

STATISTICS COLLOQUIUM

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014

TALK: 4:15 PM — SCIENCE CENTER LECTURE HALL A

RECEPTION: 3:50 PM — JUST OUTSIDE HALL A

“Information Performance”

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ABSTRACT

Data, code and algorithm — These are the classic ingredients in a good statistics “story.” Data (found, designed or given in collaboration), code (UNIX, R, Python, typically custom) and algorithm (numerical summaries, model fitting, and visualizations). In the last few decades, these ingredients have found a significant and vibrant life outside of the field of statistics. In this talk, I will describe how data, code and algorithms are floating into other fields’ practices, using journalism as a case study — Emily Bell has famously called journalism a kind of “information performance.” Given my new position at Columbia, a fair bit of this talk will have to do with pedagogy and how we teach storytelling with data. Along the way, I will describe some of my recent work on data visualization projects — From a permanent display in the lobby of the New York Times building and a new work for the Public Theater; to a performance designed as part of the New York Public Library’s centennial celebration.