



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Department of Statistics

Special Seminar

Tuesday 28 June 2011, 2pm

New Academic Building, room NAB 1.04

The Department of Statistics is delighted to announce a special seminar, taking place on Tuesday 28 June 2011 in room NAB 1.04 in the New Academic Building.



Professor Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao

Learning from numbers to generate new knowledge

Abstract: Statistics has a long antiquity but a short history. The primitive man was putting notches on trees as information concerning his possessions. When kingdoms came to be established, the rulers were interested in collecting information about the people and resources of the state. The data collected was used for limited purposes, such as assessing the amount of money that can be raised by taxation and the number of able bodied men that can be recruited in times of war. But the wider use of data in decision making and in explaining the mechanism generating the data needed invention of new methods of reasoning taking into account the uncertainty in data. It is only in the beginning of the last century the foundations of statistics as a scientific discipline based on quantification of uncertainty were laid. The scope of statistics as it is understood, studied and practiced extends to the whole gamut of natural and social sciences, engineering and technology, management and economic affairs and art and literature. The lecture will be illustrated with examples of different kinds of data (numbers) and the possible uses of information contained in them.

C. R. Rao is emeritus professor at Penn State University and research professor at the University of Buffalo. One of the world's foremost statisticians, it has recently been announced that he will be awarded the Guy Medal in Gold by the Royal Statistical Society in 2011.

Amongst his many other prestigious awards is the US National Medal of Science, awarded in 2002 for his theoretical work which helped to lay the foundation of modern statistics.