



The Complexities of Differential Privacy for Survey Data

Jörg Drechsler

(LMU Munich and Institute for Employment Research, Nuremberg)

26/06/2024, 4.15pm

Department of Statistics, Ludwigstr. 33, Room 144
and online via Zoom (Link)
(Meeting-ID: 683 0699 4223; Password: StatsCol23)

The concept of differential privacy gained substantial attention in recent years, most notably since the U.S. Census Bureau announced the adoption of the concept for the 2020 Decennial Census. However, despite its attractive theoretical properties, implementing the approach in practice is challenging, especially when it comes to survey data. In this talk I will present some results from a project funded by the U.S. Census Bureau that explores the possibilities and limitations of differential privacy for survey data. I will highlight some key findings from the project and also discuss some of the challenges that would still need to be addressed if the framework should become the new data protection standard at statistical agencies.

Biography:

Jörg Drechsler is head of the Department for Statistical Methods at the Institute for Employment Research in Nürnberg, Germany. Since April this year, he also is Professor of Statistical Science at LMU, Munich. He received his PhD in Social Science from the University in Bamberg in 2009 and his Habilitation in Statistics from LMU, Munich in 2015. He is also an adjunct associate professor in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. His main research interests are data confidentiality and nonresponse in surveys.