

CENTER FOR STATISTICS AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES



Making an impact at the interface of statistics & social sciences

Welcome to the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences' 2nd annual newsletter. CSSS turned 25 this year! We held a two-day celebration conference in May 2024. It was wonderful to see so many faculty, students and especially our alumni joining us!

This newsletter features a photo of all five CSSS Directors, from left to right: Thomas Richardson (2009-2014), Elena Erosheva (2022-present), Adrian Raftery (Founding Director, 1999-2009), Katherine Stovel (2014-2017) and Darryl Holman (2017-2022). Scroll down to view other photos and read more about the 25th anniversary conference.

The celebration was a bittersweet occasion for us as we also said goodbye to two former Directors of CSSS, Professors Adrian Raftery and Katherine Stovel, who retired from UW teaching over the summer. Professors Raftery and Stovel were each influential and instrumental to the success of the Center in their own way. We are immensely grateful for their contributions over the years!

This Fall 2024, we welcomed three new [Blalock Fellows](#), joining the School of Nursing, the Department of Statistics, and the Department of Urban Design & Planning. Read about their interests on the [CSSS website](#). We are proud to contribute to the recruitment of students with a passion for cutting-edge quantitative social science research to the University of Washington's graduate programs.

As of Spring 2024, 322 social science and statistics doctoral students have completed CSSS' [PhD Tracks](#). It was inspiring to see the remarkable success of our [alumni](#) who were able to join us for the anniversary. This [CSSS at-a-Glance](#) fact sheet highlights key points about our graduate education.

I invite you to stay connected with CSSS and explore how we might [support your work](#), or join our interdisciplinary [seminars](#) on Wednesdays at 12:30 — online or in-person. For updates on events, news, and opportunities through CSSS, [sign up for our weekly seminar mailing list](#).

Elena A. Erosheva (she/her)

Professor of Statistics and Social Work

Director, Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences

University of Washington

Gifts to the [CSSS discretionary fund](#) provide unrestricted support that can be directed where it is needed most.

For more frequent updates on events, news, and opportunities through CSSS, sign up for our weekly seminar mailing list below.

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Alumni Spotlights: Where are they now?

CSSS PhD tracks offer advanced training for doctoral students to prepare them for independent research and teaching careers at the intersection of statistics and social science. Three CSSS alumni share about their research journeys, reflecting on their time at the UW, and offering advice for current graduate students.



John Ahlquist:
Statistics for cross-
disciplinary
research & innovation

Now Associate Dean and
Professor at the School of



Sabrina Bonaparte:
Pursuing a path in
industry &
volunteering

As a Business Program
Manager at Microsoft and



Mark Wheldon:
Crafting technical
solutions to real-world
problems

Now a Population Affairs
Officer at the United

Global Policy and Strategy at the University of California San Diego, hear about John's career trajectory and how he built his confidence in statistics.

CSSS Political Science PhD Track, 2008.

non-profit volunteer, hear about how Sabrina transitioned into work outside academia, while leveraging her statistics training.

CSSS Sociology PhD Track, 2012.

Nations, Mark shares about how his life-long commitment to statistics led him to CSSS and unexpected career opportunities.

CSSS Statistics PhD Track, 2013.



CSSS 25th Anniversary Celebration

The two-day conference featured visiting and local friends, alumni, and scholars. We are thankful that so many people could join us for the celebration, including many who have contributed significantly to our Center over the past 25 years.



Adrian Raftery's Career Celebration

CSSS is grateful to Professor Adrian Raftery for his vision and dedication in establishing and directing the Center. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors and look forward to his continued contributions to the field!

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