

Andrea J. Kaplan

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Statistical Learning, Computational Statistics, Mathematical Statistics, Markov chain Monte Carlo and Spatial Resampling, Exploratory Data Analysis, Interactive Statistical Graphics, Reproducible Research

EDUCATION

Iowa State University (ISU), Ames, Iowa USA

Ph.D., Statistics, August 2017 (Expected)

- Dissertation topic: “On advancing MCMC-based methods for Markovian data structures with applications to deep learning, simulation, and resampling”
- Advisors: Daniel Nordman, Stephen Vardeman

M.S., Statistics, May 2014

- Research topic: “gravicom - a web-based tool for community detection in networks”
- Advisors: Heike Hofmann, Daniel Nordman

The University of Texas, Austin, Texas USA

M.A., Mathematics, December 2010

- Research topic: “An Overview of Multilevel Regression”
- Advisors: Martha Smith, John Luecke

B.S., Mathematics, May 2006

- Elements of Computing Certificate

HONORS AND AWARDS

ISU Department of Statistics George W. Snedecor Award 2015
This award honors the founder and first director of the Statistical Laboratory, George W. Snedecor, and is awarded to the most outstanding PhD candidate in the Department of Statistics.

American Statistical Association Computing Section Student Paper Award 2015
Awarded for the paper “Introductory statistics with intRo.”

ISU Department of Statistics Holly and Beth Fryer Scholarship 2014
Criteria for this scholarship include grades received in Statistics and related courses, performance in assistantship duties and other information that indicates a high likelihood that the student will make contributions to the Statistics profession throughout their career.

Women in Statistics Conference Poster Award 2014
Awarded for the poster “Mathematical Self-Efficacy of Incoming Students at a Large Public University.”

American Statistical Association Data Exposition 1st Place 2013
Awarded for the poster “Putting Down Roots: A Graphical Exploration of Community Attachment.”

ISU Department of Statistics Vera David Fellowship 2013
This fellowship, is given to a female student who has just completed her first year of graduate studies. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic achievement during the students first year.

Participant in Extensible Undergraduate Research in Communications Applications, in the areas of Communications, Networks and Systems.

University of Texas at Austin Honors and Dean's List

2005 & 2006

REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Hare, E. and **Kaplan, A.** “Designing Modular Software: A Case Study in Introductory Statistics”. In: *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* ja (2017). URL: <http://amstat.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10618600.2016.1276839>.
- [2] **Kaplan, A.**, Hofmann, H., and Nordman, D. “An interactive graphical method for community detection in network data”. In: *Computational Statistics* (2016), pp. 1–23. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00180-016-0663-5>.
- [3] **Kaplan, A.**, Hare, E., Hofmann, H., and Cook, D. “Can you buy a president? Politics after the Tillman Act”. In: *Chance* 27.1 (2014), pp. 20–30.

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED

- [1] **Kaplan, A.**, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “On the propriety of restricted Boltzmann machines”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1612.01158* (in review). URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1612.01158>.
- [2] **Kaplan, A.**, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “A note on the instability and degeneracy of deep learning models”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1612.01159* (in review). URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1612.01159>.
- [3] **Kaplan, A.** and Hare, E. “Putting Down Roots: A Graphical Exploration of Community Attachment”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1608.04843* (in review). URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/1608.04843>.

UNDER PREPARATION

- [1] **Kaplan, A.**, Kaiser, M., Lahiri, S., and Nordman, D. “A simple, fast (and often provably geometric-ergodic) sampler for simulating spatial data and other Markovian data structures”. In: (to be submitted).

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRECEEDINGS

- [1] Mouzon, I., Genschel, U., Nguyen, X. H., **Kaplan, A.**, Carriquiry, A., and Mann, C. “A Cluster Analysis of STEM Gender Differences”. In: *Proceedings of the 18th Annual Conference on Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education*. The SIGMAA on Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education. 2015, pp. 793–800.

