

# REBECCA KURTZ-GARCIA

rkurt001@ucr.edu  $\diamond$  rebeccakurtz62@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

---

**University of California Riverside**  
Doctorate in Applied Statistics (In Progress)

*Sept. 2018 - Present*

**Ball State University**  
Masters of Science in Statistics

*Aug. 2016 - May 2018*

**University of California Davis**  
Bachelors of Science in Statistics

*Sept. 2012 - June 2016*

## RELEVANT RESEARCH PROJECTS

---

**Dissertation**, University of California Riverside  
Advisor: Dr. James Flegal  
Topic: Spectral Variance Estimators, Covariance Matrix Estimators, Time Series

*Fall 2020 - Present*

**Master's Thesis**, Ball State University  
Advisor: Dr. Rebecca Pierce

*Aug 2017 - May 2018*

Description: Categorical data analysis of reality-game shows with an elimination format. A comparison of different methods to make predictions. Methods may aid in determining a bias, and thus legality, of some of the most popular television programs on air.

**Undergraduate Research Project**, University of California Davis  
Advisor: Dr. Joshua Patrick

*Jan 2016 - June 2016*

Description: Modeled the spatio-temporal covariance structure of irradiance data for solar energy, an National Science Foundation funded project. Assisted with writing a program for a new visual method using the correlation in the irradiance data to specify the directional covariance model.

## PUBLICATIONS

---

- Pickerill, E. S., **Kurtz, R. P.**, Evans, B., Begum, M., & Bernstein, D. A. (2019). *Pseudouridine synthase 7 impacts Candida albicans rRNA processing and morphological plasticity.*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

### **Graduate Student Researcher - Intern**

*Oct 2020 - Sept 2021*

*Location:* Mathematical Analysis Research Corps - Claremont, CA

Consult on unique statistical and computational problems where solutions may result in publication. Work on long term projects both as a team and at an individual level. Interact with others that have a variety of different backgrounds, responsible for handling sensitive information. Prepare and present materials for a specialized audience.

### **Consultant**

*Sept 2019 - June 2020*

*Location:* GradQuant, University of California Riverside - Riverside, CA

Responsible for holding quantitative consultations, and developing and presenting workshops for a variety of topics and programs. Assisted the Lead Consultant with the creation of resources and promotion of GradQuant through social media and on-campus events.

### **Governor's Intern**

*Summer 2017*

*Location:* State Budget Agency - Indianapolis, IN

Maintained and operated databases using R, and Microsoft programs. Developed uniform systems and programs to generate government reports using R which included forecasts of financial trends. Conducted statistical analysis on future tax revenue, trained coworkers, and wrote user and debugging manuals on the use of R.

### **Legislative Intern**

*Summer 2017*

*Location:* Office of Senator Joel Anderson - Sacramento, CA

Provided essential office tasks and worked on several legislative research projects. Responsible for constituent correspondence, assisting district office programs, maintaining and operating databases using R, SQL, and Microsoft programs. Additionally, attended community events on behalf of the Senator and made public speeches, as well as creating and presenting certificates of recognition.

### **Peer Tutor**

*Summer 2017*

*Location:* Economics Department, University of California Davis - Davis, CA

Assisted students in improving academic achievement, review and clarify key concepts, and provide useful study skills to students that need supplemental help. Held office hours for an upper division economic course.

### **Student Supervisor**

*Aug 2014 - June 2016*

*Location:* Student Housing, University of California Davis - Davis, CA

Promoted from resident advisor. Primary response for 100 resident advisors and over 5000 residents. Supervise, provide professional feedback, and work evaluations for resident advisors. Act as a liaison between different levels of management and departments. Organize systems, schedules and information for people of various professional levels and communication styles. Lead, plan, and facilitate meetings and events for groups as small as three to several hundred.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE - PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

---

### University of California Riverside

*Summer 2020 - Present*

STAT 107 : Introduction to Statistical Computing With R

Statistics and Programming Bootcamp for Graduate Students

### Upward Bound/Ivy Tech Community College

*Summer 2018*

Introduction to Sports Analytics

Mathematics for Business and Life

Entrepreneurship

### Ball State University

*Fall 2017 - Spring 2018*

MATH 125: Quantitative Reasoning

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE - GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

---

### University of California Riverside

*Summer 2019 - Present*

STAT 100A: Introduction to Statistics

STAT 100B: Introduction to Statistics

STAT 155: Probability and Statistics for Science and Engineering

STAT 167: Introduction to Data Science

## PRESENTATIONS

---

- *Advanced Text Analysis in R*, Women in Data Science, Riverside, CA (Winter 2022)
- *Introduction to Python for R Users*, UCR Statistics Graduate Student Seminar, Riverside, CA (Winter 2022)
- *Decision Trees*, Minds Datathon, Orange County, CA (Fall 2021)
- *Recent Advances in Time-Average Covariance Matrix Estimation*, NISS Graduate Student Conference (Spring 2021)
- *Random Forests*, Minds Datathon, Orange County, CA (Fall 2020)
- *Demystifying Data Science*, Center for Information and Communication Sciences, Ball State University (Spring 2018)
- *Are You In or Are You Out?*, Research Presentation at Student Symposium, Ball State University (Spring 2018)
- *Comparison of Iterative Methods in R*, Applied Statistics and R Group, Ball State University (Spring 2017)
- *An Introduction to the R Programming Language*, Mathematical Sciences Student Colloquium Series, Ball State University's Mathematical Sciences Department (Spring 2017)
- *Summary of Results: Math 167 Survey*, Mathematical Sciences UPC Faculty Committee, Ball State University's Mathematical Sciences Department (Fall 2016)

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

---

- Dissertation Year Program Award at UCR (2022-2023)
- Best Presentation of Original Research Award at NISS Graduate Student Research Conference (2022)
- Teaching Assistant of the Year Award, University of California Riverside (Spring 2020)
- Outstanding Statistical Consultation Award and Recognition, University of California Riverside (Spring 2020)
- Dr. Mir Masoom Ali Scholarship, Ball State University (Spring 2018)

## **COMPETITIONS AND CHALLENGES**

---

- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Data Science Challenge - Team Lead (Summer 2021)
- Ball State University Entrepreneurship Hackathon (Spring 2018)
- University of California Davis Data Science Convention Poster Competition (Spring 2016)

## **OUTREACH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

- Associate for the Career Mentoring of Underrepresented STEM Students for the Professoriate Program (Spring 2022)
- Graduate Student Mentor for Statistics Undergraduate Student Research Project (Spring 2022)
- Executive Committee of NISS Graduate Student Network (June 2020 - Current)
- NISS Graduate Student Liaison (Fall 2021 - Current)
- President of Mu Sigma Rho, National Honor Society for Statistics (Fall 2021 - Current)
- Vice President of Statistics Graduate Association (Fall 2020 - Current)
- Graduate Student Mentor at the Women's Resource Center (Spring 2021-Fall 2021)
- Organizing Committee of NISS Graduate Student Conference (June 2021, May 2022)
- Co-Founder and Secretary of Statistics Graduate Association (Spring 2019-Spring 2020)