Susan Vanderplas

Curriculum Vitae

349a Hardin Hall North Wing
3310 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, NE 68483-0961
402-472-7290
✉ *susan.vanderplas@unl.edu*
srvanderplas

Education

2015 **PhD**, *Statistics*, Iowa State University.
Dissertation: The Perception of Statistical Graphics

2011 **MS**, *Statistics*, Iowa State University.

2009 **BS**, *Psychology & Applied Mathematical Sciences*, Texas A&M University.

Professional Experience

2020 **Assistant Professor**, *Statistics Department*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

2018–2019 **Research Assistant Professor**, *Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence*, Iowa State University.

2018–2019 **Statistical Consultant**, *Nebraska Public Power District*.
Provided individual mentoring and project leadership to continue the Business Intelligence Embedded Agent program and provide support for R-related projects.

2015–2018 **Statistical Analyst**, *Nebraska Public Power District*.

2015–2015 **Postdoc**, *Iowa State University Office of the Vice President for Research*.

Scholarship

Contribution percentages estimated from git contributions using `git fame` where possible. Not all projects have github repositories for which this is meaningful.

Journal Publications

15. 2021 *Submitted as an invited response to Hullman & Gelman's "Designing for Interactive Exploratory Data Analysis Requires Theories of Graphical Inference"*.
VanderPlas, **Susan** (July 30, 2021). "Designing Graphics Requires Useful Experimental Testing Frameworks and Graphics Derived from Empirical Results". In: *Harvard Data Science Review*. https://hdsr.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/m7ur7k3u. DOI: 10.1162/99608f92.7d099fd0. URL: https://hdsr.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/m7ur7k3u.

14. 2021 Hofmann, Heike, **Susan Vanderplas**, and Alicia Carriquiry (June 2021). "Treatment of inconclusives in the AFTE range of conclusions". en. In: *Law, Probability and Risk* 19.3-4, pp. 317–364. DOI: 10.1093/lpr/mgab002. URL: https://academic.oup.com/lpr/article/19/3-4/317/6308611 (visited on 12/20/2021).
Contribution: Writing (50%).

13. 2021 **VanderPlas**, **Susan**, Christian Röttger, Dianne Cook, and Heike Hofmann (2021). "Statistical significance calculations for scenarios in visual inference". In: *Stat* 10.1, e337. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/sta4.337.
Contribution: Programming and analysis (30%), Writing (65%).

12. 2020 **Vanderplas**, **Susan**, Alicia Carriquiry, Heike Hofmann, James Hamby, and Xiao Hui Tai (2020). "An introduction to firearms examination for researchers in statistics". In: *Handbook of Forensic Statistics*. Ed. by Banks, D., Kafadar, K., Kaye, D., and Tackett, M. New York: Chapman and Hall/CRC 2020. DOI: 10.1201/9780367527709.
Contribution: Writing (50%).

11. 2020 **Vanderplas**, **Susan**, Melissa Nally, Tylor Klep, Cristina Cadevall, and Heike Hofmann (Jan. 2020). "Comparison of three similarity scores for bullet LEA matching". In: *Forensic Science International*. DOI: 10.1016/j.forsciint.2020.110167.
Contribution: Programming and analysis (20%), Writing (55%).

10. 2020 **Vanderplas**, **Susan**, Dianne Cook, and Heike Hofmann (Mar. 2020). "Testing Statistical Charts: What Makes a Good Graph?" In: *Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application* 7.1, pp. 13.1–13.28. DOI: 10.1146/annurev-statistics-031219-041252.
Contribution: Writing (85%).

9. 2019 Rutter, Lindsay, **Susan VanderPlas**, Dianne Cook, and Michelle Graham (2019). "ggenealogy: An R Package for Visualizing Genealogical Data". In: *Journal of Statistical Software* 89.13, pp. 1–31. ISSN: 1548-7660. DOI: 10.18637/jss.v089.i13.

