BIOSTATISTICS RESEARCH AND CAREER DAY
Keynote Speaker

Nicholas Chamandy, PhD

CANSSI Distinguished Visitor

Head of Data Science at Lyft

A Statistician Goes to the Valley

Friday, September 22, 2017
3:30-4:30pm – Bronfman Building – 1001 rue Sherbrooke W – Room 179

ALL ARE WELCOME

Abstract: In this talk I'll give a flavour of the problems I've encountered – and describe how my thinking has evolved – in a decade working as a statistician and data scientist in Silicon Valley. I'll focus specifically on two problems of central interest to Lyft, a transportation company and mobile ridesharing app. The first, travel time prediction, seems non-statistical at first glance but has many statistical nuances lurking below the surface. The second, running rigorous and powerful live experiments on our network, is transparently a statistics problem – but its statistical complexity is under-appreciated and leads to interesting methodological questions. I'll conclude with a brief description of five key statistical lessons that I've learned (and in some cases, re-learned) since finishing grad school.

Bio: Dr. Nick Chamandy completed his PhD in Statistics from McGill University in 2007, under the supervision of Drs. Keith Worsley and Russ Steele. He then joined Google as a staff statistician, working in the Search Ads Metrics Team as a Technical Lead, individual contributor, and mentor for junior statisticians. In 2015, he transitioned to the tech industry, joining Lyft as a data scientist. He is now the Head of Data Science at Lyft.

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