



BAMA

School Year 2021—2022
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Jo Hardin

The Objectivity of My Desire

Via Zoom at 7:30 pm
Tuesday, May 3, 2022

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Algorithms and statistical models play a role in your every day life, whether you know it or not. Some models predict the movies you want to see, others determine the news articles at the top of your social media feed, and still others decide on the hiring fates of you or people around you. And while, of course, the models are built using computer algorithms, the implementation of the algorithms are not objective; indeed, they are created with (sometimes biased) human insight and (typically biased) data. This talk will explore the effects of biases which lead to problematic algorithmic decision-making.

Jo Hardin is a Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Pomona College. After graduating from Pomona College in 1995, she completed her PhD at UC Davis and then spent two years in Seattle working at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research. Her current research includes developing robust methods for high throughput data – many many biological measurements taken simultaneously (think: measuring 10,000 genes on one person) and finding ways to modernize the statistics curriculum (think: access, data science, and computing). She is proud of her recent online and completely free introductory statistics textbook and additional resources which are published through OpenIntro: Introduction to Modern Statistics, <https://openintro-ims.netlify.app/>. Jo has an active undergraduate research group, often publishing with her students and getting them excited about doing projects on their own. When not working with students or on her research, she loves to put on a pair of running shoes and hit the road.



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