



Statistics Seminar

Bayesian Analysis:

What I learned this summer

Alex White

Friday October 4, 2019

12:00 – 1:00 PM

DERR 122

Abstract: In May, I attended the United States Conference on Teaching Statistics. In this talk, I will present what I learned about teaching Bayesian Statistics in an “introductory” level statistics class. The American Statistical Association (ASA; Wasserstein & Lazar, 2016) issued a statement questioning the current use / abuse of p-values and hypothesis testing. Many statisticians argue that a Bayesian approach that allows for a cumulative science that incrementally improves estimates of magnitudes and uncertainty is preferable to Null Hypothesis Significance Testing. I will discuss some of the pros and cons of teaching the Bayesian approach and present an app created in R by John Kruschke, which compares the frequentist and Bayesian approaches to simple one sample problems.

Alex White has a Ph.D. in Statistics from Michigan State University, and is a Professor at the Department of Mathematics, Texas State University.