



Annual Fellows Seminar 2015-2016

Law and Statistics

Co-organizers: Lynne Stokes, Statistical Sciences and Jenia Turner, Dedman School of Law

Description

Basic concepts of statistics, such as probability, causal inference, and statistical significance are becoming ever more important to understanding key areas of the law, including epidemiological evidence, civil rights and discrimination claims, products liability, environmental litigation, securities fraud, antitrust claims, police profiling of suspects, damages in commercial cases, and DNA evidence. Law professors are increasingly calling on their colleagues in the statistics department for help with creating empirical projects and analyzing the data gathered during such projects. Conversely, statistics professors have drawn on the expertise of law professors to design studies useful to understanding the effects of diverse laws, including most recently voter ID laws. In recognition of this important connection between the two fields, this seminar will explore potential areas for research collaboration between legal scholars and statistics scientists, as well as with related social science disciplines.

Seminar Participants/Fellows

- Michael Braun, Cox School of Business
- Jing Cao, Statistics, Dedman College
- Tony Ng, Statistics, Dedman College
- Keith Robinson, Dedman School of Law
- Meghan Ryan, Dedman School of Law
- Mary Spector, Dedman School of Law
- Herve Tchumkam, Foreign Languages and Literature, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences



Beyond Two Cultures: Reconciling the Sciences and Humanities

Co-organizers: Zachary Wallmark, Assistant Professor of Music; and Neely Myers, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Description

The “two cultures” schism separating sciences and humanities remains endemic in much of the modern university, but the division has arguably become intellectually untenable. Never before have the sciences and the humanities shared so much common ground: the sciences have advanced to the point where they can meaningfully contribute to explorations of traditionally humanistic research topics (e.g., culture, ethics, and the arts), while scholars in the humanities can help guide and interpret the empirical study of human behavior and culture. This seminar looks to explore the promises and perils of a post-two-cultures discursive landscape and establish synergistic partnerships between the social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, and arts at SMU and beyond.

Seminar Participants/Fellows

- Rhonda Blair, Theater, Meadows School of the Arts
- Philippe Chuard, Philosophy, Dedman College of Humanities and Science
- Michael Corris, Art, Meadows School of the Arts
- Justin Fisher, Philosophy, Dedman College of Humanities and Science
- John Mears, History, Dedman College of Humanities and Science
- Rex Thompson, Finance, Cox School of Business
- Ron Wetherington, Anthropology, Dedman College of Humanities and Science