UNREFEREED CONFERENCE PRECEEDINGS

- [1] Hofmann, H., Cook, D., **Kaplan, A.**, Hare, E., Leos-Barajas, V., Sievert, C., and Tyner, S. “On the move at DinoFun world”. In: *Visual Analytics Science and Technology (VAST), 2015 IEEE Conference on*. IEEE. 2015, pp. 159–160.
- [2] Hofmann, H., Cook, D., **Kaplan, A.**, Hare, E., Leos-Barajas, V., Sievert, C., and Tyner, S. “Visualizing communication patterns at DinoFun World”. In: *Visual Analytics Science and Technology (VAST), 2015 IEEE Conference on*. IEEE. 2015, pp. 161–162.
- [3] Genschel, U., **Kaplan, A.**, Carriquiry, A., Johnston, E., Kliemann, W., Koehler, K., Mouzon, I., and Nguyen, H. “Statistical and Mathematical Self-Efficacy of Incoming Students at a Large Public University”. In: *Sustainability in Statistics Education, Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS9), Flagstaff, Arizona, USA*. 2014.

INVITED TALKS

*Denotes presenter.

- [1] **Kaplan, A.***, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “Model matters with restricted Boltzmann Machines”. In: *Colloquium*. Michigan State University, Department of Statistics and Probability. East Lansing, MI, USA, Feb. 2017.

- [2] **Kaplan, A.***, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “Model matters with restricted Boltzmann Machines”. In: *Colloquium*. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Department of Statistics. Champaign, IL, USA, Feb. 2017.
- [3] **Kaplan, A.***, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “Model matters with restricted Boltzmann Machines”. In: *Colloquium*. University of Florida, Department of Statistics. Gainesville, FL, USA, Feb. 2017.
- [4] **Kaplan, A.***, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “Model matters with restricted Boltzmann Machines”. In: *Colloquium*. Rice University, Department of Statistics. Houston, TX, USA, Jan. 2017.
- [5] **Kaplan, A.***, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “Model matters with restricted Boltzmann Machines”. In: *Colloquium*. University of Virginia, Department of Statistics. Charlottesville, VA, USA, Jan. 2017.
- [6] **Kaplan, A.***, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “Model matters with restricted Boltzmann Machines”. In: *Colloquium*. Arizona State University, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. Tempe, AZ, USA, Jan. 2017.
- [7] **Kaplan, A.***, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “Model matters with restricted Boltzmann Machines”. In: *Colloquium*. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Mathematics & Statistics. Amherst, MA, USA, Dec. 2016.
- [8] **Kaplan, A.*** and Nordman, D. “Goodness-of-Fit Tests for Spatial Markov Random Fields”. In: *8th International Conference of the ERCIM WG on Computational and Methodological Statistics*. Organized Invited Session. European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics. London, UK, Dec. 2015.
- [9] Hare, E.* and **Kaplan, A.***. “intRo: Statistical Analysis Software for Teaching”. In: *Departmental Seminar*. Iowa State University, Department of Statistics. Ames, IA, USA, Jan. 2015.
- [10] **Kaplan, A.*** and Hare, E.*. “Putting Down Roots: A Graphical Exploration of Community Attachment”. In: *Census Data Visualization Seminar*. U.S. Census Bureau. Washington, D.C., USA, Sept. 2013.

CONTRIBUTED TALKS

- [1] **Kaplan, A.***, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “An exposition on the propriety of restricted Boltzmann machines”. In: *Joint Statistical Meetings*. Contributed Paper. ASA. Chicago, IL, USA, July 2016.
- [2] **Kaplan, A.*** and Hare, E. “Introducing Statistics with intRo”. In: *The R User Conference*. Contributed Paper. Stanford, CA, USA, June 2016.
- [3] **Kaplan, A.*** and Hare, E. “Introducing Statistics with intRo”. In: *Joint Statistical Meetings*. Topic Contributed Paper. ASA. Seattle, WA, USA, Aug. 2015.
- [4] Hare, E.* and **Kaplan, A.** “IntRo: Software for Introductory Statistics”. In: *Joint Statistical Meetings*. Contributed Paper. ASA. Seattle, WA, USA, Aug. 2015.
- [5] **Kaplan, A.***, Hofmann, H., and Nordman, D. “gravicom - A web-based tool for community detection in networks”. In: *Joint Statistical Meetings*. Contributed Paper. ASA. Boston, MA, USA, Aug. 2014.
- [6] Mouzon, I.*, Genschel, U., Carriquiry, A., Nguyen, X. H., **Kaplan, A.**, Johnston, E., Kliemann, W., and Koehler, K. “Early College Performance, Gender, and Other Factors Influencing Continuation in STEM Fields”. In: *Joint Statistical Meetings*. Contributed Paper. ASA. Boston, MA, USA, Aug. 2014.
- [7] Genschel, U.*, **Kaplan, A.**, Carriquiry, A., Johnston, E., Kliemann, W., Koehler, K., and Mouzon, I. “Statistical and Mathematical Self-Efficacy of Incoming Students at a Large Public University”. In: *Joint Statistical Meetings*. Contributed Paper. ASA. Boston, MA, USA, Aug. 2014.

