

The Uncertainty of Confidence

Michael J. Leach

School of Rural Health, Monash University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm>



Part of the [Mathematics Commons](#), [Poetry Commons](#), and the [Statistics and Probability Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Leach, M. J. "The Uncertainty of Confidence," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 11 Issue 2 (July 2021), pages 500-501. . Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol11/iss2/31>

©2021 by the authors. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License.

JHM is an open access bi-annual journal sponsored by the Claremont Center for the Mathematical Sciences and published by the Claremont Colleges Library | ISSN 2159-8118 | <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/>

The editorial staff of JHM works hard to make sure the scholarship disseminated in JHM is accurate and upholds professional ethical guidelines. However the views and opinions expressed in each published manuscript belong exclusively to the individual contributor(s). The publisher and the editors do not endorse or accept responsibility for them. See <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/policies.html> for more information.

The Uncertainty of Confidence

Michael J. Leach

michael.leach@monash.edu

the great
unknown
population parameter—
this perfect
pronumeral,
coefficient— this desirable β
imperfectly
estimated
in a model
by a sample
estimate
who wears a hat
for protection
(from radiant promises
of perfect precision)
& who is flanked
by 2 bodyguards—
the lower & upper
confidence limits

of an interval
the true value
yet nonetheless
the sole truth
in statistical
estimation
is an abiding aphorism:
“ALL MODELS ARE WRONG
BUT SOME
ARE USEFUL” [1]
in all probability,
 $\hat{\beta} \neq \beta$
 $\hat{\beta}$, please
leave
your hat on,
keep
your bodyguards
& be
proudly humble

References

- [1] George E.P. Box, “Robustness in the strategy of scientific model building,” pages 201–236 in *Robustness in Statistics* edited by Robert L. Launer and Graham N. Wilkinson (Academic Press, 1979).