

# The 24th Annual J.B. Douglas Postgraduate Awards Day

Clara Grazian

THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA Inc.  
New South Wales Branch

*2:00pm AEST Monday, 22nd November 2023*

*The Cullen Room, The University of Sydney and online (via Zoom)*

22 November 2023

# The Award

The “JB Douglas Award” is an annual event to provide a platform to showcase the depth, breadth and excellence of research performed by postgraduate research students in statistics and related fields within the state. The award is named in honour of Associate Professor Jim Douglas.

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Presentations are evaluated on the basis of

- ① **Originality of the work:** the PhD thesis must show an important contribution to the body of knowledge
- ② **Impact:** the candidates must describe, during their presentations, how the thesis could be put to a beneficial use. Benefits could be inside (within the research area or within other research areas) and outside academia.
- ③ **Quality of the presentation:** presentations must be on time, clear, and well organised; a broad audience with statistical background should be able to understand the presentation.
- ④ **Ability to reply to questions:** the candidate must show to have a deep knowledge of the presented material, and to be able to contextualise it within the literature.

2:00 – 2:10pm: Dr Clara Grazian, NSW SSA President - Welcome and Introduction

2:10 – 2:30pm: Yu-Hsiu (Paco) Tseng *Convergence of Particle Flow Inspired by Wasserstein Gradient Flow*

2:30 – 2:50pm: Virginia X. He *Bayesian Generalized Additive Model Selection Including a Fast Variational Option*

2:50 – 3:10pm: Matthew Sainsbury-Dale *Neural Bayes Estimators for Fast Likelihood-Free Inference*

3:10 – 3:30pm: Isha Kharub *Conceptualising Willingness to Accept Social Robots' Recommendations in the Hospitality Industry (WASRR)*

3:30 – 3:50pm: Jack Freestone *Semi-Supervised Learning While Controlling the FDR With an Application to Tandem Mass Spectrometry Analysis*

3:50 – 4:05pm: Afternoon Tea

# Programme

4:05 – 4:25pm: Ngoc Lan Chi (Emma) Nguyen *Structure Learning and Causal Inference in Bayesian Networks*

4:25 – 4:45pm: Anant Mathur *New Optimization Methods for Grouped Variable Selection*

4:45 – 5:05pm: Annabel Webb *A Maximum Penalised Likelihood Approach for Cox Models With Time-Varying Covariates and Partly-Interval Censored Survival Data*

5:05 – 5:25pm: Kieran Luken *A Comparison of Machine Learning Algorithms for the Estimation of Radio Galaxy Redshift for the Evolutionary Map of the Universe Pilot Survey*

5:25 – 5:45pm: Md Morshadur Rahman *Regular Blood Donation and the Risk of Mortality: Minimising the Impact of Healthy Donor Effect*

5:45 – 6:00pm: Refreshment while the judges retire to deliberate



6:00 – 6:10pm: Awards Presentation

6:10 – 7:00pm: Annual Lecture by Professor Sally Cripps

From 7:00pm: Annual Dinner

**Chair of judges:** Prof. Sally Cripps, Prof. Yanan Fan, and Dr. Clara Grazian