



Roderick J. Little

University of Michigan

Professor of Biostatistics, Richard D. Remington Distinguished University Professor, Department of Statistics
 Research Professor, Institute for Social Research
 Senior Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows

Statistics as Prediction: I have always thought that a simple and unified approach to problems in statistics is from the prediction perspective – the objective is to predict the things you don't know, with appropriate measures of uncertainty. My inferential philosophy is “calibrated Bayes” – Bayesian predictive inference for a statistical model that is developed to have good frequentist properties. I discuss this viewpoint for a number of problems in missing data and causal inference, contrasting it with other approaches.

Biography: Roderick J. Little received his BA in Mathematics from Cambridge University, and MS and PhD degrees in Statistics from Imperial College, London. He has held faculty appointments from the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Chicago, in addition to non-academic positions as ASA/Census/NSF Research Fellow at the US Bureau of the Census, before moving to the University of Michigan in 1993 where he served as Department Chair in the Department of Biostatistics for 11 years. In 2014, he was appointed the Richard D. Remington Distinguished University Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, where he also holds appointments in the Department of Statistics and the Institute for Social Research.

He has more than 250 publications, notably on methods for the analysis of data with missing values and model-based survey inference, and

the application of statistics to diverse scientific areas, including medicine, demography, economics, psychiatry, aging and the environment. He literally “wrote the book” on missing data analysis with his seminal book “Statistical Analysis with Missing Data” with Dr. Donald B. Rubin that has been cited more than 22,000 times since its first publishing in 1987. He is an ISI highly cited researcher, with more than 49,000 total citations of his works including 11 papers with more than 500 citations and 4 papers with more than 1,000 citations (Google Scholar). His work has made fundamental theoretical and applied impact, and serves as a model for how effective application-driven methodological research can effectively be done.

Little is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the National Academy of Medicine. In 2005, Little was awarded the American Statistical Association's Wilks Medal for research contributions, and he gave the President's Invited Address at the Joint Statistical Meetings. He was the COPSS Fisher Lecturer at the 2012 Joint Statistics Meetings. He has served as the coordinating and applications editor for the Journal of the American Statistical Association from 1992-1994, and Vice-President of the American Statistical Association from 2010-2012.