

Flavours of Statistics – the doing of Lamia Gurdleneck

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More so than most other sciences, the development of the discipline of Statistics since 1900 has been largely driven by people from England and its former colonies, most notably the USA. But other colonies which were more recently released from the motherland's apron strings, especially Australia, Canada and New Zealand, have all punched above their weight. See, for example Peter Sprent's forthcoming article on the adolescent phase in the development of the discipline in Australia.

The contributions from the different countries reflect national culture as well as individual idiosyncrasy. This talk will focus on the contribution of one Englishman, Maurice George Kendall. Although he made numerous significant contributions to Statistics and other mathematical sciences, Kendall is best known for his mammoth (1, 2, 3 or 4 - or more - volume, depending on when you count) work, *The Advanced Theory of Statistics*. This talk will trace the development of one important part of Volume 2, and its relation to the man, his life and his role in the discipline.

The talk will also contrast the man and his work with that of some of his disciplinary cousins from across the Atlantic, in particular Jack Kiefer, who were less than impressed by the integrity of the *Advanced Theory*.

Do not come to this talk if you want to learn statistical theory. Do come if you want to find out something about what made one interesting person tick.

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