

American Statistical Association

Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter 2007 Fall Meeting

Speaker

Dr. Xiao-Li Meng
Department of Statistics, Harvard University

A Semi-Theoretician's Mid-Day Confession: The True Meaning of i.i.d. in (Applied) Statistics

(See abstract next page)

Wednesday, October 17th, 2007

at

University of Kansas Medical Center
Atrium (Ground floor) School of Nursing Building
3901 Rainbow Blvd
Kansas City, KS 66160

6.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Social Time

Dinner starts at 6.30 p.m.

Dinner: BBQ Catered by “Jack Stack’s BBQ” including Express Buffet, Cheesy Corn Bake, Burnt Ends, and Pork Spare Ribs. There will be a vegetarian option for those who choose (Grilled Vegetable Kebab and Tossed Salad)

Cost: \$30.00 (\$20.00 for students)

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Abstract

Doing good (applied) statistics is inherently – and increasingly –difficult. The size of the data and the complexity of their structure are increasing, as are the depth and specificity of the investigation goals. Yet the available time for conducting the study is decreasing due to intensive competition, especially for funding. Statistical consultants are therefore increasingly asked to perform magic, such as providing scientifically valid causal conclusions for a deeply stratified subgroup based on a handful of weighted samples with wildly varying weights. And by the way, the analysis must be done in one week and the methods must be implementable by (and explainable to) analysts whose statistical experience might come largely from reading output from SAS/SPSS/Stata.

This is not a cynical observation, but rather a real challenge that we as statisticians must face in order for our profession to remain at the core of quantitative scientific investigation. Of course with every grand challenge comes a great opportunity! In this talk, I will report my own experiences both crying and smiling as a member of a team of statistical consultants for the National Latino and Asian American Study (NLAAS), a very recent survey of psychiatric epidemiology, which measured over 5000 variables and embedded experiments on different survey instruments. I will report on the success and failure of using Bayesian modeling and multiple imputation to deal with the respondents' untruthful self-reporting, as detected by the embedded experiments. If time permits, I will also show how the ambiguity in the Institute of Medicine's definition of "healthcare disparity" led to the concepts of conditional disparity and marginal disparity, which correspond to two extreme causal models. Yet the theory needed for the more realistic concept of joint disparity is still far from reach. The true meaning of i.i.d. will become clear only by the end of my talk; unless, of course, you have already deciphered it from this abstract....

Directions

School of Nursing

The KU School of Nursing, located on the KU Medical Center campus at 3901 Rainbow Blvd. in Kansas City, Kan., is easily accessible from both I-70 and I-35.

The Medical Center is a mile south of I-35 and 7th St. Trafficway South, at 39th Avenue and Rainbow Boulevard in Kansas City, Kansas. **The best parking is located across the School of Nursing on 39th street in the “blue lot.”** Parking garages are also located on Cambridge Street and Olathe Boulevard (\$3 for garage). Please see map.

Directions to KU Medical Center

From the North

I-29 South to I-35 South. From I-35 South take the 7th Street Trafficway South exit. 7th

Street becomes Rainbow Boulevard. Continue south on Rainbow Boulevard to 39th Street.

From the West

From I-70 East take the 7th Street Trafficway South exit, 7th Street Trafficway South becomes Rainbow Boulevard. Continue south on Rainbow Blvd to 39th Street.

From the East

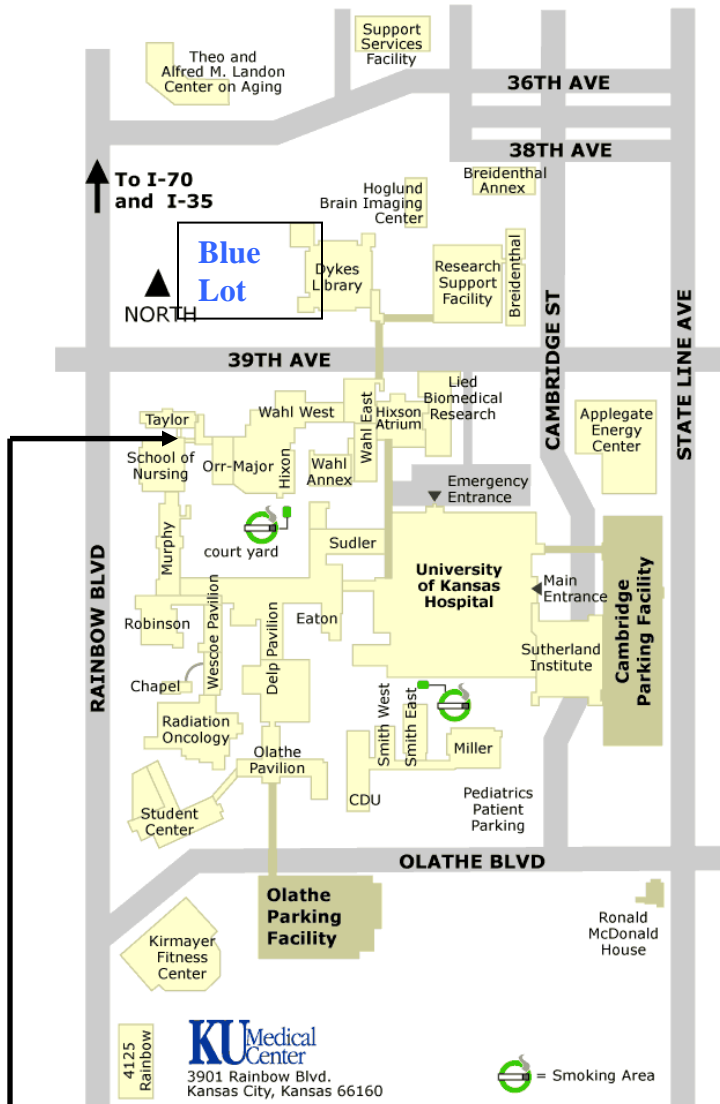
Take I-70 West to downtown Kansas City, Mo. Merge onto I-35 South and go to the 7th Street Trafficway South exit, 7th Street Trafficway South becomes Rainbow Boulevard. Continue south on Rainbow Blvd to 39th Street.

From the South

Via I-35 - travel north on I-35 to the Rainbow Boulevard exit. Head south on Rainbow Boulevard to 39th St.

Alternate route from the south

Exit I-435 at State Line Road. Head north on State Line Road to 39th Street. Turn left at 39th Street and go to Cambridge Street. Turn right onto Cambridge Street.



School of Nursing Atrium

(when traveling eastbound to Blue Lot take the "U-turn" despite the sign)