Table of Contents

Curriculum Schedule, 2
From the Director, 3
Sibel Sirakaya, 4
Blalock Fellowship, 5
Computational Modeling Conf., 6
CSSS Seminars, 7

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CSSS Curriculum Schedule

Winter Quarter 2004 Curriculum Schedule

CS&SS 320  SLN: 2528 Evaluating Social Science Evidence (5)
Instructor: Martina Morris
Offered jointly with STAT 320 & SOC 320

CS&SS 504  SLN: 2529 Applied Regression (4)
Instructor: Adrian Raftery
Offered jointly with STAT 504

CS&SS 506  SLN: 2530 Computer Environments for the Social Sciences (1)
Instructor: Patricia Glynn

CS&SS 560  SLN: 2532 Hierarchical Modeling in the Social Sciences (4)
Instructor: Elena Erosheva
Offered jointly with STAT 560

CS&SS 590  SLN 2533 Seminar Series (1)
Instructor: Katherine Stovel

CS&SS 594  SLN 2534 Special Topics in Social Science and Statistics (5)
Instructor: Michael Ward

Spring Quarter 2004 Curriculum Schedule

CS&SS 321  Case Based Social Statistics I (5)
Instructor: Sibel Sirakaya

CS&SS 426  Methodology: Quantitative Techniques in Sociology (3)
Instructor: Lowell Hargens

CS&SS 505  Review of Mathematics for Social Scientists (1)
Instructor: Adrian Raftery

CS&SS 529  Sample Survey Techniques (3)
Instructor: J. Courbois

CS&SS 536  Log-Linear Modeling (3)
Instructor: Mark Handcock

CS&SS 544  Event History Analysis of Social and Spatial Change (4)
Instructor: Suzanne D. Withers

CS&SS 567  Statistical Analysis of Networks (4)
Instructor: Mark Handcock

CS&SS 590  Seminar Series (1)
Instructor: Katherine Stovel
FROM THE DIRECTOR

ADRIAN E. RAFTERY

Happy New Year to everyone! This year is an exciting one for CSSS, the first year that we have been a permanent unit of the university. We welcome new CSSS core faculty member Sibel Sirakaya, who has a joint appointment in Statistics and Economics, and interests in computational economics, game theory, recidivism and Bayesian model averaging. Next academic year (2004-5) she will teach a course on Game Theory (CS&SS 568), including its statistical aspects. This will strengthen what has emerged as an important intellectual thrust of CSSS, featuring among other things a recent Working Paper by graduate student Anton Westveld and Peter Hoff on the statistical analysis of the centipede game, and the CSSS Game Theory working group organized by Anton. We also welcome new Blalock Fellows Amanda Cox and Krista Gile, entering Statistics graduate students who are interested in statistical methods for social science. We are also delighted to welcome new CSSS Administrator Nick Ganoulis.

We have just awarded two new seed grants, both of which aim to advance an important new direction in social network analysis, the formal detection and assessment of clusters in social networks. Mark Handcock and new CSSS postdoc Jeremy Tantrum are developing a new approach that combines the latent space social network model with model-based clustering. Marina Meila will develop a spectral clustering approach to the same problem, working with Marc Smith of Microsoft Research and using the huge Netscan database of Usenet messages. Marc Smith is also continuing to work with James Kitts on a CSSS seed grant-funded project to develop interfaces to the Netscan data for social network analysis.

Last quarter’s seminar series, run by Kate Stovel, was particularly dynamic and exciting. One highlight was an interdisciplinary talk by Bryan Jones and Dick Startz, who introduced a new Markov switching model of Congressional partisan regimes. This shed new light on the past 150 years of political history – one striking finding was that the “Roosevelt transition” from Republican to Democratic dominance can be located in 1930 rather than 1932. Other important transitions took place in 1874, 1894 and 1994. In the rest of the year, we can look forward to seminars by Scott Long (Indiana Sociology), Michael Chwe (UCLA Political Science) and Ted Mouw (UNC Sociology). Students are invited to register for the CSSS seminar series for credit (CS&SS 590).

