

# Data Science



Department of Statistics

PhD Open Day, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022

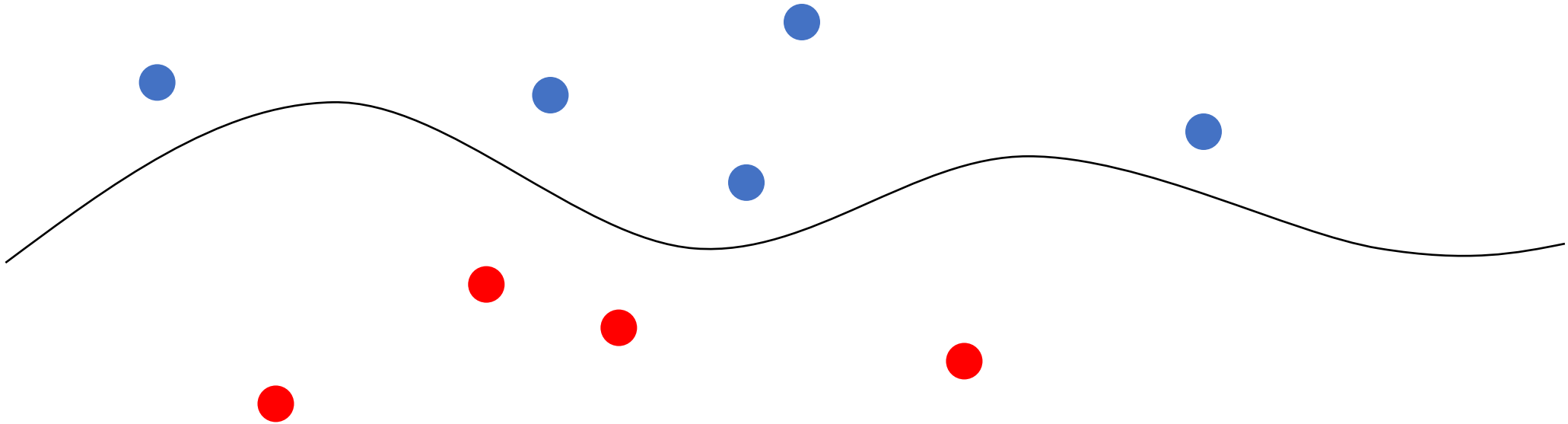
# Department of Statistics: research groups

- Data Science
- Probability in Finance and Insurance
- Social Statistics
- Time Series and Statistical Learning

To probe further: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/Statistics/Research>

# Data Science group

- Focus on development of **machine learning** and **statistical methods**, their **theoretical foundations** and **applications**



