

WORLD STATISTICS DAY 2015

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 3.30PM

Professor Kerrie Mengersen

The power and promise of immersive virtual environments

Extracting expert information to support rare or unseen spatial events

How to get experts to reliably and completely encode what they know has for decades proven to be an elusive goal in knowledge management. An appealing approach for spatial problems is to immerse the expert in a realistic virtual environment and elicit information based on what they 'see'. This information can then be translated to probabilistic statements and distributions that can be used as priors in Bayesian models.

We describe a pilot study in which the aim was to predict the presence of a threatened Australian animal, the rock wallaby, by augmenting the sparse observational data with spatial information obtained from expert ecologists. The results suggest that the immersive approach provides a rich source of reliable prior information that can enhance statistical modelling and prediction.

SPEAKER: Professor Kerrie Mengersen
Queensland University of Technology

TIME & DATE: Tuesday 20 October, 3.30pm
AEST (Queensland time)

HOST: Queensland University of Technology



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