

# Susan Vanderplas

## Curriculum Vitae

195C Durham Center  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50011  
✉ [svander@iastate.edu](mailto:svander@iastate.edu)  
🌐 [svanderplas](https://svanderplas.github.io)

### 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

- 2018  
Research Assistant Professor, *Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence*, Iowa State University.
- 2018  
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  
Postdoc, *Iowa State University Office of the Vice President for Research*.
- 2014  
Consultant.  
Develop web applications, interactive data displays, and statistical analyses for clients including the Iowa Soybean Association, ISU Agronomy Labs, and the USDA.

### 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

- 10. 2019  
Carriquiry, A., Hofmann, H., Tai, X. H. & **VanderPlas, S.** Machine learning in forensic applications. *Significance* **16**, 29–35.
- 9. 2019  
**VanderPlas, S.**, Goluch, R. & Hofmann, H. Framed! Reproducing and Revisiting 150 year old charts. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*.  
**Contribution:** Programming and analysis (60%), writing (50%).
- 8. 2018  
Sievert, C., **VanderPlas, S.**, Cai, J., Ferris, K., Khan, F. U. F. & Hocking, T. D. Extending ggplot2 for linked and animated web graphics. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* **0**, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10618600.2018.1513367>.

7. 2017 **Vanderplas, S.** & Hofmann, H. Clusters Beat Trend!? Testing Feature Hierarchy in Statistical Graphics. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* **26**, 231–242. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10618600.2016.1209116>.  
**Contribution:** Programming and analysis (90%), writing (50%).
6. 2017 *Accepted March 2017. Awaiting publication.*  
Rutter, L., **Vanderplas, S.**, Cook, D. & Graham, M. ggenealogy: An R Package for Visualizing Genealogical Data. *Journal of Statistical Software*. <https://github.com/lrutter/ggenealogyPaper>.
5. 2017 *Submitted as an invited response to Donoho's "50 years of Data Science".*  
Hofmann, H. & **Vanderplas, S.** All of This Has Happened Before. All of This Will Happen Again: Data Science. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* **26**, 775–778.  
**Contribution:** Writing (75%).
4. 2016 **Vanderplas, S.** & Hofmann, H. Spatial Reasoning and Data Displays. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*.  
**Contribution:** Programming and analysis (90%), writing (75%).
3. 2015 **Vanderplas, S.** & Hofmann, H. Signs of the Sine Illusion - why we need to care. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* **24**, 1170–1190. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10618600.2014.951547>.  
**Contribution:** Programming and analysis (50%), writing (60%).
2. 2010 Towfic, F., **VanderPlas, S.**, Oliver, C. A., Couture, O., Tuggle, C. K., Greenlee, M. H. W. & Honavar, V. Detection of gene orthology from gene co-expression and protein interaction networks. *BMC bioinformatics* **11**, S7.
1. 2009 Hull, R., Bortfeld, H. & **Koons, S.** Near-infrared spectroscopy and cortical responses to speech production. *The open neuroimaging journal* **3**, 26.

In Progress **Visual Inference for Bayesians** Examine two-target statistical lineups and the connection to Bayes Factors.

**Longitudinal Shoe Database** Design a database for sharing longitudinal shoe wear data, including powder prints, 2D scans, 3D scans, pictures, and crime-scene style casts and prints.

**Bullet Test Set Validation** Validate an algorithm for bullet matching on several test sets used to test forensic examiner proficiency.

**Footwear Class Characteristic Recognition using Neural Networks** Use convolutional neural networks to automate identification of class characteristics in images of footwear outsoles.

## Grants

2018

**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

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

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.

## Software

2018

**bulletxtctr**, *automated matching of 3d bullet scans*.

2019

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

2018

2019

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

2018

2018

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

2013

2015

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

## Teaching

2019

**Stat 585 - Data Technologies for Statistical Analysis**, *Iowa State University*.  
Frequent guest lecturer, assisted with curriculum development

2017  
2018

**Business Intelligence Embedded Agent Program**, *Nebraska Public Power District*.

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. Class size: 16

2017

**R Workshop**, *Nebraska Public Power District*.

3-day internal course on using R for data analysis.

2013  
2014

**R Workshops**, *Iowa State*.

Introduction to R, ggplot2, data management and cleaning, package development, literate programming, and Shiny.

2013

**Statistical Methods for Research**, *Iowa State*, TA.

Stat 401

2013

**Introduction to Business Statistics II**, *Iowa State*, TA.

Stat 326

2012

**Introduction to Business Statistics II**, *Iowa State*, TA.

Stat 326

2011

**Statistical Methods for Research**, *Iowa State*, TA.

Stat 401

2011

**Empirical Methods for Computer Science**, *Iowa State*, TA.

Stat 430

## Mentoring and Advising

2018

**Miranda Tilton**, *Statistics*, MS Creative Component.

Footwear Class Characteristics and Computer Vision. Expected graduation: Spring 2019

2019

**Jason Seo**, *Computer Science and Statistics*, Undergraduate Research.

R package for visualization of neural networks using the python library keras-vis.

2019

**Jenny Ha**, *Computer Science*, Undergraduate Research.

Database design for storing bullet scans and intermediate analysis products.

2018

**Talen Fisher**, *Computer Engineering*, Undergraduate Research.

Tools for working with x3p files, database design for storing bullet scans and intermediate analysis products.

2018

**Ben Wonderlin and Jenny Kim**, *Young Engineers and Scientists*, Summer 2018.

Footwear Class Characteristics and Computer Vision

## Service

2019

**Gertrude Cox Scholarship Committee Member**, ASA.

2017  
2019

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