Caucus of Academic Reps (CAR) Weekly Digest
June 30, 2017

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Funding opportunities: Visit the ASA’s Funding Opportunities Community for recent past information. (You’ll need to log in to ASA Members Only.)

No new listings this week

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(1) Department of Defense, Office of People Analytics

Requirements: Experience and Degree in Statistics, Mathematics, Operations Research, or Quantitative fields requiring substantial competence in statistics

The Department of Defense invites qualified individuals to apply to lead the Office of People Analytics Data Science group. This newly formed office is in the DoD/DHRA (Defense Human Resource Activity (DHRA), Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness). The posting closes July 9th. The position includes the following activities:

- Leading a team using machine learning and data mining methods for prediction, ingesting and combining data from a wide variety of sources.
- Modeling complex problems, discovering insights and identifying opportunities through the use of statistical, algorithmic, data mining and visualization techniques.
- Writing code to automate a pipeline from many data sources such as programming in scripting languages and statistical languages.
- Planning and executing independent research directed at complex problems of critical operational or scientific importance requiring high levels of originality and creativity for their solution.

There are two listings: (1) Government or former government employees: https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/472775900, and (2) All U.S. citizens: https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/472775200

(2) Oregon State University, Department of Statistics: Director of Data Analytics and Instructor

The Department of Statistics at Oregon State University invites applications for a 9-month (1.0 FTE) nontenure-track position starting January 2018. The successful candidate will be expected to provide direct oversight of a new interdisciplinary on-line data analytics programs and to teach courses within the programs. The programs are a joint effort of the Department of Statistics and the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The programs consist of two degree options: M.S. in Data Analytics and a Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics. Coursework includes a range of core and elective courses in statistics and computer science, with an option in health analytics. Requirements for this position include a M.S. with five years experience or a Ph.D. in Statistics or Biostatistics and evidence of developing and teaching on-line courses. The focus of this faculty position is to provide leadership in the solid establishment and promotion of the program, and to enhance students’ learning and success in the program. This is a fixed term, annually renewable position.

The Statistics Department has 15 faculty members; about 60 graduate students; offers on-campus M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Statistics; and on-line M.S. and Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics. The Statistics Department receives support for its academic program from the College of Science with supplemental funding provided by the College of Agricultural Sciences for research and consulting activities. For more information about the Department and the city of Corvallis, see http://www.stat.oregonstate.edu
To ensure full consideration, all applications materials must be received by September 15, 2017. However, screening of applicants will continue until the position is filled. All applicants should submit a cover letter, current curriculum vitae with contact information for three references, research and teaching statements, on-line at http://oregonstate.edu/jobs with posting number #0011405.

Inquiries about the position may be directed to Charlotte Wickham (Charlotte.Wickham@oregonstate.edu) or Virginia Lesser (lesser@science.oregonstate.edu). OSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, and has a practice of being responsive to the needs of dual-career couples.

(3) AEA Data Editor: Request for Nominations

The American Economic Association seeks nominations for a new Data Editor to design and oversee its journals’ strategy for curating research data and promoting reproducible research.

Job Description: The AEA journals were early leaders in requiring posting of data and code used for published papers. This has enhanced research transparency and reproducibility, and the data collection has been a valuable resource. Many other journals in economics have now emulated the AEA data availability policy.

At the same time, the AEA believes the current system could be improved. For example:

- Data are sometimes incomplete and often difficult for re-use by a third party.
- Many papers use proprietary data for which there are restrictions on posting, and are exempt from the policy. This could be improved by: (i) systematically tracking proprietary data sets and the associated data use agreements; (ii) making sure posted code is sufficient to replicate the results once a researcher obtains access to the data; (iii) giving authors stronger incentives to get permission to share data.
- Posted code often does not run or does not actually replicate the results.
- Authors often post only the final processed data but not code, steps, or provenance of the data.
- Documentation is often incomplete or unclear.
- Current data security and privacy protections for data may not be sufficiently strong.