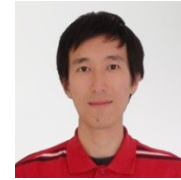
# Data Science group: people



**Mona Azdakia**  
Assistant Professor



**Marcos Barreto**  
Assistant Professorial Lecturer



**Yining Chen**  
Associate Professor



**Moez Draief**  
Visiting Professor in Practice  
Chief Scientist and VP Capgemini



**Kostas Kalogeropoulos**  
Associate Professor



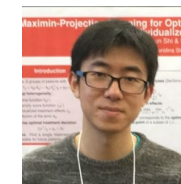
**Joshua Loftus**  
Assistant Professor



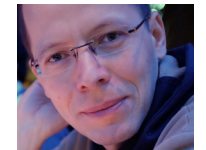
**Xinghao Qiao**  
Associate Professor



**Francesca Panero**  
Assistant Professor



**Chengchun Shi**  
Assistant Professor



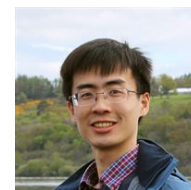
**Zoltan Szabo**  
Professor



**Milan Vojnovic**  
Professor



**Christine Yuen**  
Assistant Professorial Lecturer

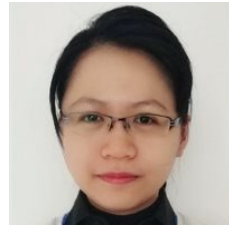


**Tengyao Wang**  
Associate Professor

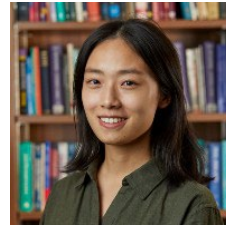
# Research students



**Sakina Hansen**



**Ziqing Ho**



**Liyuan Hu**



**Yirui Liu**



**Tao Ma**



**Filippo Pellegrino**



**Pingfan Su**



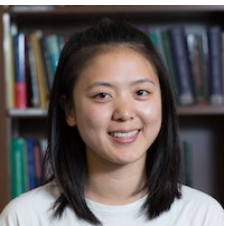
**Yiliu Wang**



**Xuzhi Yang**



**Jialin Yi**



**Kaifang Zhou**

# Research interests





Algorithmic fairness

Data linkage methods and tools  
For massive multimodal datasets

AI/ML for healthcare

Federated learning models

Change-point detection

Time series

Nonparametric statistics

Bayesian ML

Complex networks

Causal inference

Reinforcement learning

Kernel methods

Information theory

Multi-armed bandits

Optimisation

High-dimensional statistics

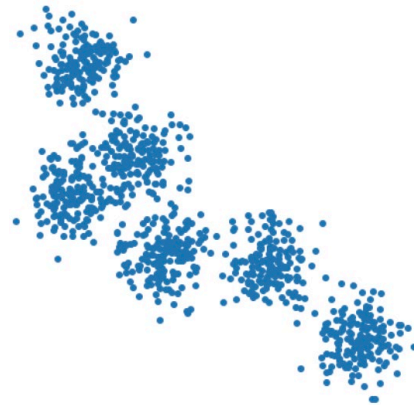
Statistical inference

Disclaimer: information may be incomplete

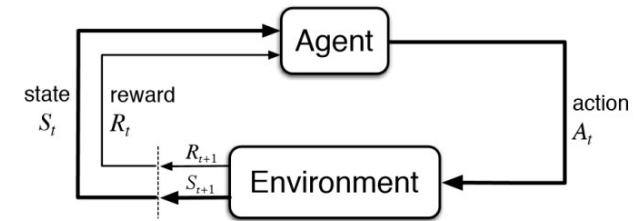
# Some problems studied by our group



supervised learning



unsupervised learning



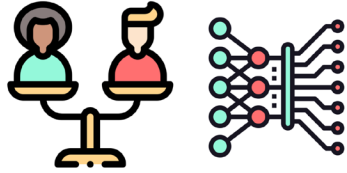
reinforcement learning

Some challenges:

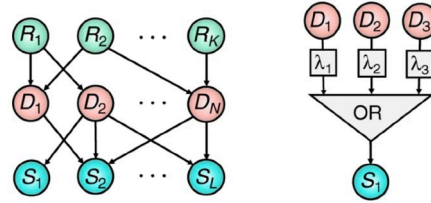
- high-dimensional models (many parameters)
- complex models (e.g. deep neural networks)
- complex problems (e.g. function classes)
- unknown fundamental limits of learning, need for new algorithms



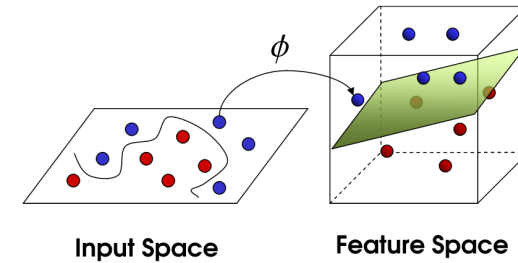
# Some problems studied by our group (cont'd)



Algorithmic fairness



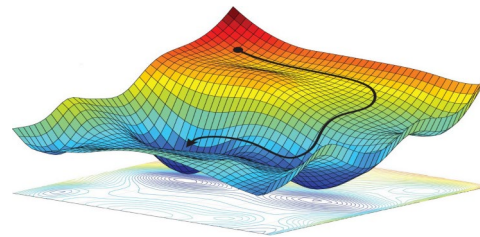
Causal inference



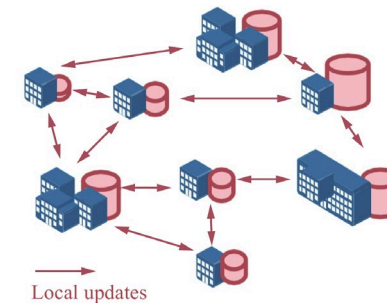
Kernel methods



Network data



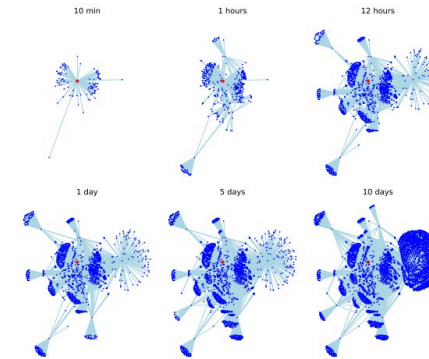
Optimization



Federated learning

# Some applications of our research

- Computer and information systems
  - Anomaly detection in computer systems
  - Meta content moderation platform



- Healthcare
  - Precision medicine
  - The Cambridge kidney assessment tool



- Information Theoretical Estimators – Python toolbox



# ST510 Foundations of Machine Learning

- A PhD level course, taught by several data science group members
- Foundations of supervised learning
- Convex optimization
- Non-convex optimization
- Support vector machines
- Decision trees and random forests
- Neural networks
- Unsupervised learning – clustering
- Unsupervised learning – dimensionality reduction
- Online learning and optimization
- Reinforcement learning

**ST510**    **Half Unit**  
Foundations of Machine Learning

# Teaching programmes

- MSc Data Science
- MSc Health Data Science (jointly with Department of Health Policy)
- BSc Data Science
- BSc Data Science and Business Analytics online degree programme

# MSc Data Science

- Compulsory modules
  - ST443 Machine Learning and Data Mining
  - ST445 Managing and Visualising Data
  - ST447 Data Analysis and Statistical Methods
  - ST498 Capstone Project
- Optional modules
  - ST444 Computational Data Science
  - ST446 Distributed Computing for Big Data
  - ST449 Artificial Intelligence
  - ST451 Bayesian Machine Learning
  - ST455 Reinforcement Learning
  - ST456 Deep Learning
  - ...

