



The Western North American  
Region of The International Biometric Society

**WNAR Inaugural Webinar by Brad Efron  
PREDICTION, ESTIMATION, AND ATTRIBUTION**

It is a great pleasure to announce the inaugural lecture of the new WNAR Webinar Series, by our distinguished colleague Professor Brad Efron from Stanford University.

**Time: 9:30am - 10:30am PST (12:30 PM - 1:30 PM EST), Friday March 6, 2020**

**Registration is required:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wnar-inaugural-webinar-tickets-93841304869>

(Password: WNAR2020)

**This is a free event and slots are limited.** Priority registration is given to WNAR members until Monday, Feb. 17. After that, registration is open to the public and ends on Wednesday, March 4. So, hurry up!

**Zoom Dial-in information and webinar link will be sent 24 hours before the event.**

**Abstract:**

The scientific needs and computational limitations of the Twentieth Century fashioned classical statistical methodology. Both the needs and limitations have changed in the Twenty-First, and so has the methodology. Large-scale prediction algorithms - neural nets, deep learning, boosting, support vector machines, random forests - have achieved star status in the popular press. They are recognizable as heirs to the regression tradition, but ones carried out at enormous scale and on titanic data sets. How do these algorithms compare with standard regression techniques such as Ordinary Least Squares or logistic regression? Several key discrepancies will be examined, centering on the differences between prediction and estimation or prediction and attribution (that is, significance testing.) Most of the discussion is carried out through small numerical examples. The talk does not assume familiarity with prediction algorithms.

**Speaker Bio:**

Brad Efron is Max H. Stein Professor of Humanities and Sciences, Professor of Statistics, and Professor of Biostatistics with the Department of Biomedical Data Science in the School of Medicine; he serves as Co-director of the Mathematical and Computational Sciences Program. He has held visiting faculty appointments at Harvard, UC Berkeley, and Imperial College, London. A recipient of a 2005 National Medal of

Science for his contributions to theoretical and applied statistics, especially the bootstrap sampling technique, in 2014 he was awarded the Guy Medal in Gold by the Royal Statistical Society. He has been recognized with the 2018 International Prize in Statistics.

WNAR is the Western North American Region of [The International Biometric Society](#), an international professional and academic society promoting the development and application of statistical and mathematical theory and methods in the biosciences. Visit [www.wnar.org](http://www.wnar.org) for more details and events or follow us on [https://twitter.com/wnar\\_ibs](https://twitter.com/wnar_ibs)