CSSS continues to offer a rich menu of courses for social science students. Looking ahead to Spring quarter, we will offer five 500-level graduate courses: Review of Math for Social Sciences (CS&SS 505, taught by Adrian Raftery), Sample Surveys (CS&SS 529, taught by Pip Courbois), Loglinear Modeling and Logistic Regression for the Social Sciences (CS&SS 536, taught by Mark Handcock), and Statistical Analysis of Social Networks (CS&SS 567, also taught by Mark Handcock). We also plan to offer Event History Analysis (CS&SS 544, taught by Suzanne Withers) – this was originally planned for Winter quarter.

Just as we were going to press, we learned that Susan Jeffords, Divisional Dean for the Social Sciences, will be taking up a new position as Vice Provost for Academic Planning. Susan has been involved in the genesis and development of CSSS from the very start, and has provided extraordinary support and inspiration. We all thank Susan for everything she has done to make CSSS a reality, and wish her well in her new position.
NEW FACULTY MEMBER

SIBEL SIRAKAYA

JOINS CSSS

When the Center for Statistical and Social Sciences offered Dr. Sibel Sirakaya a position, Ted Bundy first came to her mind.

It makes sense that Sirakaya, who joined CSSS this fall as an Economics and Statistics assistant professor, would be thinking about serial killers; after all, she just completed her dissertation on criminals who commit crimes during the years following their release.

“After I started to work [on my dissertation], I knew of all of the serial killers,” said the economist, who came to the U.S. in 1998 to pursue graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Sirakaya completed her Ph. D. last spring, and after a highly competitive hiring process, she was invited to take a position at CSSS. An economist by trade, she calls her discipline “conservative” and feels that CSSS will give her “a lot of freedom.”

In addition to her interest in criminology, Sirakaya has worked extensively with problems in other disciplines, including learning models, game theory, and applying solutions engineers use for economic problems.

She says the CSSS job, which includes putting together the statistics seminar for this term, must be the right one, because the Center provides a forum for disciplines to interact, but also it highlights the fine line between her work and what she does for pleasure.

“The things I like to do are all job-related,” she says. That includes reading interdisciplinary papers and working on computer programs. It also includes her home in Turkey, where her sister, who is ten months younger than Sirakaya, is getting her Ph. D in Sociology at a university there.

“It’s very interesting to have a sociologist in the family,” she says. “Sociology and economics are very, very different. The interaction between the two is beginning to happen, but it could be more … it’s like a CSSS interaction in Turkey!”

During the research process for her dissertation, Sirakaya amassed data on the influence one repeat offender has on another, and she didn’t hesitate to approach probationary and parole officers for details.

“They looked at me like I was crazy,” she says.

As for meeting the criminals, well, that’s where she draws the line. “I wouldn’t like to meet any of them,” she says. The closest she has ever come to a prison was passing by one on her daily morning walk to Starbucks.

Sirakaya’s research took into account various factors as to why a criminal would commit another crime while on probation. She blames an American-specific culture of independence for the prevalence of such criminals.

“In Turkey, the family is different,” she says, attributing isolation as a possible factor for criminality. “Most serial killers live alone, and their families don’t call them; they don’t usually have jobs. In Turkey, if you didn’t call your mom for five days or so, your neighbors would knock on your door.”

Still stuck on Washington State’s sizable serial killer register, Sirakaya mused, “I wonder what makes Washington have such a high number of serial killers?” Answering her own question, she laughed. “It’s probably geographic; there are lots of places to dump people here.”

Whether she pursues the serial killer question (in any case, she agrees that it’s highly unlikely she’ll bump into one), she hopes that her research will provide an impetus for policy change concerning prisons.

“It doesn’t seem to be working,” she says. “They need to rethink this all over again. We need to know why criminals commit crimes once released.”
Two students received the CSSS–Hubert M. Blalock Fellowships this year. This year’s graduate student award was for $3,000. The fellowship honors Hubert M. Blalock, who was a leading sociological methodologist and social statistician at the UW, a former President of the American Sociological Association, and one of the founding faculty members of the Statistics department here, as well as a longtime Professor of Sociology at the university. CSSS provides this award to entering graduate students who have a strong interest in furthering their studies in statistics and the social sciences.

