

Maria Tackett

Assistant Professor of the Practice

Duke University

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Education

Ph.D. in Statistics 2018
University of Virginia

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

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

Academic Appointments

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

Teaching Experience

Duke University

STA 199: Intro to Data Science [Fall 2021](#), [Fall 2020](#), [Fall 2019](#), [Spring 2019](#)

STA 210: Regression Analysis [Fall 2022](#), [Fall 2021](#), [Spring 2021](#), [Fall 2020](#),
[Spring 2020](#), [Fall 2019](#), [Spring 2019](#), [Fall 2018](#)

STA 310: Generalized Linear Models [Spring 2022](#)

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

Workshops

RStudio Academy Mentor (10 week series). Online. October 2022 - January 2023.

[Designing the Data Science Classroom](#). rstudio::conf(2022). National Harbor, MD. July 2022.

[StatPREP Workshop](#). Ft. Myers, FL. May 2022.

Introduction to R. ENAR Fostering Diversity in Biostatistics Workshop. March 2022.

Strengthening Conceptual Understanding in Introductory Statistics: Incorporating active and inclusive teaching and learning strategies for in-person and virtual settings (6 session series). UT Austin Dana Center. June - July 2021.

Introduction to R. ENAR Fostering Diversity in Biostatistics Workshop. March 2021.

Invited Talks

1. Tackett, M. *Teaching intro data science*. Preparing to Teach. George Mason University. August 2022.
2. Tackett, M. *Knit, Commit, and Push: Teaching version control in undergraduate statistics courses*. Toronto Workshop on Reproducibility. Online. February 2022.
3. Tackett, M. *Mentoring Undergraduate Research: Creating productive experiences and sharing student work*. ASA Mentoring Undergraduate Research Panel. Online. February 2022. (Panelist)
4. Tackett, M. *Women in Industry and Academia*. FEMMES+ Hacks Conference. Online. October 2021. (Panelist)
5. Tackett, M. *What a tap class has taught me about teaching statistics*. USCOTS. Online. June 2021.
6. Tackett, M. *Building Websites in RStudio*. RLadies Baltimore. Online. April 2021.
7. Tackett, M. *Building Websites in RStudio*. RLadies Amherst. Online. March 2021.
8. Tackett, M. *Telling stories with data*. Abraham Lincoln High School. Online (Philadelphia, PA). January 2021.
9. Tackett, M. *Undergraduate research in statistics*. OURFA²M² Conference. Online. December 2020.
10. Tackett, M. *Thinking about lectures in an intro data science course*. Toronto Data Workshop. Online (University of Toronto Department of Statistical Sciences). December 2020.
11. Tackett, M. *Women in Statistics and Computing*. FEMMES Hacks Conference. Online. October 2020. (Panelist)
12. Tackett, M. *Opportunities in Statistics and Data Science: Lightning Talks (Academia, Government, & NonProfit)*. StatFest. Online. September 2020. (Panelist)
13. Tackett, M. *Who's Underrepresented? Modeling Undercounts in the U.S. Census*. Joint Statistical Meeting. Online. August 2020.
14. Tackett, M. *Making remote lectures active and inclusive in a large undergraduate course*. Teaching and Learning Statistics Online Conference. Online (Royal Statistical Society (RSS) Teaching Statistics Special Interest Group). July 2020.
15. Tackett, M. *You don't have to be an expert to create something meaningful*. rstudio::conf. San Francisco, CA. January 2020.
16. Tackett, M. *Reproducible Research - Education and Practice*. Duke Center for Data and Visualization Sciences. Durham, NC. November 2019. (Panelist)
17. Tackett, M. *My Journey in Statistics*. FEMMES Hacks Conference. Durham, NC. November 2019. (Keynote)
18. Tackett, M. *Statistics in Practice*. FOCUS Cluster Dinner Series at Duke University: What if? Explaining the Past/Predicting the Future. Durham, NC. November 2019.

19. Tackett, M. *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)
20. Tackett, M. *Women in Machine Learning and Data Science*. Duke Machine Learning Day. Durham, NC. March 2019. (Panelist)
21. Tackett, M. *Women in Industry*. Duke University Business Oriented Women Meeting. Durham, NC. September 2018. (Panelist)

