

Big Data Before Data Science, Preliminary Workshop Schedule

Tuesday, 9 December 2025

Big Picture:
chair TBC

9:00- 9:45 Amira Moeding
“Probabilistic Phenomena:” On the history of statistical modelling
and the emergence of modern data science.

9:45-10:30 Christopher Phillips,
Aggregated Individuals

10:30-11:00 Morning tea/coffee break

11-11:45 Matthew Daniel Eddy
Moral Statistics: Freedom, Bias and Dr James McCune Smith’s
Encounter with the 1840 American Census

11:45 – 12:30 Stephanie Dick
“The Blaze of Lights at Western Avenue”: ‘Criminality’ and
Computation in the first American Law Enforcement
Databank

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

Tools: chair TBC

13:30- 14:15 Moon Duchin
The tangible ballot: A history of voting tools

14:15-15:00 Florence Hsia
Paper tools for managing astronomers and astronomical
data

15:00- 15:30 Afternoon tea/coffee break

Weather: chair TBC

15:30- 16:15 Hannes Junker
In the Wind: Statistics at the British Met Office in the
Second Half of the 19th Century

16:15 – 17:00 Amy Ackenberg-Hastings
Mathematics and Weather Data in Revolutionary and Early
Republican American Colleges

Wednesday, 10 December 2025

Historiography: chair TBC

9:00-9:45 Jessica Otis
Death by Numbers: Collecting, Categorizing, and
Communicating Mortality Data in Early Modern London

9:45-10:30 Michael Friedman
From the 17th century paper tools of Joachim Jungius to the
digitalization of his *Nachlass*

10:30-11:00 Morning tea/coffee break

11:00-11:45 François Le
Using textometry in the history of mathematics: a sample of
questions and answers

11:45 – 12:30 Kim M. Hajek
Paradoxical Reproducibility and Generalisation? Collecting Textual
‘Data’ through Case Histories of Psychotherapy

12:30-13:30 Lunch

Machines: chair TBC

- 13:30 – 14:15 Daniel Rosenberg
The Age of the Keyword
- 14:15 – 15:00 Prashant Kumar
'Machines Without the Certainty of Machinery:' On Some Attempts to Automate Intelligence in the Trigonometrical Survey of India, 1790-1858
- 15:00- 15:30 Afternoon tea/coffee break
- 15:30- 16:15 Peggy Kidwell
Data Processing before Data Science – A World of Tabulating Machines and Punch Cards
- 16:15- 17:00 David Dunning
Thinking with Punch Cards

Thursday, 11 December 2025

Quantified self: Chair TBC

- 9:00-9:45 Caroline Ehrhardt
The production and use of mortality data: administrative, actuarial and mathematical practices in the work of Emmanuel Etienne Duvillard de Durand (1755-1832)
- 9:45 – 10:30 Jemma Lorenat
Alice Through a Looking-Glass Darkly
- 10:30-11:00 Morning tea/coffee break
- 11:00 – 11: 45 Alex Aylward
TBC
- 11:45-12:15 Iris Clever
Encoding Race: A History of Statistics, Biometric Data, and Algorithms
- 12:15-1:00 Beans Velocci
M or F, Three Ways: Information Infrastructures and the Persistence of Binary Sex in Large Data Sets
- 1:00 + Lunch and free afternoon
- Conference DINNER

Friday, 12 December 2025

Pedagogy: Chair TBC

- 9:30- 10:15 Lee Kennedy-Shaffer,
Using Historical Materials in the Modern Statistics and Data Science Classroom
- 10:15- 11:00 Deborah Kent
Generating multi-layered discussions in Mathematics courses through historical case studies
- 11:00 – noon closing discussion