# MSc Data Science: capstone project partners



# Data science seminar series



- Goal: promote research related to **machine learning, computer science, statistics and their interface**
- Some speakers:
  - Caroline Uhler, MIT
  - Vladimir Vovk, Royal Holloway, University of London
  - Anastasia Borovykh, Imperial College London
  - Erwan Scornet, Ecole Polytechnique
- To probe further: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/Statistics/Seminars/Data-Science-Seminar-Series>

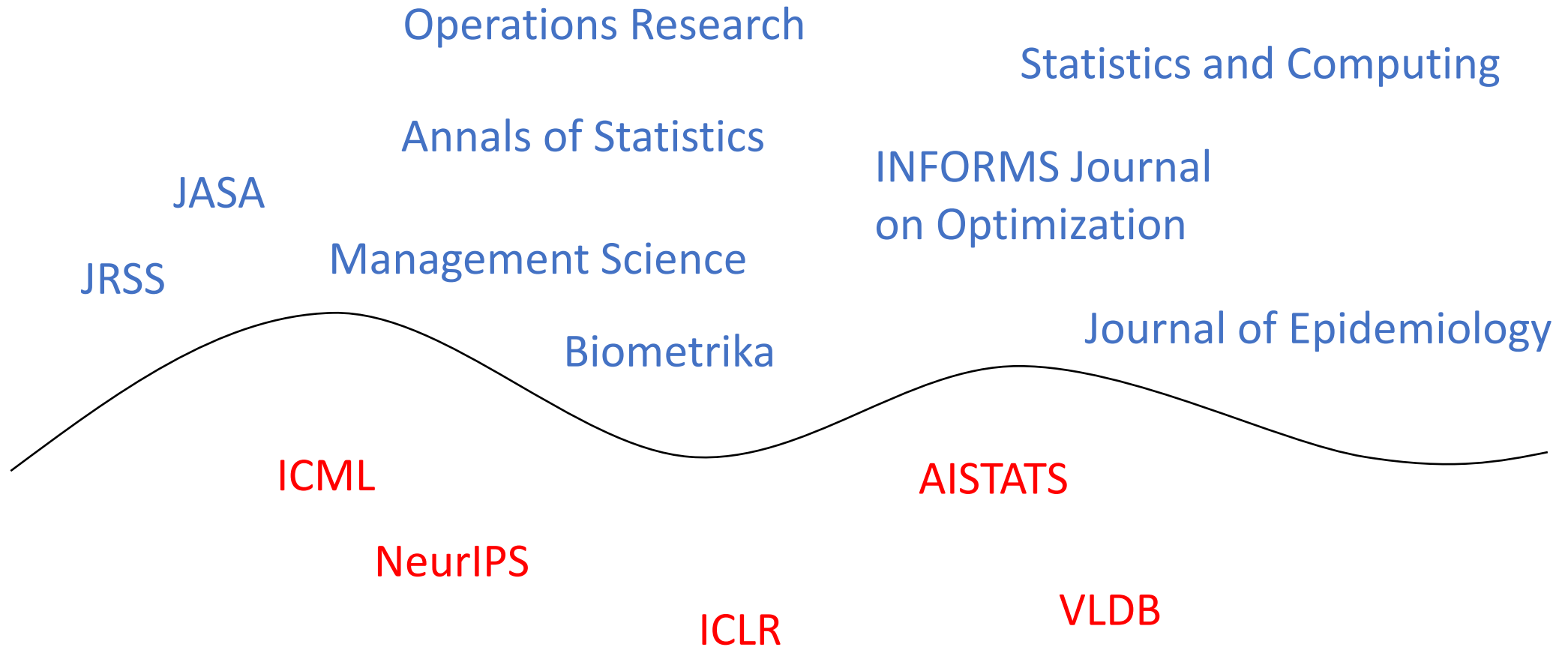




# Awards, grants and industry collaborations

- Chengchun Shi, 2021 Royal Statistical Society Research Prize
- Zoltan Szabo, 2017 NeurIPS Best Paper Award
  
- Andurand Capital, 2021 – forecasting price movements
- Facebook, Systems for ML, 2020 – scheduling jobs with complex delay costs in data processing platforms
- Criteo AI, 2018 – matching learning algorithms
- Huawei, 2018 – anomaly detection
  
- Facebook / Meta 2019 -, Core Data Science – machine learning algorithms for content moderation in online platforms, active learning
  
- Our PhD students undertaking internships, e.g. Microsoft Research

# Some publication outlets



# Future research directions

- Fair and responsible machine learning methods
- Safety-critical learning
- Causal inference, targeted learning
- Interpretable machine learning
- Object-oriented data analysis
- Machine learning for complex time series
- Data-driven algorithms
- Reinforcement learning
- Transfer learning
- ...