Contributed Presentations

1. Tackett, M., Viel, S. *Undergraduate Students' Sense of Community in Introductory Math and Statistics Courses*. eCOTS. Online. May 2022.
2. Tackett, M., Çetinkaya-Rundel, M., Presman, R. *Modernizing the undergraduate regression analysis course*. eCOTS. Online. May 2022.
3. Tackett, M., Viel, S. *Undergraduate Students' Sense of Community in Introductory Math and Statistics Courses*. Pandemic Pedagogy Research Symposium. Online. May 2022.
4. Tackett, M. *Version control as a learning objective in statistics and data science courses*. 63rd World Statistics Congress. Online. July 2021.
5. Horton, N., Tackett, M. *GitHub and intro stats: technology to support group and project-based learning*. USCOTS. Online. July 2021. (Poster)
6. Tackett, M., Li, S. Mokel, M., Tian, S. *Developing Interactive Statistics Apps: A look at the project and student experience*. USCOTS. Online. July 2021. (Poster)
7. Tackett, M. *You don't have to be an expert to create something meaningful*. Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference. Online. October 2020.
8. Tackett, M. *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.
9. Tackett, M. *Using GitHub and RStudio to Facilitate Authentic Learning Experiences in a Regression Analysis Course*. Joint Statistical Meeting. Denver, CO. July 2019.
10. Tackett, M. *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)
11. Tackett, M. *Teaching Large Classes in Statistics Using Active Learning Spaces*. Innovation in Pedagogy Summit. Charlottesville, VA. May 2016. (Panelist)
12. Tackett, M. *Clustering High-Dimensional Categorical Data Using a Bayesian Finite Mixture Model*. Quantitative Collaborative Fellows Poster Session. Charlottesville, VA. April 2017. (Poster)
13. Tackett, M. *Understanding Variability Between Groups of Sequences Using a Bayesian Object-Oriented Data Model*. Joint Statistical Meeting. Seattle, WA. August 2016.
14. Tackett, M. *Understanding Object-Oriented Data Using Optimal Matching*. Quantitative Collaborative Fellows Poster Session. Charlottesville, VA. April 2015. (Poster)

Grants & Fellowships

[ACT UP GRANT!]

Duke Trinity Research Enhancement Fund. *Toward a More Sustainable Culture of Undergraduate Research in Statistical Science*, 2022 - 2023, \$13,000.

Duke Learning Innovation's Carry the Innovation Forward Fund. *Building Community and Self-Efficacy Through Inclusive Teaching Practices*, 2021 - 2023. \$4,616.

Duke Trinity Research Enhancement Fund. *Toward a More Sustainable Culture of Undergraduate Research in Statistical Science*, 2021 - 2022, \$11,000.

Duke Bass Connections - Brain & Society. *Mental Health and the Justice System in Durham*, 2020 - 2024, Role: Co-PI, \$14,200 each academic year.

Duke Data+. *Mental Health and the Justice System in Durham*. 2020 - 2024, Role: Co-PI, \$17,500 each year.

Duke Trinity Research Enhancement Fund. *Toward a More Sustainable Culture of Undergraduate Research in Statistical Science*, 2020 - 2021, \$3,000.

Duke Learning Innovation Jump Start Grant, 2019.

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

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

University of Virginia Course Design Institute Fellowship, 2016.

Service to Profession

Curriculum development

UT-Austin Dana Center Statistics Curriculum Authoring Group, 2021

UT-Austin Dana Center Statistics Curriculum Advisory Group, 2020

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Data Exploration Course Advisory Committee, 2020 - 2021

Editorial service

Journal of Statistics Education, Associate Editor, 2020 - present

Chance Magazine Statistics Education Column: Taking a Chance in the Classroom, Editor, 2019 - present

Journal Reviews: Journal of Statistics Education; Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society; Technology Innovations in Statistics Education

Book Reviews: Chapman & Hall

ASA & Statistics Education

ASA/MAA Joint Committee on Undergraduate Statistics and Data Science Education, 2022 - present

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Statistics Courseware Advisory Group, 2022 - 2023

Symposium on Statistics & Data Science Program Committee, Short Course Chair, 2022 - 2023

Symposium on Statistics & Data Science Program Committee, Poster Chair, 2021 - 2022

ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education, Communications Officer, 2020 - 2022

CAUSE Undergraduate Statistics Project Competition Co-Chair, 2020 - present

ASA DataFest Steering Committee, 2019 - present

CAUSE Undergraduate Statistics Project Competition Judge, 2019

University & Department Service

College Advisor, 2022 - present

Library Council, 2021 - present

Women in Research House Course, Faculty Advisor, 2021

A.B. Duke Scholars Program Interviewer, 2021

Statistical Science Anti-Racism Committee, 2021

Trinity Arts & Sciences Committee on Curriculum, 2019 - 2021

ASA DataFest@Duke Organizer, 2019 - 2022

Master in Interdisciplinary Data Science Admissions Committee, 2020

Statistical Science Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2019 - present

Statistical Science Master's Student Advisor, 2019 - present

Duke SPIRE Mentor, 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, 2021

Duke Datathon Judge, 2018 & 2021

Publications

Publications: Peer Reviewed

(* indicates undergraduate student)

1. Beckman, M. D., Çetinkaya-Rundel, M., Horton, N. J., Rundel, C. W., Sullivan, A. J., **Tackett, M.** (2020). Implementing version control with Git and GitHub as a learning objective in statistics and data science courses. *Journal of Statistics Education*, 1-35.
2. Dotson, M., Alvarez, V.*, **Tackett, M.**, Asturias, G., Leon, I., Ramanujam, M. (2020) Design Thinking-Based STEM Learning: Preliminary Results on Achieving Scale and Sustainability Through the IGNITE Model. *Frontiers in Education*, 5: 14-24.

