

# Matteo Sesia

Bridge Hall 308, Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089  
sesia@marshall.usc.edu — <https://msesia.github.io>

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

**Assistant Professor**, (June 2020–present). Department of Data Sciences and Operations, Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California.

## EDUCATION

---

**Ph.D. in Statistics**, 2020. Stanford University. Advisor: Emmanuel Candès.

Thesis title: New methods for variable importance testing with applications to genetic studies.

**M.S. in Physics of Complex Systems**, 2015. Politecnico di Torino & Université Paris-Sud (joint).  
Graduated *cum laude* (top final grade and highest honors).

**M.A. in Statistics and Applied Mathematics**, 2015. Collegio Carlo Alberto.  
Graduated *with distinction* (highest honors).

**B.S. in Engineering Physics**, 2013. Politecnico di Torino.  
Graduated *cum laude* (top final grade and highest honors).

## TEACHING

---

University of Southern California:

BUAD 310: Applied Business Statistics (undergraduate), Fall 2020.

Stanford University:

Stats 390: Consulting Workshop (graduate), Summer 2018.

Stats 195: Introduction to R (undergraduate), Spring 2018, Spring 2020.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

---

Publications\*

- [1] C. Chia\*, M. Sesia\*, C.-S. Ho, S. Jeffrey, J. Dionne, E. Candès, R. Howe. Interpretable Classification of Bacterial Raman Spectra with Knockoff Wavelets. *IEEE J. Biomed. Health. Inform.* (2021, just accepted). <https://doi.org/10.1109/JBHI.2021.3094873>
- [2] Y. Romano\*, M. Sesia\*, E. Candès. Classification with valid and adaptive coverage. *NeurIPS* (spotlight) (2020). <https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.02544>
- [3] S. Bates, M. Sesia, C. Sabatti, E. Candès. Causal inference in genetic trio studies. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 117 (39) 24117–24126 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2007743117>
- [4] M. Sesia, E. Katsevich, S. Bates, E. Candès, C. Sabatti. Multi-resolution localization of causal variants across the genome. *Nature Commun.*, 11, 1093 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-14791-2>
- [5] M. Sesia, E. Candès. A comparison of some conformal quantile regression methods. *Stat.*, 9:e261 (2020). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/sta4.261>
- [6] Y. Romano\*, M. Sesia\*, E. Candès. Deep knockoffs. *J. Am. Stat. Assoc.* (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.2019.1660174>
- [7] M. Sesia, C. Sabatti, E. Candès. Rejoinder: “Gene hunting with hidden Markov model knockoffs”. *Biometrika*, 106, 35–45 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1093/biomet/asy075>

---

\*Asterisks indicate equal contributions.

- [8] M. Sesia, C. Sabatti, E. Candès. Gene hunting with hidden Markov model knockoffs. *Biometrika*, 106, 1–18 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1093/biomet/asy033>

## Preprints

- [1] S. Li\*, M. Sesia\*, Y. Romano, E. Candès, C. Sabatti. Searching for consistent associations with a multi-environment knockoff filter. (2021). <https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.04118>
- [2] M. Sesia, Y. Romano. Conformal histogram regression. (2021). <https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.08747>
- [3] S. Bates\*, E. Candès\*, L. Lei\*, Y. Romano\*, M. Sesia\*. Testing for Outliers with Conformal p-values. (2021). <https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.08279>
- [4] M. Sesia, S. Bates, E. Candès, J. Marchini, C. Sabatti. FDR control in GWAS with population structure. (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.08.04.236703>

## AWARDS

---

Jerome H. Friedman Applied Statistics Dissertation Award (2020).

International Master’s Scholarship, Université Paris-Saclay (2014–2015).

Allievi Honors Program, Collegio Carlo Alberto (2011–2015).

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

---

*Journal referee*:<sup>†</sup> Annals of Statistics (3), Bayesian Analysis (1), Biometrika (5), Briefings in Bioinformatics (1), Human Genetics (1), Journal of Machine Learning Research (1), Journal of the American Statistical Association (1), Journal of the Royal Statistical Society B (1), Nature Communications (1), Operations Research (1), SIAM Journal on Mathematics of Data Science (1), Statistical Science (2).