8. 2019 **VanderPlas**, **Susan**, Ryan Goluch, and Heike Hofmann (2019). "Framed! Reproducing and Revisiting 150 year old charts". In: *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*. DOI: 10.1080/10618600.2018.1562937.
Contribution: Programming and analysis (60%), writing (50%).

7. 2019 Sievert, Carson, **Susan VanderPlas**, Jun Cai, Kevin Ferris, Faizan Uddin Fahad Khan, and Toby Dylan Hocking (2019). "Extending ggplot2 for linked and animated web graphics". In: *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 28.2, pp. 299–308. DOI: 10.1080/10618600.2018.1513367.

6. 2017 **Vanderplas**, **Susan** and Heike Hofmann (2017). "Clusters Beat Trend!? Testing Feature Hierarchy in Statistical Graphics". In: *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 26.2, pp. 231–242. DOI: 10.1080/10618600.2016.1209116.
Contribution: Programming and analysis (90%), writing (50%).

5. 2017 *Submitted as an invited response to Donoho's "50 years of Data Science"*.
Hofmann, Heike and **Susan Vanderplas** (2017). "All of This Has Happened Before. All of This Will Happen Again: Data Science". In: *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 26.4, pp. 775–778. DOI: 10.1080/10618600.2017.1385474.
Contribution: Writing (75%).

4. 2016 **Vanderplas**, **Susan** and Heike Hofmann (2016). "Spatial Reasoning and Data Displays". In: *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*. DOI: 10.1109/TVCG.2015.2469125.
Contribution: Programming and analysis (90%), writing (75%).

3. 2015 — (2015). "Signs of the Sine Illusion - why we need to care". In: *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 24.4, pp. 1170–1190. DOI: 10.1080/10618600.2014.951547.
Contribution: Programming and analysis (50%), writing (60%).

2. 2010 Towfic, Fadi, **Susan VanderPlas**, Casey A Oliver, Oliver Couture, Christopher K Tuggle, M Heather West Greenlee, and Vasant Honavar (2010). "Detection of gene orthology from gene co-expression and protein interaction networks". In: *BMC bioinformatics* 11.Suppl 3, S7. DOI: 10.1186%2F1471-2105-11-S3-S7.

1. 2009 Hull, Rachel, Heather Bortfeld, and **Susan Koons** (2009). "Near-infrared spectroscopy and cortical responses to speech production". In: *The open neuroimaging journal* 3, p. 26. DOI: 10.2174%2F1874440000903010026.

Other Publications

2. 2019 Carriquiry, Alicia, Heike Hofmann, Xiao Hui Tai, and **Susan VanderPlas** (2019). "Machine learning in forensic applications". In: *Significance* 16.2, pp. 29–35. DOI: 10.1111/j.1740-9713.2019.

01252.x.

Contribution: Writing (50%).

1. 2013 Budrus, Sarah, Susan Vanderplas, and Dianne Cook (2013). "In tennis, do smashes win matches?" In: *Significance* 10.3, pp. 35–38. DOI: 10.1111/j.1740-9713.2013.00665.x.

In Progress **Generalized Parallel Coordinate Plots: ggpcp** An R package for creation of generalized parallel coordinate plots

Perception of Log Scales Assessment of perception and use of log scales to display exponential growth. Data collection stage.

A Convolutional Neural Network for Outsole Recognition Use CNNs to automate identification of class characteristics in images of footwear outsoles. Revision stage.

Bullet Signature Resampling Method for resampling bullet signatures used to calculate match and non-match score distributions.

Grants

2021–2022 **NIJ R&D in Forensic Science**, *Automatic Acquisition and Identification of Footwear Class Characteristics*, PI, Funded, $380,650 total.

2020–2025 **NIST**, *Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence*, PI, Funded ($20 million total, $456,930 sub-award).