Publications: In Press

(* indicates undergraduate student)

3. **Tackett, M.**, Viel, S., Manturuk, K. (in press). A validation of the short-form classroom community scale for undergraduate mathematics and statistics students. *Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice*. arxiv: arxiv.org/abs/2206.00590
4. Fannina, D., Ellebya, J., **Tackett, M.**, Minga, J. (in press). Intersectionality of race and question asking in women after right hemisphere brain damage. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*.
5. Easter, M., Schramm-Sapota, N., **Tackett, M.**, Larsen, I.*, Tang, B., Ralph, M.*, Luong, H.* (in press). Reliance on community emergency departments by people ever detained in jail: Retrospective cross-sectional study. *Journal of Correctional Health Care*.

Publications: In Review

(* indicates undergraduate student)

6. **Tackett, M.** *Three principles for modernizing an undergraduate regression analysis course.*
7. Noll, J., **Tackett, M.** *Insights from DataFest Point to New Opportunities for Undergraduate Statistics Courses: Team collaborations, Designing Research Questions, and Data Ethics.*
8. Schramm-Sapyta, N., Ralph, M.*, Huynh, L.*, Tang, B.*, **Tackett, M.**, Easter, M., Larsen, I.* *Role of substance use and mental illness diagnosis in rearrest in a county detention facility.*
9. Schramm-Sapyta, N., Larsen, I.*, Pandey, M.*, Feng, W.*, Tang, B., **Tackett, M.** *Effect of Mental Illness, Substance Abuse and Cash Bail Reform on Rearrest for Low-Level Offenses.*

Publications: Forthcoming Book Chapters

10. **Tackett, M.**, Roith, J. *Teaching Probability and Probability Distributions.*
11. Viel, S., **Tackett, M.**, Das, S., Choo, J.*. *Classroom Community amid Covid-19: A Mixed-Methods Study of Undergraduate Students in Introductory Mathematics and Statistics*

Other

12. **Tackett, M.**, Burbank, K., Canner, J., & Çetinkaya-Rundel, M. (2021). Teaching Courses Focused on Social Good. *Chance*, 34(3), 69-72.
13. **Tackett, M.** (2021, January 14). [A flipped classroom sparks online engagement](#). Duke Covid Diaries Series.
14. **Tackett, M.**, & Çetinkaya-Rundel, M. (2020). COVID-19 Data in the Classroom. *CHANCE*, 33(3), 63-66.
15. **Tackett, M.** (2020, July 23). [Creating Interactive Web Apps for Statistics](#). Duke Musings Blog.
16. Çetinkaya-Rundel, M., & **Tackett, M.** (2020). From drab to fab: Teaching visualization via incremental improvements. *CHANCE*, 33(2), 31-41.
17. Banks, D., **Tackett, M.** (2020). Bayesian Methods and Forensic Evidence. In Banks, D., Kafadar, K., Kaye, D., Tackett, M. (Eds.), *Handbook of Forensic Statistics* (pp. 73 - 90), Chapman & Hall.
18. Banks, D., Kafadar, K., Kaye, D., **Tackett, M.** (Eds.), *Handbook of Forensic Statistics*, Chapman & Hall.

Advising

Undergraduate thesis

Naomi Rubin, 2023

Undergraduate thesis committee

Malavi Ravindran, 2021

Ben Feder, 2019

Michael Model, 2020

Srini Sunil, 2019

Daniel Levine, 2019

Doctoral thesis committee

Meng Xie, 2021

Independent study

Larry Chen, 2022

Steven Herrera, 2020

Caroline Levenson, 2019

Other supervised research

Jordan Hamelsky, 2022 - 2023

Zoe Svec, 2022 - 2023

Brianna Cellini, 2021 - 2022

William Feng, 2021 - 2022

Maya Pandey, 2021 - 2022

John Liakos, 2021 - 2022

Sean Li, 2021

Emmanuel Mokel, 2021

Shari Tian, 2021

Matthew Ralph, 2020 - 2022

Isabella Larson, 2020 - 2022

Liz Huynh, 2020 - 2022

Joe Choo, 2020

Abbey List, 2020

Glenn Morgenstern, 2020

Samantha Owusu-Antwi, 2020

Professional Experience

Data Science Academy Mentor

2022

Posit

Led cohort of industry professionals through 10-session curriculum to learn R programming skills for data science

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

Mathematical Association of America, 2022 - present

RStudio Certified Instructor, 2020 - present

American Statistical Association, 2017 - present

National Math Alliance, 2019 - present

Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence, 2017 - 2019