Keck School of Medicine of USC

Department of Population and Public Health Sciences

Division of Biostatistics

The "Happy Scientist" Workshop #26

Johnny said,

Known is know,
no know
is no know.

Confucius (551–479 BCE) was a Chinese philosopher, educator, and moral thinker whose teachings profoundly shaped East Asian intellectual history. Among his most influential principles is:

"知之为知之，不知为不知，是知也。" — to recognize what one knows, and to admit what one does not know, is true wisdom.

As a researcher, I often wish AI could do the same—clearly expressing what it knows and what it doesn't know—instead of confidently generating misleading answers. After several painful lessons, I've learned how to guide AI tools in ways that prevent hidden bugs, avoid rabbit holes, and unlock their full potential. Used wisely, AI has become a true force multiplier in my work—

Perspectives from a biostat PhD student in the AI era

Presenter: Camellia Rui
PhD Student, USC

Thursday, November 20th, 2025
12:00pm to 12:50pm
In-person: SSB Room 114

Zoom link
Meeting ID: 916 8875 3236
Passcode: 558510

Abstract: In this talk, I share my journey of exploring AI as a biostatistics PhD student—from initial curiosity, to daily reliance, to building tools that support my research. I will begin with a live demo of how I integrate AI coding assistants into real analyses, showing both the moments where AI accelerates my work and the pitfalls I have learned to avoid. I will also introduce *PhD_Agent*, a side project born from this exploration, and highlight practical AI tools that have genuinely improved my research workflow and classroom experience. I will close with reflections on what it means to do biostatistics in the AI era, and how we can thoughtfully and creatively embrace these tools as part of our scientific practice.