

Economic Analyses of Science

Opening remarks

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May 20, 2024

Motivation for the workshop

Speakers and schedule

Logistics

Recap last year

Social foundations for statistics and machine learning

- Current foundation for both statistics and machine learning (ML):
Single-agent decision theory.
- This framework cannot address important scientific and societal challenges:
 1. **Replication crisis**, publication bias, p-hacking, pre-registration, reforms of statistics teaching and the publication system.
A single agent has no reason to mislead themselves / selectively report!
 2. The **social impact of AI**, algorithmic discrimination and inequality, value alignment of autonomous agents / robots.
A single agent has no distributional conflicts / value misalignment!
- **Multiple agents** have **different objectives** and **information**.

This year: Economic analyses of science

- Science is a collective process of knowledge production.
- It is often characterized by:
 - conflicting interests,
 - inequalities,
 - externalities,
 - agency problems,
 - and misaligned incentives.
- Consequences might include:
 - p-hacking,
 - publication bias,
 - scientific fraud,
 - insider clubs,
 - hype cycles...

This workshop

- Bringing together perspectives from
 - economic theory,
 - econometric theory,
 - empirical economics,
 - behavioral economics,
 - economic history, and
 - science policy,to discuss these issues.
- Tutorial lectures to get to the same page.
- Followed by frontier talks on current research agendas.

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Our speakers

- Marco Ottaviani (micro theory)
- Alessio Mitra (policy)
- Carolyn Stein (applied micro)
- Séverine Toussaert (behavioral)
- Davide Viviano (econometrics)
- Fabian Waldinger (economic history) [CANCELED]

Workshop schedule part 1: Tutorial lectures

- Monday, May 20
 - 11:45 Maximilian Kasy:
Opening remarks
 - 12:00 Marco Ottaviani:
Comparison of Monotonic Experiments
 - 14:15 Carolyn Stein:
Incentives in Science
 - 16:00 Alessio Mitra:
R&I Policy Evaluation at the European Commission
- Tuesday, May 21
 - 10:30 Davide Viviano:
Hypothesis Testing in Economic Research
 - 12:45 Séverine Toussaert:
Predicting social science results

Canceled Fabian Waldinger: *Citations and Their Use in Social Science Research*

Workshop schedule part 2: Frontier talks

- Tuesday, May 21
 - 14:30 Maximilian Kasy:
Optimal Pre-Analysis Plans: Statistical Decisions Subject to Implementability
 - 16:15 Carolyn Stein:
Race to the Bottom: Competition and Quality in Science

- Wednesday, May 22

- Canceled** Fabian Waldinger:
Measuring Science: Performance Metrics and the Allocation of Talent
- 12:45 Marco Ottaviani:
Grantmaking
 - 14:30 Davide Viviano:
(When) Should you adjust inference for multiple hypothesis testing?

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- For everyone:
 - Coffee and pastries: 2pm, outside the Skills Lab.
 - Pub evening: The Chequers, 6:15pm, May 20.
- For speakers:
 - Lunch in the department: Room 2126.
 - Dinner at Nuffield: 7pm, May 21.
Meet there 18:40.
- Conference website:
https://maxkasy.github.io/home/economics_of_science_workshop/
- Live streaming:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB3VHmtU-Acta1o0wbzWaag>

Thank you!