

Lessons from Advanced Statistics Workshops for Researchers in Other Disciplines

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Data arise in most areas of research and analysis of such data invariably involves advanced statistical procedures extending far beyond what is taught in an introductory course on statistical methods. The researchers, who are frequently postgraduate students in subjects ranging from agriculture, biology, ecology, chemistry to the social sciences, health and psychology, have limited mathematical background which restricts methods that can be used in the presentation of topics. The goal is to produce researchers who understand concepts and are able to carry out data analyses confidently in future with limited guidance from a statistician. Several approaches to the problem of providing appropriate training in advanced statistical methods are discussed and student evaluations of the approaches are reported. The discussion features topic content, assessment, the method of teaching, the importance of context for different groups of researchers, the use of appropriate software and the timing of the teaching in a research programme which involves experimental or field work and data collection.

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