2020–2023 **USDA CIGOFF**, *Improving the Economic and Ecological Sustainability of US Crop Production through On-Farm Precision Experimentation*, PI, Funded ($4,000,000 total, $400,000 UNL subcontract split between 3 UNL PIs).

2021–2022 **USDA NIFA AFRI**, *Corn Residue Adaptive Grazing Strategies*, Collaborator, Funded, $300,000.

2020 **USDA NIFA AFRI**, *Practical Framework to Facilitate Adoption of In-Season N Management Technology in Commercial Fields*, Collaborator, Not funded, $300,000.

2020 **NSF**, *AI Institute: AgroAI: The Institute for Advancing Agriculture and Food in a Changing World Using AI*, Collaborator, Not Funded, Total grant $20 million, UNL subcontract request $3,555,327.

2020–2023 **NSF**, *Overcoming the Rural Data Deficit to Improve Quality of Life and Community Services in Smart & Connected Small Communities*, PI, Funded ($1,500,000 total, $123,445 subcontract).

2019 **USDA AFRI-SAS**, *A Cyber-Physical System for Data-Intensive Farm Management*, PI, Not funded, $3,000,000 total.

2019 **NIJ R&D in Forensic Science**, *Statistical Infrastructure for the Use of Error Rate Studies in the Interpretation of Forensic Evidence*, Collaborator, Funded for FY 2019, $197,699 total, $57,596 ISU sub-award.

2018 **NIJ R&D in Forensic Science**, *Passive Acquisition of Footwear Class Characteristics in Local Populations*, PI, Not funded, $383,104.

2018 **NIJ R&D in Forensic Science**, *Evaluating Photogrammetry for 3D Footwear Impression Recovery*, PI, Not funded, $281,755.

Invited Talks

2021 **How do you define a circle? Perception and Computer Vision Diagnostics**, *JSM*, Section on Statistical Graphics, Seattle, WA.

2021 **Pandemics, Graphics, and Perception of Log Scales**, *R-Ladies DC*, Washington, DC.

2020 **Perception and Visual Communication in a Global Pandemic**, *Data Science, Statistics, and Visualization Conference*, SAMSI, Online.

2020 **One of these things is not like the others: Visual Statistics and Testing in Statistical Graphics**, *Data Science Symposium*, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD.

2020 **Big Data, Big Experiments, and Big Problems**, Plant and Animal Genome, San Diego, CA.

2019 **Statistical Lineups for Bayesians**, *JSM*, Section on Statistical Graphics, Denver, CO.

2018 **Clusters Beat Trend!? Testing Feature Hierarchy in Statistical Graphics**, *SDSS*, Reston, VA.

2015 **Animint: Interactive Web-Based Animations Using Ggplot2's Grammar of Graphics**, *JSM*, Seattle, WA.

2014 **The curse of three dimensions: Why your brain is lying to you**, *JSM*, Section on Statistical Graphics Student Paper Session, Boston, MA.

Contributed Talks

2021 **Welcome to Forensic Statistics**, *Data Mishaps Night*, Online.

2018 **Framed! Reproducing 150 year old charts**, *JSM*, Vancouver, BC.

2017 **A Bayesian Approach to Visual Inference**, *JSM*, Baltimore, MD.

2016 **Clusters Beat Trend!? Testing Feature Hierarchy in Statistical Graphics**, *JSM*, Chicago, IL.

2015 **Visual Aptitude and Statistical Graphics**, *InfoVis*, Chicago, IL.

2015 **Animint: Interactive, Web-Ready Graphics with R**, *Great Plains R User Group*, Sioux Center, IA.

2014 **Do You See What I See? Using Shiny for User Testing**, *JSM*, Boston, MA.

2013 **Signs of the Sine Illusion – why we need to care**, *JSM*, Montreal, ON.

