

A.6.6 JSM2010 – Joint Statistical Meeting, Strange Sessions

Wegman Talk

On 08/04/10, Wegman gave an invited talk:

www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=activity_details&activityid=486&sessionid=205223

www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=abstract_details&abstractid=306224

“**Title:** Analysis of Global Warming Data: A Contrarian Data-Based View

Author(s): Edward J. Wegman*+

Companies: George Mason University

Address: MS 6A2, Fairfax, VA, 22030,

Keywords: [climate change](#) ; [global warming](#) ; [principal components](#) ; [hockey stick](#) ; [IPCC](#)

Abstract:

The so-called Hockey Stick paleoclimate temperature reconstruction was a major feature of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2003 (*sic*) Third Assessment Report. Drs. David Scott, Yasmin Said and I were asked to assemble a report to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce concerning the mathematical correctness of the principal components procedure that was used to develop the Hockey Stick. The principal components procedure was not done correctly and both empirical and theoretical analysis showed the flaws. While our testimony was limited to the statistical validity of this particular graphic, it was assumed by many and widely reported in the Press that we were arguing against anthropogenic-induced global warming. Indeed, politically motivated personal attacks were made. This talk will review the data issues and report on our experiences.”

Wegman was still speaking about PCA, whose slight mis-use in 1998/1999 had been shown to make no significant difference, and which had been long superseded. He reportedly continued with social networks analysis.

Unusual Sessions Organized by Said ... and Cancelled

But that was not the most interesting session in the long program:

www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/pdfs/JSM2010ProgramBook.pdf

Wegman students are underlined, coauthors are in **Bold**, in this part.

Said seemed to be quite active, speaking once and organizing 2 sessions:

p.169 (speak)

“Applications of Network Modeling—Contributed
Section on Statistics in Defense and National Security

Chair(s): **David J. Marchette**, Naval Surface Warfare Center

2:05 p.m. Multilevel Models for the Analysis of Communication and Production Networks in Academia—◆Susana Eyheramendy, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile; Carlos Rodriguez, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile; Cristobal Garcia, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
2:20 p.m. An Investigation of Locality Region for Scan Statistics in a Time Series of Graphs—◆Kristin Ash, Naval Surface Warfare Center; **David J. Marchette**, Naval Surface Warfare Center; **Carey E. Priebe**, The Johns Hopkins University

2:35 p.m. Fusion Analysis of Various Invariants in Edge-Attributed Networks—◆Andrey Rukhin, Naval Surface Warfare Center

2:50 p.m. Statistical Surveillance and Alarm Activation in Sensor Networks—◆James A. Shine, U.S. Army; James E. Gentle, **George Mason University**

3:05 p.m. Multi-Agent Simulation—◆**Yasmin H. Said**, **George Mason University**

3:20 p.m. Inferring Disease-Related Interaction Network—◆Qi Zhang, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Pei Wang, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

3:35 p.m. Visualization-Driven Statistical Analysis of Social Networks for Threat Detection and Characterization—◆Pranab K. Banerjee, Space Dynamics Laboratory

p.154 (organize)

“Grid Computing—Topic-Contributed
Section on Statistical Computing

Organizer(s): **Yasmin H. Said**, **George Mason University**

Chair(s): Peng Wang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (*sic*)

4:05 p.m. Grid Computing, Cloud Computing, and P2P Grid Environment—◆**Abdullah A. Alnoshan**, The George Washington University; **Shmuel Rotenstreich**, The George Washington University

4:25 p.m. Applications to Grid Computing—**Abdullah A. Alnoshan**, The George Washington University; **Shmuel Rotenstreich**, The George Washington University; ◆**Adel Rajput**, B. Point

4:45 p.m. Grid-Type Architectures—◆**Shmuel Rotenstreich**, The George Washington University; **Abdullah A. Alnoshan**, The George Washington University

5:05 p.m. Networks and Computing—◆Muhannad Said, **GMU**

5:25 p.m. Evolution of Grid Computing—**Abdullah A. Alnoshan**, The George Washington University; **Shmuel Rotenstreich**, The George Washington University; ◆Umair Umair, The George Washington University”

This session offered 4 talks that included the same author pair, plus a 5th talk by Muhannad Said, who seems likely to be Yasmin Said's brother.⁴²

www.whitepages.com/dir/a-z/said/Muhannad

DC found located more information on that talk:

<http://deepclimate.org/2010/12/23/george-mason-universitys-endless-inquiry/#comment-7104>

p.43 (organize)

“Environmental Statistics—Topic-Contributed
Section on Statistics and the Environment, Scientific and Public Affairs
Advisory Committee

Organizer(s): **Yasmin H. Said**, George Mason University

Chair(s): **Yasmin H. Said**, George Mason University

2:05 p.m. Analysis of the Hockey Stick—◆Nan Chen, **GMU**

2:25 p.m. Statistician's Perspective on Paleolimate (*sic*) Reconstruction—

◆**Roger Shores**, **GMU**

2:45 p.m. Analysis of Climategate—◆**Duane King**, **George Mason University**

3:05 p.m. Analysis of Wegman Report, National Academies, and Others—

◆**Sukhaynah Said**, **George Mason University**

3:25 p.m. National Academies Analysis of the Hockey Stick and Global Warming—◆**Byeonghwa Park**, **George Mason University**”

The following were found 01/01/11, by entering Abstract #s for *nnnnnn*:

http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=abstract_details&abstractid=nnnnnn

“Abstract – #309357

Title: Analysis of the Hockey Stick

Author(s): Nan Chen

Companies:

Address:

Keywords: Paleoclimate reconstruction ; PCA ; tree ring

Abstract: This talk focuses on the analysis of the Hockey Stick, which was based on the Congressional Testimony of Edward J. Wegman, David W. Scott, and Yasmin H. Said.

