

Seminar presented by the Royal Statistical Society

Professional accreditation: What does it mean for you?

by Ricky McGowan

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& Professor Rachel Hilliam

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November 8, 2023 (Wednesday)

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Room 301, 3/F, Run Run Shaw Building, Main Campus, HKU

About the talk

What are the benefits of professional membership? This talk will cover the Royal Statistical Societies routes to professional membership and the opportunities that the RSS provides. In particular the talk will outline how the society supports career development of young statisticians and the range of volunteering opportunities that exist in the society.

Since 2020 the RSS has been leading the Alliance for Data Science Professionals which includes The British Computer Society (BCS), The Operational Research (OR) Society, Institute of Mathematics & its Applications (IMA), The National Physical Laboratory (NPL), Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and The Alan Turing Institute (ATI). The talk will outline the new opportunities that the Alliance provides in terms of supporting members attain professionalisation within their chosen career pathway.

About the speakers

Rachel is a Professor of Statistics at The Open University where she is currently Head of the School of Mathematics and Statistics, having previously held various leadership roles. In 2019 whilst Director of Teaching for Mathematics and Statistics, she introduced a new degree in Data Science which had over 400 students across the UK in its first year. She is an expert in teaching statistics at higher education level to adult students who do not necessarily have standard university entrance qualifications. Her learning and teaching interests include supporting students who are studying statistics as part of a non-mathematical qualification and exploring the different types of statistical anxieties which such students can exhibit. She has a strong interest in supporting colleagues teaching activities and has been involved in the national induction course organised by the IMA and developing the teaching and learning mathematics online, TALMO initiative. Rachel is currently Vice-President of the RSS, leading on its Professional Affairs activities and has chaired the Alliance for Data Science Professional since its formal creation in 2020.

Ricky is the Head of Standards & Corporate Relations within the RSS and has been at the RSS since September 2017. Prior to this, Ricky has worked within professional standards and assessment for 15 years, including the Chartered Insurance Institute, Asset Liability & Management Association, and the Association of Corporate Treasurers. Ricky is responsible for the issuing of professional membership at the RSS and the development or corporate partners, as well as new business opportunities aimed at improving our membership offering. Since 2017, Ricky has already overseen the society's increase in professional membership and corporate membership, as well as implemented a new mentoring platform, overseen a review of professional standards, including a rebranding of existing titles and a launch of new professional awards. Ricky's latest project has been to work with Professor Rachel Hilliam to help create The Alliance for Data Science Professionals, launching the first UK-wide set of data science standards and is quickly becoming one of the main areas of business development and collaboration for the RSS.