*Conference referee*: COLT (1), ISIT (1), NeurIPS (8), ICML (6).

## PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

**Research Intern**, Adobe Systems Inc., Summer 2017. Mentor: Yasin Abbasi-Yadkori.  
Invented a new adaptive bandit algorithm and proved regret bounds.

**Research Intern**, École Normale Supérieure Cachan, Spring 2015. Mentor: Nicolas Vayatis.  
Studied algorithms for inferring network structure from epidemic diffusion observations.

**Research Intern**, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Spring 2013. Mentor: Alfredo Braunstein.  
Studied message-passing algorithms for approximate inference in systems with quenched disorder.

## PRESENTATIONS

---

### Invited presentations

*Controlling the false discovery rate in GWAS with population structure*. Yale University, School of Public Health. Feb. 16, 2021, in New Haven, Connecticut (virtual event).

*Negative control variables for testing conditional genetic associations*. University of Nottingham, School of Mathematical Sciences. Dec. 17, 2020, in Nottingham, UK (virtual event).

*Negative control variables for testing conditional genetic associations*. University of Milano - Bicocca, Department of Economics, Management and Statistics. Dec. 2, 2020, in Milano, Italy (virtual event).

*Efficient Uncertainty Estimation for Machine Learning Classifiers*.

RMDS Lab, IM DATA Conference 2020, Nov. 2, 2020, in Pasadena, CA (virtual event).

---

<sup>†</sup>Brackets contain the number of manuscripts reviewed.

*Gene hunting with knockoffs.*

Johns Hopkins University, Mathematical Institute for Data Science. Feb. 18, 2020, in Baltimore, MD.

*Developments in knockoff generation and genetic mapping.*

USC Marshall School of Business, DSO Department. Jan. 27, 2020, in Los Angeles, CA.

*Developments in knockoff generation and genetic mapping.*

UC Davis, Department of Statistics. Jan. 6, 2020, in Davis, CA.

*Reproducible localization of causal variants across the genome.*

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. Sept. 17, 2019, in Eastview, NY.

*Multi-resolution localization of causal variants across the genome.*

23andMe. May 21, 2019, in Mountain View, CA.

*Reproducible localization of causal variants across the genome.*

Stanford University, Statistics Department seminar. July 16, 2019, in Stanford, CA.

*Deep knockoffs.*

Stanford University, Statistics Industrial Affiliates Meeting. Feb. 22, 2019, in Stanford, CA.

*New tools for reproducible variable selection with knockoffs.*

Collegio Carlo Alberto, Statistics Seminar. Dec. 19, 2018, in Torino, Italy.

*Gene hunting with knockoffs for hidden Markov models.*

Université Grenoble Alpes, Bayes in Grenoble Seminar. July 10, 2018, in Grenoble, France.

#### Contributed presentations

*Classification with valid and adaptive coverage.*

NeurIPS, spotlight presentation. Dec. 8, 2020 (virtual event).

*Gene hunting with hidden Markov model knockoffs.*

Royal Statistics Society Conference, Sept. 3–6, 2018, in Cardiff, United Kingdom.

*Gene hunting with knockoffs for hidden Markov models.*

Workshop on Model Selection, Regularization and Inference, July. 12–14, 2018, in Vienna, Austria.

*Gene hunting with knockoffs for hidden Markov models.*

Computational and Methodological Statistics Conference, Dec. 16–18, 2017, in London, United Kingdom.

#### Poster presentations

*Conformal histogram regression.*

ICML Workshop on distribution-free uncertainty quantification, July 24, 2021, virtual meeting.

*Genetic mapping with knockoffs for diverse and related samples.*

American Society for Human Genetics Annual Meeting, Oct. 27–30, 2020, virtual meeting.

*Multi-resolution localization of causal variants across the genome.*

American Society for Human Genetics Annual Meeting, Oct. 15–19, 2019, in Houston, TX.

*Multi-resolution localization of causal variants across the genome.*

Higher-Order Asymptotics and Post-Selection Inference Workshop, Aug. 17–19, 2019, in St. Louis, MO.

*Gene hunting with hidden Markov model knockoffs.*

American Society for Human Genetics Annual Meeting, Oct. 16–20, 2018, in San Diego, CA.