Abstract – #309384

Title: Statistician's Perspective on Paleolimate Reconstruction

Author(s): Roger Shores

Companies:

Address:

Keywords: Paleolimate Reconstruction ; Hockey stick

Abstract:

This talk focuses on Statistician's Perspective on Paleolimate Reconstruction, which lead to the Congressional hearing on Paleoclimate and the Hockey stick.

Abstract – #309402

Title: Analysis of Climategate

Author(s): Duane King

Companies: George Mason University

Address:

Keywords: Climate gate

Abstract:

This talk provides an analysis of Climategate.

Abstract – #309421

Title: Analysis of Wegman Report, National Academies, and Others

Author(s): Sukhaynah Said

Companies:

Address:

Keywords: climate ; regression ; time series

Abstract:

This talk focuses on the analysis of the Wegman, and National Academies Report on Global Warming and anthropogenic global warning.

Abstract – #309367

Title: National Academies Analysis of the Hockey Stick and Global Warming

Author(s): Byeonghwa Park

Companies:

Address:

Keywords: Global Warming

Abstract:

This talk focuses on the analysis of the Hockey Stick and Global Warming based on the National Academy Report to US Congress.”

These are not typical abstracts for JSM.

⁴² Thanks to DC for finding this household and GMU Peoplefinder entries.

Authors of Said-Organized Sessions

Nan Chen seems to be a student in Computational Sci & Informatics:
peoplefinder.gmu.edu/index.php?search=chen+nan&group=all&x=0&y=0

Roger Shores was a GMU student in 2001, 2002 seems to be current student in Applied Information Technology, and coauthored with Wegman:
onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wics.119/full
peoplefinder.gmu.edu/index.php?search=shores&group=all&x=0&y=0

Duane King got MS in CMPSC, wrote MS thesis on automatic parallelization of FORTRAN under Wegman:
www.galaxy.gmu.edu/images/gallery/graduates_garage.html
 He is a computer systems engineer in the College of Science IT group⁴³:
www.galaxy.gmu.edu/stats/techrepo.html
cos.gmu.edu/about/administration
peoplefinder.gmu.edu/index.php?search=duane+king&group=all&x=0&y=0

Sukhayna Said seems to be Yasmin Said's younger sister, in GMU Computational Science and Informatics:
peoplefinder.gmu.edu/index.php?search=said&group=all&x=0&y=0
www.whitepages.com/dir/a-z/said/sukhaynah

Byeonghwa Park, PhD student in Computational Sciences & Informatics, was in 2005 class, with Denise Reeves, Hadi Rezazad:
www.galaxy.gmu.edu/stats/syllabi/IT871/SDM2005_Projects.pdf
peoplefinder.gmu.edu/index.php?search=Byeonghwa&group=all&x=0&y=0

People often organize sessions with people they know, and no negative connotations whatsoever are implied by underlines or bold, which are presented simply as a reminder of the large network around Wegman. Still, since mid-2006 Wegman and Said have persistently claimed bad peer

review by climate researchers based merely on coauthorship relationships, but without presenting evidence of actual wrongdoing.⁴⁴

The two Said-organized sessions seem very strange, especially the final one. None of the speakers have obvious credibility to address the topics, although of course the abstracts are poor enough to create difficulty in knowing much about their proposed tasks.

At first glance, it looks like team of Wegman/GMU students organized to ratify the WR, akin to the paper in W.5.6.

It is also unclear whether or not these sessions were ever real or just imaginary.⁴⁵ Given the surprised "reviewers" of A.1, these sessions might have been wishful thinking by Said.

In any case, both Said-organized sessions were cancelled.

Search for Said in:

www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=people_index&letter=S

Ted Kirkpatrick wrote, in:

deepclimate.org/2010/12/23/george-mason-universitys-endless-inquiry/#comment-7102

"The cancellation of the JSM 2010 sessions organized by Yasmin Said stands out. Of 419 distinct activities listed in the online program, only 3 are listed as cancelled. Two of those were Said's."

Further odd details emerged about Said's grid session, an earlier JSM paper, and a later article in the Wiley WIREs journal mentioned in A.6.5.
deepclimate.org/2010/12/23/george-mason-universitys-endless-inquiry/#comment-7137
deepclimate.org/2010/12/23/george-mason-universitys-endless-inquiry/#comment-7154

⁴⁴ This seems a multi-year campaign to damage people's reputations, and its ideas are certainly widely repeated and perhaps acted upon. The elements for a legal defamation case appear present, although US defamation law is especially complex. I would be happy to hear opinions from lawyers.

⁴⁵ It might be good to contact some of these speakers and ask.

⁴³ This might or might not be relevant to A.11, modified/disappeared files.