

# 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 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019
- STA 210: Regression Analysis Fall 2020, 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. *Women in Statistics and Computing*. FEMMES Hacks. Online. October 2020. (Panelist)

2. *Opportunities in Statistics and Data Science: Lightning Talks (Academia, Government, & NonProfit)*. StatFest. Online. September 2020. (Panelist)
3. *Who's Underrepresented? Modeling Undercounts in the U.S. Census*. Joint Statistical Meeting. Online. August 2020.
4. *Making remote lectures active and inclusive in a large undergraduate course*. Teaching and Learning Statistics Online. Online. July 2020.
5. *You don't have to be an expert to create something meaningful*. rstudio::conf. San Francisco, CA. January 2020.
6. *Reproducible Research - Education and Practice*. Duke Center for Data and Visualization Sciences. Durham, NC. November 2019. (Panelist)
7. *My Journey in Statistics*. FEMMES Hacks Conference. Durham, NC. November 2019. (Keynote)
8. *Statistics in Practice*. FOCUS Cluster Dinner Series at Duke University: What if? Explaining the Past/Predicting the Future. Durham, NC. November 2019.
9. *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)
10. *Women in Machine Learning and Data Science*. Duke Machine Learning Day. Durham, NC. March 2019. (Panelist)
11. *Women in Industry*. Duke University Business Oriented Women Meeting. Durham, NC. September 2018. (Panelist)

## Contributed Presentations

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1. *You don't have to be an expert to create something meaningful*. Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference. Online. October 2020.
2. *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.
3. *Using GitHub and RStudio to Facilitate Authentic Learning Experiences in a Regression Analysis Course*. Joint Statistical Meeting. Denver, CO. July 2019.
4. *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)
5. *Teaching Large Classes in Statistics Using Active Learning Spaces*. Innovation in Pedagogy Summit. Charlottesville, VA. May 2016. (Panelist)
6. *Clustering High-Dimensional Categorical Data Using a Bayesian Finite Mixture Model*. Quantitative Collaborative Fellows Poster Session. Charlottesville, VA. April 2017. (Poster)
7. *Understanding Variability Between Groups of Sequences Using a Bayesian Object-Oriented Data Model*. Joint Statistical Meeting. Seattle, WA. August 2016.
8. *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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Journal of Statistics Education, Associate Editor, 2020 - present

The Undergraduate Statistics Project Competition Committee, 2020 - present

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

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

ASA DataFest Steering Committee, 2019 - present

CAUSE Undergraduate Statistics Research Project Competition Judge, 2019 - present

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

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

Book Reviews: Chapman & Hall

## Publications: Peer Reviewed

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1. 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: Other

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1. Tackett, M., Çetinkaya-Rundel M. (2020) *COVID-19 Data in the Classroom*, Chance Magazine Statistics Education Column, Taking a Chance in the Classroom, 33(3): 63 - 66.
2. Çetinkaya-Rundel M., Tackett, M. (2020) *From Drab to Fab: Teaching Visualization via Incremental Improvements*, Chance Magazine Statistics Education Column, Taking a Chance in the Classroom, 33(2): 31 - 41.

3. 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.
4. Banks, D., Kafadar, K., Kaye, D., Tackett, M. (Eds.), *Handbook of Forensic Statistics*, Chapman & Hall.

## Publications: In print ---

1. Beckman, M., Çetinkaya-Rundel M., Horton, N., Rundel, C., Sullivan, A., Tackett, M. Implementing version control with Git as a learning objective in statistics courses. [arxiv.org/abs/2001.01988](https://arxiv.org/abs/2001.01988).

## Grants & Fellowships ---

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 ---

**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 ---

RStudio Certified Instructor

American Statistical Association

National Math Alliance

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