

James Tripp

SENIOR RESEARCH SOFTWARE ENGINEER, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

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I am a technologist and cognitive scientist with a strong background in empirical experimental methods and data analysis. I have taught and used a variety of tools including natural language processing, machine learning, social media analysis, visualisation and geospatial analysis. I work with both the Python and R programming languages, and have recently been using and helping to design cloud services. Throughout my career I have delighted in adopting and understanding new methods and approaches to support others and address both technical and data challenges. I am passionate about the use of technical methods, data analytics and large scale ML techniques for the public good.

Relevant Skills

Machine learning, Frequentist and Bayesian Statistics, Cognitive Modelling, Experimental Design, Visualisation, NLP, GIS. Teaching and coaching academics, Masters and PhD students. Programming in Python, R and Matlab. Azure services including VMs and APIs.CI/CO pipelines.

Education

University of Warwick

Ph.D. in Psychology

Coventry, UK

2013

- Comparing cognitive models using Maximum likelihood and Bayesian parameter estimation
- Designing, programming and carrying out Psychology experiments
- Teaching statistics and programming to Masters and Undergraduate students

University of Warwick

B. Sc.(Hons) in Psychology

Coventry, UK

2010

Experience

Information and Digital Group @ University of Warwick

Senior Research Software Engineer

Coventry, UK

Oct 2021 - Present

I am currently part of a central team working with academic and technical staff across the University of Warwick.

- Helping build common infrastructure and services which solve challenges faced by multiple departments (e.g., computational platforms such as JupyterHub on Kubernetes and Open OnDemand). These solutions are built upon our new Azure tenancy.
- Identifying and supporting good research software practice. These include data documentation, container usage, DOIs, code reviews, devops practices (CI/CO), and git repositories.
- Designing and developing research software. These projects range wildly from fitting or extracting labels from ML models (e.g., BERT[HuggingFace], Detectron2[pyTorch], Resnet[Keras/Tensorflow]) to website creation using Humanities tools such as Omeka S.
- Working as part of the Centre for Digital Inquiry to broaden the usages for Critical Digital Humanities tools, Deep Learning, data analytics and other technologies in the Humanities.

Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies @ University of Warwick

Senior Academic Technologist

Coventry, UK

June 2019 - Oct 2021

In addition to the Academic Technology work below, I:

- Managed an Academic Technology team
- Consulted on technical and strategic development of the Centre
- Integral to the writing of and working on research grants

Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies @ University of Warwick

Academic Technologist

Coventry, UK

Dec 2015 - June 2019

Arriving at a growing centre, I wrote software, taught workshops, and research infrastructure in a rich interdisciplinary environment.

- Collaborated, supported and worked alongside academics from diverse domains including ecology, computer science, sociology, media studies, anthropology and philosophy.
- Designed and taught 100s of hours of workshop and labs (see Teaching, below) to both technical and non-technical audiences from different backgrounds, including many computational techniques including machine learning, inferential statistics and network analysis
- Developed and administered 10s of Linux servers providing a research and teaching infrastructure
- Wrote research software including data science and visualisation

Department of Psychology @ University of Warwick

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

Coventry, UK

Oct 2013 - Sept 2016

I worked alongside Prof. Adam Sanborn and Prof. Neil Stewart to examine how people combine information.

- Designed, wrote and carried out Psychological experiments
- Read cutting edge literature and designed novel hypothesis
- Tested hypothesis using Bayesian and inferential statistics with linear and non-linear models

Awards and Grants

Walkability Perception and its Relations to Scenery Elements and Socio-Demographics (Warwick)	£5K
co-Investigator	2021
Shaping 21st Century AI: Controversy and Closure in Research, Policy and Media (ORA, ESRC)	€1.7M
Research Software Engineer	2021
COVID and the social life of testing (Warwick)	£5K
collaborator	2020
What Aren't You Seeing? (Turing Institute)	£305K
co-Investigator	2019
Visual Diagnostics for Markov Chain Monte Carlo – Backfillz.R (Turing Institute)	£53K
co-Investigator	2018

Teaching

IM939: Data Science Across Disciplines	2020 - June 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designed and delivered labs, supported student projects - Python Notebooks - Pandas, NumPy, SciKit-Learn, Seaborn, Altair - Data Wrangling and cleaning, dimension reduction (LDA, PCA, t-SNE) - Model fitting and comparison techniques 	
IM931: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Machine Learning	2018 - 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wrote and taught labs using Keras(Tensorflow) - Inspired by Chollet's 'Deep Learning with Python' - Supported student projects in Python and R (reticulate) 	
IM921: Visualisation	2017 - 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboratively designed and taught labs - Critically developing visualisations using Python and R - Facilitated critical discussion of tools and methods 	
QS903: Advanced Quantitative Research	2017 - 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wrote and delivered supplementary workshops - Inferential statistics including GLM and hierarchical models - Supported and supervised quantitative dissertations 	
IM913: Spatial Methods and Practice in Urban Science	2016 - 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIS systems (QGIS, ArcGIS, GeoDa) - Python and R workflows (inc. geographically weighted regression) 	
IM906: Dissertation	2015 - 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported and supervised qualitative and quantitative dissertations 	

- Topics include geospatial analysis, web scraping, NLP, computer vision models	
QSTEP Masterclass: Social Media Analysis	2019 - 2021
- Designed and delivered session (materials)	
QSTEP Masterclass: SQL	2020 - 2021
- Designed and delivered session (materials)	
IM904: Digital Objects, Digital Methods	2015 - 2021
- Designed novel curriculum including social media analysis, query design and digital methods	
IM902: Approaches to the Digital	2015 - 2021
- Designed novel labs leading critical web art projects	
IM920: Digital Sociology	2016 - 2018
PS923: Methods and Analysis in Behavioral Science	2012 - 2013
- Led and assisted in sessions fitting behavioral models	
PS113: Statistical Methods in Psychology	2010 - 2013
- Led statistical labs using basic frequentist statistics	

Publications

- Cagatay, T., Sondag, M., Neil, G., **Tripp, J** (2022). Should We Keep It Real? A Crowdsourcing Study on Realistic Analogies in Visualisations for Communicating Disease Spread. *IEEE VIS 2022 conference*. (Submitted)
- Sanborn, A. N., Noguchi, T., **Tripp, J**, & Stewart, N. (2020). A dilution effect without dilution: When missing evidence, not non-diagnostic evidence, is judged inaccurately. *Cognition*, 196, 104110.
- **Tripp, J.**, & Brown, G. D. (2016). Being paid relatively well most of the time: Negatively skewed payments are more satisfying. *Memory & cognition*, 44(6), 966-973.

References

References will be provided upon request.