueless Voting'.
26th November – Nick Goldman (European Bioinformatics Institute). 3rd February 2020 – Oliver Exton (Economics).
23rd April 2020 – Peter Treasure (National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service).
7th May – Allègre Hadida (Judge Business School).
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 2018-2019 session.
Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 7EF; telephone 01223 769479; 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