## PMU 199H-L0411: "Lies, damned lies, and statistics"

December 2, 2014

## Required for next week

• Nothing!! ©

## In the news

• "Even Among Harvard Graduates, Women Fall Short of Their Work Expectations" NY Times, November 28.

The Twitter feeds say it all:

"Men expect their careers will take precedence over their spouses and that spouses will handle more of the child care"

"Women expect that their careers will be as important as their spouses and that they will share child care equally."

You can find the original paper in the Harvard Business Review, December 2014.

• "For Accomplished Students, Reaching a Good College Isn't as Hard as It Seems" NY Times, November 29.

This article discusses the much-discussed 5- 6% acceptance rate at elite schools like Harvard and Stanford. Although acceptance rates at other elite schools are higher (e.g. Notre Dame 21%, U Michigan 28%), they are also declining. But, as the article points out, institutional acceptance rates don't include any information on the number of completely unqualified students who apply, nor do they account for the number of applications submitted per student.

"... while the best students are sending out more applications for the same number of slots at elite colleges, the slots themselves aren't becoming more scarce and the number of students competing with one another isn't growing. In essence, the growth in applications per student creates a vicious cycle, causing admission rates at the best schools to artificially decline, students to become more anxious, and the number of applications per student to grow even more".

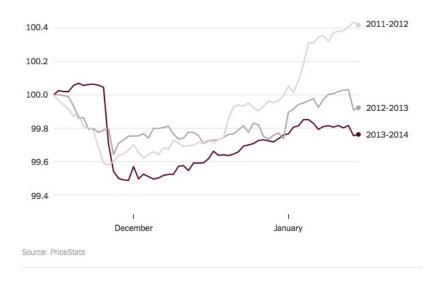
• "When Should You Shop? Right After Black Friday" New York Times, Nov. 27.

"Prices for products like personal computers, cameras, TVs, toys and video games tend to hit their low point of the season not on Black Friday but in the two to three days afterward, according to the data from PriceStats, which monitors daily online price changes for a wide range of goods."

## When to Buy That TV or Laptop You've Wanted

Prices for goods like personal computers, cameras, TVs and toys tend to hit their lowest point in the days immediately after Black Friday, then rise steadily through the holiday season.

Index of prices for consumer electronics (Nov. 15 = 100)



• "What kind of Torontonian are you?" Toronto Star, November 30.

This is a new tool developed by Vox Pop Labs to assess the political opinions of Torontonians. You can take the survey here. The survey is described as "a science-based tool for Torontonians to learn more about their political, social and economic leanings, and see how their views fit within the ideological mosaic of the city." Vox Pop Labs is a start-up from the political science department at U of T.



Happy Holidays!!
Good Luck on Your Exams!!