- [8] Genschel, U.*, **Kaplan, A.**, Carriquiry, A., Johnston, E., Kliemann, W., Koehler, K., and Mouzon, I. “Statistical and Mathematical Self-Efficacy of Incoming Students at a Large Public University”. In: *The Ninth International Conference on Teaching Statistics*. Contributed Paper. Flagstaff, AZ, USA, July 2014.

CONTRIBUTED POSTERS

- [1] **Kaplan, A.***, Nordman, D., and Vardeman, S. “An Exposition on the Propriety of Restricted Boltzmann Machines”. In: *Conference on Data Analysis*. Contributed Poster. Los Alamos National Laboratory. Santa Fe, NM, USA, Mar. 2016.
- [2] **Kaplan, A.**, Lin, Y., and Mulrow, E.*. “Visualizing Linked Data Sources for the National Children’s Study”. In: *Conference on Statistical Practice*. Contributed Poster. ASA. San Diego, CA, USA, Feb. 2016.
- [3] **Kaplan, A.***, Genschel, U., Carriquiry, A., Johnston, E., Kliemann, W., Koehler, K., Mouzon, I., and Nguyen, X. H. “Mathematical Self-Efficacy of Incoming Students at a Large Public University”. In: *Women in Statistics Conference*. Student Poster. ASA. Cary, NC, USA, May 2014.
- [4] **Kaplan, A.*** and Hare, E. “Putting Down Roots: A Graphical Exploration of Community Attachment”. In: *Joint Statistical Meetings*. Data Exposition Poster. ASA. Montreal, QC, Canada, Aug. 2013.
- [5] Hare, E.* and **Kaplan, A.** “Can you buy a president? Politics after the Tillman Act”. In: *Joint Statistical Meetings*. Contributed Poster. ASA. Montreal, QC, Canada, Aug. 2013.

TRAVEL GRANTS

<i>Conference on Data Analysis Poster Grant</i>	2016
<i>rOpenSci Unconf Travel Funding</i>	2015
<i>Fields Institute Workshop on Visualization for Big Data Travel Award</i>	2015
<i>Women in Statistics Conference Travel Award</i>	2014
<i>ASA Joint Statistical Meetings Special Student Funding Travel Award</i>	2014

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa USA

Graduate Research Assistant

May, 2015 - August, 2016

Nonparametric Likelihood Enhancements for Dependent Data, funded by NSF, with Nordman, D.

Graduate Research Assistant

May, 2013 - August, 2015

Exploring the STEM Gender Gap: Introductory College Mathematics and Statistics Instruction and its Association with Self-Efficacy, funded by NSF, with Genschel, U., Carriquiry, A., Kliemann, W., Johnston, E., Koehler, K., Nguyen, X., Mouzon, I.

The University of Texas, Austin, Texas USA

Graduate Research Assistant

April, 2011 - July, 2012

Worked under Prof. Tasha Beretvas to conduct a simulation study assessing use of Bayesian estimation procedures to estimate a two-level cross-classified random effects model (CCREM) with correlated Level 2 residuals.

Summer REU

June, 2006 - August, 2006

Participant in Extensible Undergraduate Research in Communications Applications, a summer REU in the Department of Electrical Engineering sponsored by the National Science Foundation for research in the areas of Communications, Networks and Systems. Worked on optimization of binary erasure channels project with Prof. Sriram Vishwanath at the University of Texas.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

June, 2005 - March, 2006

Worked under Prof. Tasha Beretvas to identify different methods of effect size estimation and helped

to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each method. Designed a JAVA program that facilitated data entry and assisted in other researchers' data analysis.

