

Center for Statistical and Survey Methodology within the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics at University of Wollongong will be visited by and have talks delivered by two **COPSS-awardee statisticians** during the month of July.

The COPSS Award is the most prestigious one in the field of Statistics. COPSS is an acronym for Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies and, since 1981, the award is made to a leading research statistician under the age of 40 each year.

While sometimes thought of as being North American-centric, it is actually an international one and e.g. was awarded to our own Peter Hall in 1989. Some more details on the COPSS award and list of winners is appended below. For those working in Statistics, it is essentially a who's who of modern leaders in the field (although poor Brad Efron missed out somehow!).

The visitors and dates are:

**Ray Carroll, Texas A&M University, 1-3 July (talk on 1<sup>st</sup>)**

**Xiao-Li Meng, Harvard University, 29 July**

Professor Meng is visiting as the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute Distinguished Lecturer.

Biographies of the visitors are also given below. Both are very entertaining speakers - and Xiao-Li is surely one of the wittiest writers of our time (in Statistics, that is).

I realise that, for us, July is not the greatest month for having talks, but these dates are the only ones possible for the visitors (travel season for US-based academics).

## **More on COPSS**

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The Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) award is bestowed upon a leading research statistician under the age of 40. The awardee is chosen by the presidents of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, International Biometrics Society, American Statistical Association and the Statistical Society of Canada. The full list of awardees, with some associated geographical information, is:

year	COPSS awardee	(origin; workplace)
1981	Peter Bickel	(USA; USA)
1982	Stephen Fienberg	(Canada; USA)
1983	Tze Leung Lai	(Taiwan; USA)
1984	David Hinkley	(UK; UK)
1985	Jim Berger	(USA; USA)
1986	Ross Prentice	(Canada; USA)
1987	Jeff Wu	(Taiwan; USA)
1988	Ray Carroll	(USA; USA)
1989	Peter Hall	(Australia; Australia)
1990	Peter McCullagh	(UK; USA)
1991	Bernard Silverman	(UK; UK)

1992	Nancy Reid	(Canada; Canada)
1993	Wing Wong	(Hong Kong; USA)
1994	David Donoho	(USA; USA)
1995	Iain Johnstone	(Australia; USA)
1996	Rob Tibshirani	(Canada; Canada)
1997	Kathryn Roeder	(USA; USA)
1998	Pascal Massart	(France; France)
1999	Larry Wasserman	(Canada; USA)
2000	Jianqing Fan	(China; USA)
2001	Jun Liu	(China; USA)
2002	Xiao-Li Meng	(China; USA)
2003	Andrew Gelman	(USA; USA)
2004	Michael Newton	(Canada; USA)
2005	Mark van der Laan	(Netherlands; USA)
2006	Xihong Lin	(China; USA)
2007	Jeff Rosenthal	(Canada; Canada)

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## Biographies of visitors

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**Raymond Carroll** is Distinguished Professor of Statistics, Nutrition and Toxicology at Texas A&M University. He has been editor of two of the major Statistics research journals: the Journal of the American Statistical Association (Theory and Methods) and Biometrics. Professor Carroll has been awarded most of the major honors in Statistics, including the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) Presidents' Award (awarded annually to a major research statistician under the age of 40), the COPSS Fisher Lecture (awarded annually for seminal work that has influenced the theory and practice of Statistics), the Snedecor Award (for an outstanding publication in Biometry and Biostatistics), the Wilcoxon Prize (for an outstanding publication in the practice of Statistics), the Mitchell Prize (for an outstanding publication in Bayesian statistics) and the Sacks Award (given by the National Institute of Statistical Sciences). He is a distinguished alumnus of Purdue University, and has been a Humboldt Fellow. He is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

**Xiao-Li Meng** is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Statistics at Harvard University. He is also the co-editor of *Statistica Sinica*. He was the recipient of the 2001 COPSS Award, and the recipient of the 2003 Distinguished Achievement Award from ICSA. He was ranked (by Science Watch) among the world top 25 most cited authors for articles published and cited during 1991-2001 in mathematical sciences. His degrees include BS (Fudan Mathematics Department, 1982), Master of Science Diploma (Fudan Mathematics Institute, 1986), Master of Art (Harvard Statistics, 1987), and Ph.D.

(Harvard Statistics, 1990). He taught at The University of Chicago from 1991-2001 before joining Harvard University. He has served on editorial boards for leading statistical journals such as *The Annals of Statistics*, *Biometrika*, *Journal of The American Statistical Association*, and *Bernoulli*.

He has served on numerous national and international professional committees, including chairing the 2004 Joint Statistical Meetings. He is also an elected fellow of American Statistical Association and of Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

His current research interests include wavelet modelling for signal and image data, statistical issues in astronomy and astrophysics, modelling and imputation for mental health survey data, Bayesian ranking and mapping, statistical principles and foundational issues, and Markov chain Monte Carlo, especially perfect sampling.

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