

Alexander Volfovsky

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I am interested in theory and methodology for network analysis, causal inference and statistical/computational tradeoffs and in applications in the social sciences.

Current Position: **Assistant Professor** of Statistics, Duke University, 2016-

Previous Positions: Scholar in Residence, Duke University, 2015-2016
National Science Foundation Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2014-2016
Statistics Department, Harvard University

Education **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA
Ph.D. in Statistics, August 2013
Dissertation: Statistical inference using Kronecker structured covariance
PhD Committee: Peter Hoff (advisor), Mathias Drton, Michael Perlman
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
B.S. with Honors in Mathematics and M.S. in Statistics, June 2009
Paper: The failure of the bootstrap for a parameter on the boundary of the parameter space

Experience: **Research Assistant**, Statistics Department, University of Washington, 2010 - 2013
Research Supervisor: Prof. Peter Hoff

Development of testing and estimation methodology for matrix and array variate data.

Experience: **Instructor** for Graduate Topics in Advanced Probability (Harvard Stat 210b), Spring 2015

Teaching **Teaching Assistant** for Bayesian Methods (UW-STAT 564), Spring 2010, Spring 2011

Experience: **Summer Intern**, Summer 2008

Non-academic Constellation Energy Commodities Group, Baltimore, MD

Design of statistical models for prediction of natural gas demand in different sectors

Fellowships 2006-2009 Dean's list, University of Chicago
and Honors 2009-2010 VIGRE Fellowship, University of Washington
2009-2010 Dean's Supplemental Fellowship
2015 Economic Graph Challenge (LinkedIn) winner.
2014-2016 NSF Mathematical Research Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Service Graduate Student Representative, 2010-2011
New Researchers Group at the IMS, founding chair 2015-
Atlantic Causal Inference Conference organizing committee, 2016

Presentations 8/12 Hierarchical array priors for ANOVA decompositions, JSM, San Diego, CA
3/13 Networks and separable covariance structures, Harvard Lab for Applied Stat. Method.
8/13 Testing for nodal correlation in relational data, JSM, Montreal, Canada
6/14 Likelihoods for fixed rank nomination networks, AddHealth Users Conference, Bethesda, MD
8/14 Characterization of finite group invariant distributions, NRC, Boston, MA
8/14 Characterization of finite group invariant distributions, JSM, Boston, MA
3/15 Computational and statistical tradeoffs: a framework, SIAM CSE, Salt Lake City, UT
5/15 Testing and estimation in relational data matrices, SIAM NS, Snowbird, UT
5/15 Causal inference for ordinal outcomes, ACIC, Philadelphia, PA
8/15 Causal inference for ordinal outcomes, JSM, Seattle, WA
9/15 Testing and estimation for relational data, Department of Statistics and Data Sciences, UT Austin
2/16 Duke Network Analysis Center, Durham, NC
3/16 MaxPoint Interactive, Inc., Morrisville, NC
5/16 Atlantic Causal Inference Conference, NYU, NYC
6/16 ISBA, Sardinia, Italy
8/16 JSM, Chicago, IL
9/16 Causal Inference Research Group, UNC School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
12/16 9th International Conference on Computational and Methodological Statistics, Seville, Spain

Manuscripts

- Jagadeesan, R., Pillai, N. and **Volfovsky, A.** “Design and Analysis of Randomized Experiments in Networks with Interference” (in preparation).
- Toulis, P. and **Volfovsky, A.** “Causal inference in observational studies with unobserved covariates and propensity score misspecification” (in preparation)
- Feldberg, A. and **Volfovsky, A.** “Evidence of the Tokenism Eclipse: Differences in Skill Presentation among Demographic Minorities in the Legal Profession” (in preparation).
- Wang, T., Roy, S., Rudin, C., and **Volfovsky, A.** “Fast-Almost-Matching-Exactly: A Causal Analysis Technique that Leverages the Speed of Database Queries” (in preparation).
- Volfovsky, A.** and Hoff, P. “Covariance estimation for relational data”. (in preparation)
- Hollenbach, F. Bojinov, I., Minhas, S., Metternich, N., Ward, M., and **Volfovsky, A.** “Principled Imputation Made Simple: Multiple Imputation Using Gaussian Copulas” (under review)
- Basse, G., **Volfovsky, A.**, and Airolidi, E. “Observational studies with unknown time of treatment” (2015) arXiv:1601.04083
- Volfovsky, A.**, Airolidi, E. and Rubin, D. “Causal inference for ordinal non-numeric data”. arXiv:1501.01234
- Sussman, D., **Volfovsky, A.** and Airolidi, E. “Analyzing statistical and computational tradeoffs of estimation procedures”. arXiv:1506.07925
- Ogburn, E. and **Volfovsky, A.** “Statistics for networks and causal inference”. Handbook on Big Data. Ed: Buhlman, P., Kane, M., Drineas, P. and van der Laan, M. (2016).
- Volfovsky, A.** and Airolidi, E. “Sharp total variation bounds for finitely exchangeable arrays”. Statistics & Probability Letters 114, 54-59, 2016.
- Volfovsky, A.** and Hoff, P.D. “Testing for nodal correlation in relational data”. Accepted *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 2014.
- Volfovsky, A.** and Hoff, P. D. “Hierarchical array priors for ANOVA decompositions of cross-classified data”. *Annals of Applied Statistics*, 8(1):19–47, 2014.
- Hoff, P. D., Fosdick, B., **Volfovsky, A.** and Stovel, K. “Likelihoods for fixed rank nomination networks”. *Network Science*, 1(3):253–277, 2013.

R Packages

- amen**: Additive and multiplicative effects modeling of networks and relational data.