Applied Research Laboratories, Austin, Texas USA

Graduate Research Assistant

August, 2006 - February, 2007

Research with a concentration in active and passive data fusion. Programmed graphical work in signal processing using Matlab.

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa USA

Instructor

August, 2016 - Present

Course instructor for Data Stewardship for Earth Systems Scientists (<http://agron590-ISU.github.io>). Co-designed and delivered course material focusing on fundamental data skills required for successful, collaborative, and reproducible research within the context of plant, soil, and atmospheric sciences.

Guest Lecturer

February, 2015 - August, 2015

Presented material for one week of Advanced Probability Theory (PhD level) and one week of Time Series Analysis (Masters level) courses.

Teaching Assistant

August, 2014 - December, 2014

Lab instructor for Introduction to Business Statistics II. Responsible for running lab section and grading exams. Approximately 30 students.

Instructor

January, 2013 - May, 2013

Course instructor for Introduction to Business Statistics. Responsible for lecture and the development of course notes, homework assignments, and exams. Approximately 80 students.

Grading Coordinator

August, 2012 - December, 2012

Coordinated a team of seven undergraduates to grade for Introduction to Business Statistics. Duties included creating a rubric each week and ensuring consistent grading across all sections.

The University of Texas, Austin, Texas USA

Teaching Assistant

August, 2008 - May, 2009

Lead 130 students in six weekly discussions with the analysis of concepts and introduction of applications for Calculus II and Introduction to Mathematics. Assisted faculty with the conduct and delivery of classroom material. Graded exams and supervised homework grader.

PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE

NORC at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois USA

Graduate Research Assistant

May, 2015 - August, 2015

Summer internship with Statistics and Methodology Department. Primarily developed web-based interactive graphics using JavaScript library D3 to explore data linkage for extant sources. Additionally, performed data munging and low level data analysis as well as report generation for third-party clients in R and R Markdown.

Banks Information Group, Austin, Texas USA

Independent Contractor

July, 2011 - July, 2012

Developed web-based environmental GIS reporting tool for Phase I reporting. Additionally, developed and implemented a web-based tool to convert images to PDF files programatically. Utilized ESRI ArcSDE and .NET/C#, as well as Microsoft SQL Server for development.

Sense Corp, Austin, Texas USA

Consultant

July, 2009 - July, 2011

Designed monthly subscriber activity forecasts across key markets at a top-five broadband telecommunications company using ARIMA time series modeling in R. Developed an automated process and custom web application designed for Business Intelligence (BI) Group use to run forecasts and analyze long-term trends in activity. Analyzed the effects of explanatory factors on elevated truck rolls and presented findings to corporate leadership. Provided BI Group with statistical insight including sample size estimation, forecasting, and analysis design using R and SPSS.

Gelb Consulting Group, Houston, Texas USA

Intern Analyst

June, 2008 - August, 2008

Internal consultant focusing on revising several standard operating procedures, including regression and factor analysis. Produced and analyzed quantitative reports for several clients. Assisted analysis in extrapolating themes from survey data for qualitative reports.

WORKSHOPS

D3 Workshop, NORC at the University of Chicago

Co-instructor

Designed and presented a workshop for employees of NORC to learn the JavaScript plotting library D3.

Week of R, Iowa State University

Co-instructor

Student run R workshop within the Department of Statistics covering the basics of R, plotting, data manipulation, scraping web data, and Shiny.

COMPUTING

- Mathematical and Statistical Computing: R, Julia, JAGS, BUGS, SAS, Matlab; some experience with Python and SPSS.
- Other Languages: JavaScript (and D3), Java, SQL, C#, .NET, HTML5, CSS3, Markdown; some experience with C and C++.
- Applications: ESRI ArcMap, Microsoft Sharepoint.
- Typesetting: L^AT_EX
- Content Management: Git

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- StatCom, community service organization
 - Executive Committee, 2013 - Present
 - Network Outreach Coordinator, 2015 - Present
- ISU Department of Statistics, Student Representative to Faculty Meetings, 2015 - Present
- STATers, social organization for graduate students, Vice President, 2013 - 2014
- Graduate and Professional Student Senate, Senator, 2012 - 2013

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Statistical Association, Member, 2012 - Present
- Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Member, 2012 - Present