

Introducing the Maths, Stats and Computing Section

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In the first of this series on introducing the many member networks and special interest groups of the BPS, we are pleased to briefly introduce the work of the Maths, Stats and Computing Section, focussing on the opportunities for Postgraduates.

Broadly speaking, we are a section of the BPS concerned with raising the profile of mathematics, statistics and computing within Psychology; creating networks, sharing ideas, and facilitating research collaboration both between its members and beyond. The section is *free* for postgraduates (and undergraduates) to join and just £4 for other members of the BPS – just contact the BPS subscription department (subscriptions@bps.org.uk). We are always keen to have more postgraduates involved in our work.

Our primary event is an annual Scientific Meeting where we discuss new methodologies, and applications of old ones, giving the opportunity to network and discuss ideas from different applied areas of psychology and allied disciplines. Next years meeting will be held at the University of Leicester on the 6th December 2008. We also have links with the British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology, a BPS journal publishing on all aspects of quantitative psychology.

We welcome postgraduate contributions to both of these, particularly if your presentation or article addresses psychological issues in a particular mathematical or statistical way or presents a new technique of advantage to psychologists.

We have no formal email list; however, you will find many of our past and present members posting regularly in response to postgraduate queries in two main places:

The PsyPAG email list: psych-postgrads@jiscmail.ac.uk
(Moderated by the PsyPAG webmaster)

The Psych Methods list: psych-methods@jiscmail.ac.uk
(Moderated by Jeremy Miles and Mark Shevlin)

However, they are actively involved in other lists such as SEMNET and ASSESS (the SPSS users group), to name a few.

The section also contributes to postgraduate education assisting PsyPAG with the running of their Maths, Stats and Computing Section workshop. We are keen to widen statistical knowledge and give postgraduates new statistical options to explore to make the best use of their data. The next workshop will be hosted by Nottingham Trent University on 9th April 2008, with full details of this provided in this issue of the Quarterly. If you have any further questions about the work of the section, or you would like more information on how to contribute, please feel free to email statsworkshop@googlemail.com