

Friday
July 5, 2019

12:30 pm
(CET)

The **Working Group on Risk - CREAR**, with the support of the IDS dpt, Institut des Actuaire, LabEx MME-DII, and the group BFA (SFdS), has the pleasure to invite you to the seminar by:

Prof. Donald RUBIN

Yau Center for Mathematical Sciences, Tsinghua University

“Essential Concepts of Causal Inference:
A remarkable history and an intriguing future”

*at ESSEC La Défense (CNIT) – Salle 220, 12:30-1:30pm
and ESSEC Asia Pacific - Level 3, classroom 7, 6:30-7:30pm*

Causal inference is a major topic in any field that tries to understand the kinds of treatments (i.e., interventions) we humans are considering in order to effect particular changes in the world around us, whether those treatments involve business decisions, pharmaceuticals to ingest, educational programs to offer, military actions to take — effectively everything that involves choices in our lives. Despite the ubiquity of this topic to the lives of unconscious and later conscious humans for tens of thousands of years, it has a remarkable history, with solid mathematical foundations beginning only in the early 20th century, with the development of crucial ideas tied to related ideas in physics, namely those arising in quantum mechanics. This formulation of causal inference has an intriguing future because of the increasing application of causal inference to treatments with conscious units, humans, despite its mathematical origins with unconscious units: plants, animals, industrial objects. Conscious units do not necessarily comply with their assigned treatments and can suffer from complications such as placebo effects; moreover, humans may depart from study protocols by dropping out early, or may use the internet to interfere with each other in ways that were considered impossible in the middle of the twentieth century. The proper handling of such complexities comprises an intriguing collection of topics, which are currently virtually unstudied with any mathematical rigor.

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Donald B. Rubin is currently Professor in the Yau Center for Mathematical Sciences, Tsinghua University, Murray Schusterman Senior Research Fellow, Fox Business School, Temple University, and Professor Emeritus, Harvard University. He has been elected to be a Fellow/Member/Honorary Member of: the Woodrow Wilson Society, Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, American Statistical Association, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, International Statistical Institute, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, European Association of Methodology, the British Academy, and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. As of 2019, he has authored/coauthored about 450 publications (including ten books), has four joint patents, and for many years has been one of the most highly cited authors in the world, with currently over 250,000 citations, and over 20,000 in 2018 alone (Google Scholar). Of his 25 publications with over 1,000 citations each, ten of them are solely authored by Rubin. He has received honorary doctorate degrees from Otto Friedrich University, Bamberg, Germany; the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Universidad Santo Tomás, Bogotá, Colombia; Uppsala University, Sweden; and Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He has also received honorary professorships from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands; Shanghai Finance University, China; Nanjing University of Science & Technology, China; Xi'an University of Technology, China; and University of the Free State, Republic of South Africa. He is a widely sought international lecturer on statistical topics.

