

STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS  
DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

4:15 p.m., Tuesday, August 22, 2000  
Sequoia Hall Rm. 200  
(Cookies at 3:45 in 1st Floor Lounge)

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**Essential Fisher**

The title refers to two aspects of Fisher's legacy: his essential role in the founding of modern statistical theory, and also to the essence of his approach that differentiates it from frequentist and Bayesian methods. Fisher's ideas are particularly dominant in estimation theory and its applications. However I will also discuss hypothesis testing and model selection, where, despite the enormous influence of Neyman and Pearson, Fisher's scale of evidence (".05 significance level", etc) continues to dominate statistical practice. A subtitle for this last topic might be "Fisher's famous debate with Jeffreys that never happened."