More broadly, best practices for reproducible research have been advancing rapidly. The AEA believes this is a pivotal moment for the profession to remain at the forefront of this movement and adopt best practices that will strengthen the credibility of economic research in the years to come. The AEA is committed to have the AEA journals play a leadership role in this effort.

The duties of the Data Editor will be to:

- Design, in collaboration with the AEA journal editors and the AEA Executive Committee, a comprehensive strategy for archiving and promoting the curation of data and code that guarantees to the extent possible reproducibility of research and addresses the challenges above.
- Determine the staff and computing resources necessary to implement the strategy.
• Oversee the hiring of staff and implementation of the new policy.

The Data Editor must be an established leader in quantitative research, with a PhD in economics, data science or a related field and extensive experience relevant to the duties above. Ideally, the editor would have both editorial experience and research experience with government administrative, commercial or other proprietary data. We expect that the Data Editor will retain their current affiliation, and that the time required for this position will be broadly similar to that of other Editor and Co-Editor positions at AEA journals. The Editor will report to the AEA Executive Committee.

Please send nominations, including self-nominations, to Esther Duflo and Hilary Hoynes, the Co-Chairs of the search at aea-data-editor-search@aeapubs.org by September 5, 2017.

Search Committee:
Esther Duflo, Co-Chair
Hilary Hoynes, Co-Chair
John Abowd
Matthew Gentzkow
Gary King
Margaret Levenstein
Peter Rousseau

Funding opportunities and information
No new listings this week.

Workshops and Conferences

(1) StatFest 2017 (September 23rd, 2017 at Emory) outreach for participants

StatFest is a one day (free) conference aimed at encouraging undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups to consider careers and graduate studies in the statistical sciences. The conference is an ongoing initiative of the American Statistical Association through its Committee on Minorities in Statistics.

It includes presentations from established professionals, academic leaders, and current graduate students that will help attendees understand the opportunities and routes for success in the field. Panel forums provide information and tips for a rewarding graduate student experience, achieving success as an academic statistician, opportunities in the private and government arenas, among other topics.

This is a *great* opportunity for Caucus members to attend to help strengthen pathways for
underrepresented students and recruit future graduate students. It would be most helpful if you could consider supporting your interested faculty and students to attend. More information and registration link can be found at: community.amstat.org/cmis/events/statfest

(2) Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Conference

March 7-9, 2018 at the Washington Convention Center

The FCSM conferences offer a rare opportunity for statistical agency professionals and their academic and private sector collaborators to share innovative thinking, methodological advances, and statistical policy implications of their work. About half of the sessions for the March 2018 FCSM conference will highlight statistical policy and technical research papers in the following priority areas:

- Data quality in integration of multiple sources (administrative and commercial records as well as surveys)
- Federal, state, private and academic research data centers and data clearinghouses
- Public access and open data
- Disclosure limitation
- Measurement and reduction of respondent burden
- Access, management and statistical analysis of State and Federal program data
- Policy analysis
- Human resources and skill development.

The other 20 sessions will address any of a large number of statistical issues specified in the Call for Proposals. To submit an abstract by August 29, go Here.

Awards

No new listings this week.

Other opportunities or information

(1) National Academies of Science report on The Value of Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences to National Priorities

The report was at the request of the National Science Foundation (NSF), to help determine whether and why the federal government should fund research in the social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) sciences at NSF. See the full report and report highlights at: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/dbasse/the_value_of_social_behavioral_and_economic_sciences_to_national_priorities/index.htm
(2) Former statistics students now in other professions

Stanton Communications, the ASA’s partner in This is Statistics (TiS), would like to do a campaign around statistics students now in other professions but who are big statistics promoters. For example, earlier this week we saw this Tweet from an MD saying statistics was more helpful to his work than his engineering degree and calc courses: twitter.com/MCWardMD/status/877550403214344192. Two years ago there was also this TiS blog post: thisisstatistics.org/….

We're not looking to promote statistics at the expense of other courses but we would like to find more such people for the TiS campaign.

If you have former students that fit this bill, please have them send a paragraph to Steve Pierson at spierson@amstat.org of how having had statistics is helping them in their current profession.