



43rd Applied Statistics Workshop

Saturday, April 13, 2024

TOPIC: STATISTICS FOR PUBLIC POLICY

PRESENTER: JEREMY WEBER



WHEN: Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9AM - 3PM

LOCATION: <https://csulb.zoom.us/j/81532967761>

COST: Free

REGISTRATION: not required

EVENT SCHEDULE

- ♦ 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM Introduction and Overview
- ♦ 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM Session I **Big ideas: The role of statistics in public policy**
Do data ever drive a policy decision? What's different about statistics in policy vs. academic settings?
- ♦ 11:00 AM – 11:05 AM Break
- ♦ 11:05 AM – 12:00 PM Session II **'Is this a random sample?' is the wrong question: What statistical essentials must the statistically savvy policy aide wield with confidence?**
- ♦ 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM Lunch Break + presentation by the first-place winner at the SCASA Regional Data Visualization Poster Competition
- ♦ 12:45 PM – 2:30 PM Session III **Is "large" the right adjective? How can you distinguish small from large and communicate statistics to diverse policy-minded audiences?**
- ♦ 2:30 PM – 2:45 PM Q/A
- ♦ 2:45PM – 3 PM Book Raffle and Wrap-up

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WORKSHOP ABSTRACT



Using statistics in public policy settings presents challenges not commonly addressed in academic statistical training. This workshop seeks to bridge theory and practice, and not academic practice but practice with the Mayor's staff as they size up issues, consider options, and make decisions. It does so through three sessions, starting first with big-picture ideas such as the roles that statistics can play in policy decisions and how academic and policy practice can differ. The second session discusses statistical essentials important for a policy aide to wield with confidence, such as knowing the details of definitions behind the data and how to gauge the value of statistics from nonrandom samples. The third session addresses the controversial but important task of selecting and defending adjectives to convey whether a number is large or small, alarming or ignorable. The session also explains principles for communicating statistics to diverse audiences, ranging from policy wonks to high-level decision makers, so that the statistics are seen, understood, and believed.

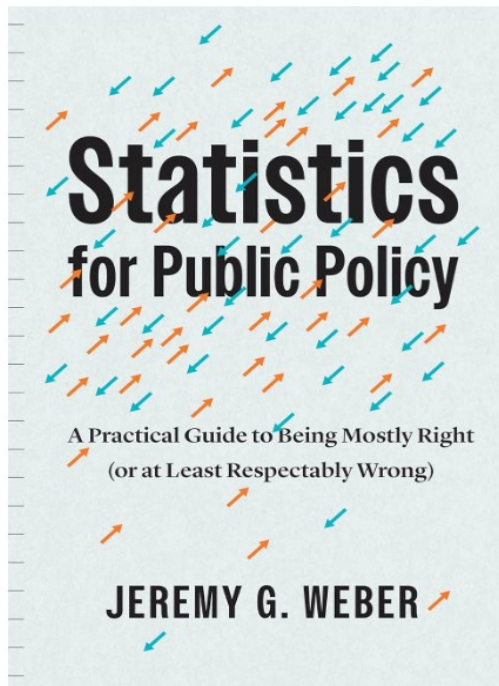
ABOUT THE PRESENTER

JEREMY WEBER is a professor at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and author of "Statistics for Public Policy: A Practical Guide to Being Mostly Right (or at Least Respectably Wrong)." His teaching includes courses in quantitative methods and policy analysis, and his research addresses empirical questions in energy and environmental economics and policy. He regularly engages with non-academic audiences and has extensive policy experience, having worked as a research economist at a Federal statistical agency (the Economic Research Service) and as a chief economist at the White House (the Council of Economic Advisers).

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BOOKS FOR RAFFLE (SPOILER)



x 5 signed books !!!