Seminar Talks

2021 **Pandemics, Graphics, and Perception of Log Scales**, *NUMBATS Seminar*, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

2021 **Exploring Rural Quality of Life Using Data Science and Public Data**, *QQPM Seminar*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

2021 **Inconclusive Conclusions: Biases and Consequences**, *Law and Psychology Brown Bag Seminar*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

2021 **Visual Statistics: Communication and Graphical Testing**, *Animal Science Seminar*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

2021 **How to Make Good Charts**, *Biological and Systems Engineering GSA*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

2020 **Statistical Evaluation of Firearms and Toolmark Evidence**, *Statistics Department Seminar*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Software

Dates show initial involvement; only packages which are no longer maintained have end dates.

2021 `ggpcp`, *Generalized parallel coordinate plots*.

2020 `vinference`, *Analysis of visual inference experiments*.

2019–2020 `ShoeScrubR`, *Cleaning shoe print data for future statistical analysis*.

2019 `groovefinder`, *Identification of grooves in scans of bullet land engraved areas*.

2018 **ShoeScrapeR**, *Acquisition of Shoe Images and Metadata from Online Retailers*.

2018 **bulletxtrctr**, *Automated matching of 3d bullet scans*.

2018 **x3ptools**, *Reading, manipulating, and visualizing x3p files*.

2018 **bulletsamplr**, *Resampling of bullet signatures*.

2018 **ImageAlignR**, *Image registration algorithms for forensics*.

2013–2015 **animint**, *animated, interactive web graphics for R using d3.js*.

Teaching

2021 **Stat 850 - Computing Tools for Statisticians**, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln*, Hybrid, flipped classroom, synchronous, Course materials: https://srvanderplas.github.io/unl-stat850/.
Mean evaluation: 4.76, Median: 5.0

2021 **Stat 218 - Introduction to Statistics**, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln*, Online, asynchronous.
Mean evaluation: 4.0, Median: 4.0

2020 **Stat 850 - Computing Tools for Statisticians**, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln*, Hybrid, flipped classroom, synchronous, Course materials: https://srvanderplas.github.io/unl-stat850/.
Mean evaluation: 4.76, Median: 5.0

2020 **Stat 218 - Introduction to Statistics**, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln*, In person synchronous.
Mean evaluation: 4.2, Median: 4.0

2019 **Stat 585 - Data Technologies for Statistical Analysis**, *Iowa State University*, In person synchronous.
Co-taught, assisted with curriculum development. Mean evaluation: 4.92, Median: 5.0

2017–2018 **Business Intelligence Embedded Agent Program**, *Nebraska Public Power District*, Hybrid.
Design and implement a program to mentor employees, providing instruction in data science and opportunities to apply new skills within the company. Lead one-on-one and group mentoring sessions to create a sense of community and reinforce skills learned through online courses. 16 students.

2013–2014 **R Workshops**, *Iowa State*, In person synchronous.
Introduction to R, ggplot2, data management and cleaning, package development, literate programming, and Shiny.

Mentoring and Advising

Graduate Students

2021–2022 **Jayden Stack**, *Statistics*, MS, Automatic Recognition of Shoe Class Characteristics.

2021– **Rachel Rogers**, *Statistics*, Ph.D., Explainable Machine Learning for Forensics in Courtrooms.

2021– **Alison Kleffner**, *Statistics*, Ph.D., Spatial Statistics and Visualization in Ecology and Agriculture.
Co-advised with Yawen Guan

2020– **Emily Robinson**, *Statistics*, Ph.D, Perception and Visual Inference.
Co-advised with Reka Howard

2020– **Denise Bradford**, *Statistics*, Ph.D, Data Science and Interactive Graphics.

2020 **Ved Piyush**, *Statistics*, MS, Machine Learning and Computer Vision.

2019– **Joseph Zemmels**, *Statistics*, MS, Ph.D, Analysis and Matching of Cartridge Cases.
Completed MS (Spring 2020). Co-advised with Heike Hofmann.

