

Announcing: A Sequence of Three Hands-On Workshops

Starting with R

R is a system for statistical computing: professional, up-to-date, and free. Due to its flexibility and power, there's been an explosion of interest in R in the last few years.

Perhaps you're wondering how to find out what R is about, or how to get started using it. Here's your chance to do so ... painlessly.

A sequence of three sessions on Starting with R.

- Session 1: Thursday, Feb 12, 2009
- Session 2: Thursday, Feb 26, 2009
- Session 3: Thursday, March 12, 2009

Each of the sessions runs from 4:30 to 8:00 PM at Macalester College, in Olin/Rice room 258. Dinner is provided.

We've developed these sessions for statistics professionals — educators and researchers — who want to try R out but haven't found the time to do so on their own. The sessions are oriented toward people who already do statistics using systems like SPSS.

Session 1 provides a Basic Introduction to R. Topics: Reading in data from various formats (including .sav, .dat, .txt, .csv), descriptive statistics and cross tabulations, data recoding, selection of cases, basic statistical analyses (from t-tests to regression to ANCOVA) and graphing.

Session 2 moves you gently to a more professional level. More elaborate data manipulation (e.g., recoding, transforming, simple database operations), more intricate and specialized graphics, missing data, diagnostics, simulations and bootstrapping, enough R programming to help you customize and document your work for reproducibility, debugging, and revision.

Session 3 gives an introduction to some specialized sorts of calculation, chosen according to the expressed interest of the participants. Some examples: MANOVA, linear mixed effects modeling, extracting data from the web, power analysis, interactive graphics. You tell us!

Participants should have some familiarity doing statistics with any statistical software (e.g., SPSS, JMP, SAS, Minitab, STATA, etc.) **Absolutely no previous experience with R is required.**

To register: Contact Danny Kaplan at kaplan@macalester.edu.

We encourage you to sign up for all three sessions. Computers will be available at the sessions, but we encourage you to bring your own laptop so that you can take your work home with you. For more information, see www.macalester.edu/~kaplan/StartingWithR.

This series is supported by the W.M Keck Foundation's project on Data Fluency.

The Instructors:

Bob delMas is an associate professor in quantitative methods in education at the University of Minnesota. He is an associate editor for the *Journal of Statistics Education*, a research consultant for CAUSE (Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education), and the current chair of the ASA Section on Statistical Education. Among other things, he runs workshops on using active learning approaches in introductory statistics.

Danny Kaplan is DeWitt Wallace Professor at Macalester College where he teaches applied statistics, mathematics, and computer science. He is the author of several textbooks, including the upcoming *Introduction to Statistical Modeling*. (See www.macalester.edu/~kaplan/ISM.) He's been teaching introductory statistics using R for more than ten years, and has run workshops for faculty on effective ways to teach with R. He won Macalester's annual Excellence in Teaching award in 2006.

Andy Zieffler is a lecturer and researcher in the quantitative methods in education in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota. He teaches advanced courses in statistics: regression, modeling, exploratory data analysis. He's taught R workshops for faculty and graduate students at UMN.