

# Maria Tackett

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Assistant Professor of the Practice  
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## Education

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**Ph.D. in Statistics** 2013 - 2018  
University of Virginia

- Dissertation: *Creating Fingerprint Databases and a Bayesian Approach to Quantify Dependencies in Evidence*
- Advisor: Dan Spitzner

**M.S. in Statistics** 2009 - 2010  
University of Tennessee-Knoxville

**B.S. in Mathematics** 2005 - 2009  
University of Tennessee-Knoxville

## Academic Appointments

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**Assistant Professor of the Practice** 2018 - present  
Duke University, Department of Statistical Science

## Teaching Experience

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### *Duke University*

- STA 199: Intro to Data Science Fall 2019, Spring 2019
- STA 210: Regression Analysis Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018

### *University of Virginia*

- STAT 1100: An Introduction to Statistics Spring 2018, Fall 2017,  
Spring 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Summer 2015
- STAT 2120: Introduction to Statistical Analysis Summer 2017, Summer 2016

### *Virginia Commonwealth University*

- SLWK 609: Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice Spring 2017

### *University of Tennessee-Knoxville*

- STAT 201: Introduction to Statistics Fall 2010, Spring 2010

## Invited Talks

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1. *You don't have to be an expert to create something meaningful.* rstudio::conf. San Francisco, CA. January 2020.

2. *Reproducible Research - Education and Practice*. Duke Center for Data and Visualization Sciences. Durham, NC. November 2019. (Panelist)
3. *My Journey in Statistics*. FEMMES Hacks Conference. Durham, NC. November 2019. (Keynote)
4. *Statistics in Practice*. FOCUS Cluster Dinner Series at Duke University: What if? Explaining the Past/Predicting the Future. Durham, NC. November 2019.
5. *Beyond the Buzzword: A Look at Data Science in Practice and How You Can Be a Part of It*. SAMSI Diversity in Data Science and Machine Learning Conference. Washington, DC. October 2019. (Plenary talk)
6. *Women in Machine Learning and Data Science*. Duke Machine Learning Day. Durham, NC. March 2019. (Panelist)
7. *Women in Industry*. Duke University Business Oriented Women Meeting. Durham, NC. September 2018. (Panelist)

## Contributed Talks & Posters

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1. *Using GitHub and RStudio to Facilitate Authentic Learning Experiences in a Regression Analysis Course*. Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference. Bellevue, WA. October 2019.
2. *Using GitHub and RStudio to Facilitate Authentic Learning Experiences in a Regression Analysis Course*. Joint Statistical Meeting. Denver, CO. July 2019.
3. *Using GitHub and RStudio to Facilitate Authentic Learning Experiences in a Regression Analysis Course*. United States Conference on Teaching Statistics. State College, PA. May 2019. (Poster)
4. *Teaching Large Classes in Statistics Using Active Learning Spaces*. Innovation in Pedagogy Summit. Charlottesville, VA. May 2016. (Panelist)
5. *Clustering High-Dimensional Categorical Data Using a Bayesian Finite Mixture Model*. Quantitative Collaborative Fellows Poster Session. Charlottesville, VA. April 2017. (Poster)
6. *Understanding Variability Between Groups of Sequences Using a Bayesian Object-Oriented Data Model*. Joint Statistical Meeting. Seattle, WA. August 2016.
7. *Understanding Object-Oriented Data Using Optimal Matching*. Quantitative Collaborative Fellows Poster Session. Charlottesville, VA. April 2015. (Poster)

## University & Department Service

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ASA DataFest: COVID-19 Virtual Data Challenge Organizer, 2020

Trinity Arts & Sciences Committee on Curriculum, 2019 - present

ASA DataFest@Duke Organizer, 2019 - present

Statistical Science Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2019 - present

Statistical Science Master's Student Advisor, 2019 - present

Statistical Science Undergraduate Major Advisor, 2018 - present

Statistical Science Committee on Departmental Code of Conduct, 2019

Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering, & Science (FEMMES) Capstone, 2019

Statistical Science Master's Program Admissions Committee, 2019

Duke Datathon Judge, 2018

## Service to Profession

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Column editor for "Taking a Chance in the Classroom" column in *CHANCE Magazine*, 2019 - present

ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education, Communications Officer Elect, 2019 (Term: 2020 - 2022)

Reviewer for *Journal of Statistics Education*, 2019 - present

CAUSE Undergraduate Statistics Research Project Competition Judge, 2019 - present

ASA Section on Bayesian Statistical Science Student Paper Competition Review Committee, 2019

## Mentoring

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1. Lavonne Hoang, Work Study, Fall 2019 - Spring 2020
2. Stephen Herrera, Independent Study, Spring 2020
3. Caroline Levenson, Independent Study, Fall 2019
4. Faculty Mentor for Duke SPIRE Fellows, 2019 - present

## Grants & Fellowships

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Duke University Trinity Research Enhancement Fund for *Toward a More Sustainable Culture of Undergraduate Research in Statistical Science* Jump Start Grant, Learning Innovation, Duke University, 2019. \$3,000.

National Science Foundation. *Collaborative Research: Accelerating the Pace of Research and Implementation of Writing-to-Learn Pedagogies Across STEM Disciplines* Role: Key Faculty, 2018 - 2020

Active Learning Fellows, Learning Innovation, Duke University, 2019 - 2020. \$1,000

Course Design Institute Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2016.

## Professional Experience

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### Senior Statistician

2013

*Capital One*, Richmond, VA

Developed the first generation of statistical models to perform deposit forecasts for Capital One Bank.

### Statistician

2011 - 2012

*Capital One*, Richmond, VA

Designed experiments for mail marketing campaigns in Capital One Bank.

## Professional Affiliations

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RStudio Certified Instructor

American Statistical Association

National Math Alliance

Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence (2017 - 2019)