This year’s award winners are: Amanda Cox who holds a BA in Mathematics and Economics from St. Olaf College, 2001 and is entering the Statistics graduate program. Krista Gile who holds a M.S. in Science and Technology Studies from Virginia Tech, 2000 and also a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rensselar Polytechnic Institute, 1998 and is also entering the Statistics graduate program.
This past spring, Professor Mark S. Handcock, CSSS, Statistics, and Sociology and Professor Stephen Majeski, Political Science, organized the first University of Washington Conference on Computational Modeling in the Social Sciences. The conference was held in conjunction with the 8th American Sociological Association Methodology Section Spring Meeting.

The idea for the conference was a product of interactions between social and statistical scientists through the CSSS. Spurred by advances in evolutionary game theory and agent-based modeling, there has been a resurgence of interest in computational modeling and computer simulation across the social sciences. The CSSS seminar series and other initiatives provided forums for interactions among the groups on campus doing related work in the area. A number of groups were considering short conferences or workshops. Lead by Stephen Majeski, the Computational Modeling conference pooled these ideas and resources. It brought to the UW leading scholars from across the social sciences who presented before a large audience of faculty and graduate students from UW and around the country.

The conference was supported by the CSSS, the Department of Political Science, and the Department of Sociology. The College of Arts and Sciences provided supporting funds. The conference was also joint with the American Sociological Association's Methodology Section Annual Meeting. Since their first meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, in February 1996, the Methodology Section of the American Sociological Association has been meeting annually to present and discuss cutting-edge work in methodology. The choice of the theme of the 2003 annual meeting, “Simulation Models” reflects the dynamic nature of methodological research in Sociology. By combining with the Conference on Computational Modeling the meeting allowed sociological methodologists to interact with methodologists from other social sciences with related aims.

The success of the conference was helped by the active participation of the UW community. The meeting embodied the kind of interdisciplinary interaction between the social sciences and statistics that the CSSS and the UW are trying to foster.

The full-program for the conference and all the presented papers are available on the conference website:  www.csde.washington.edu/~handcock/simuw

It is also accessible from the CSSS webpage (http://www.csss.washington.edu/Links).
The CSSS seminar series is centered around intellectual exchange and interaction. The seminars meet on Wednesday’s during the academic year from 12:30pm to 2:00pm in Savery 209. The audience is encouraged to ask questions during presentations. Speakers will end their presentations after 1 hour in order to allow time for discussion. The goal is a seminar that looks less like a lecture and more like a spirited discussion of issues raised in a relatively brief presentation of a statistical issue or a research project. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their lunch.

Graduate Students may obtain one credit per quarter for regularly attending and participating in seminars. Interested students should contact Katherine Stovel at stovel@u.washington.edu for details. Students can register for the Winter Quarter 2004 course CS&SS 590 –Seminar Series (1) Winter Quarter -SLN # 2533.

Seminar speakers for the remainder of the academic year include:
- Mark Ellis, (UW Geography)
- Michael Chwe (UCLA Political Science)
- Adrian Raftery (UW Statistics/Sociology/CSSS Director)
- Bill Talbott (UW Philosophy)
- Alejandro Murua (UW Statistics)
- Scott Long (Indiana Sociology)
- Iain Pardoe (Oregon Business School)
- Darryl Holman (UW Anthropology)
- Dick Startz (UW Economics)
- Ted Mouw (UNC Sociology)
- Buzz Hunt and Anne Thissen-Roe (UW Psychology)
- Paul Waddell (UW Evans School)
- Barbara Reskin, Lowell Hargens, and Mark Handcock (UW Sociology)

Please visit our website at http://www.csss.washington.edu/Seminars/ for the latest list of upcoming seminars

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CSSS Students, Faculty, and Staff at the 2nd Annual CSSS Hike, September 27, 2003

Original CSSS Core Faculty
(L-R) Adrian Raftery, Peter Hoff, Martina Morris, Kevin Quinn, Elena Erosheva, Mark Handcock

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