2019–2020 **Eryn Blagg**, *Statistics*, MS, Ph.D, Analysis of Wear Development in Three-Dimensional Shoe Scans. .

Co-advised with Heike Hofmann

2018–2019 **Miranda Tilton**, *Statistics*, MS, Footwear Class Characteristics and Computer Vision. .

Undergraduate Students

2021 **Xinyu Liu**, *Actuarial Science and Computer Science*, UNL FYRE Program, Machine learning for shoe sole images.

2019 **Jason Seo**, *Computer Science and Statistics*, Undergraduate Research, R package for visualization of neural networks using the python library keras-vis..

2018–2019 **Talen Fisher**, *Computer Engineering*, Undergraduate Research, Tools for working with x3p files, database design for storing bullet scans and intermediate analysis products..

Summer Research Programs

2019 **Molly McDermott and Andrew Maloney**, *Research Experience for Undergraduates*, Summer 2019, Bullet Scan Quality and Machine Learning.

2019 **Syema Ailia, Emmanuelle Hernandez Morales, Tiger Ji**, *Research Experience for Undergraduates*, Summer 2019, Rapid Quality Control Tools for Confocal Microscopy Scans.

2018 **Ben Wonderlin and Jenny Kim**, *Young Engineers and Scientists*, Summer 2018, Footwear Class Characteristics and Computer Vision.

Outreach

Forensic Practitioners

2021 **Written Testimony**, *Cook County DA*, Assessment of the Reliability of Studies of Firearms Examination in Forensics.

2021 **Blog Post**, *CSAFE*, Q&A - Treatment of Inconclusive Results in Error Rates of Firearm Studies (Link).

2021 **Webinar**, *CSAFE*, Treatment of Inconclusive Results in Error Rates of Firearm Studies.

2020 **CSAFE Firearms Workshop**, Invited Talk: Open Source Software in Forensics.

Service

Service to the Discipline

2021–2024 **Associate Editor**, *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*.

2020–2023 **Associate Editor**, *R Journal*.

2020–2022 **Graphics Section Program Chair (2021)**, *ASA*, Official duties include planning JSM sessions in 2020 and running the Data Expo in 2022.

2020 **Program Committee (Graphics)**, *Symposium on Data Science and Statistics 2020*, Visualization Track co-chair.

2019–2021 **Gertrude Cox Scholarship Committee Member**, *ASA*.

Assisted with selection of the Gertrude Cox Scholarship recipients and honorable mentions

2019

Uncoast Unconference Organizing Committee, Des Moines, IA.

Organized the first R Uncoast Unconference to bring R developers in flyover country together for a 3-day event. Over 50% of the participants at the conference were women or minorities, and participants included students, academics, and industry R programmers with a variety of experience levels in R programming.

2017
2019

Graphics Section Representative to the Council of Sections, *ASA*.

Department and Institutional Service

2021

R Workshop Coordinator.

Develop and coordinate a week of R workshops taught in January, May, and August each year

2021
2022

Faculty Advisory Council, *Vice-Chair*.

2021
2022

MS Comp Exam Committee.

Committee to evaluate the current MS Stat Day presentation component and consider other options for the MS program

2021

Digital Ag Minor Committee.

Committee to develop a digital ag minor.

2021

Data Science Joint Committee.

Committee of Math, Computer Science, and Statistics departments to develop a comprehensive undergraduate data science program.

2020
2021

Seminar Organizer.

Arrange speakers for the department seminar.

2020

SCIL 101 Poster Judge, *Fall Semester*.

2019
2020

Undergraduate Program Committee.

Design an undergraduate statistics major and submit the proposal to the university.

Training & Professional Development

2021
2022

Peer Review of Teaching Program.

Create a course portfolio for Stat 850 in order to assess course design and analyze student engagement and learning

2020

New Faculty Development Program.

2020

Summer Institute for Online Teaching.

Online course structure and backwards design principles