

FMS1204S: Fraud, deception and data

Week 10

Group 1

Do you believe palm reading? Tell us why palm reading is not total nonsense based on the following material:

- ▶ Terrance et al. (2000), Finger-length ratios and sexual orientation, *Nature* 404 (6777): 455-456.
- ▶ Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digit_ratio

Group 2

Tell the story of Sally Clark based on the following material:

- ▶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sally_Clark.
- ▶ The statement by Professor Dawid on **SALLY CLARK APPEAL** (provided in IVLE workbin).

Suggested coverage of the presentation:

- ▶ Describe the Sally Clark case and the aftermath.
- ▶ What are the statistical arguments provided by Professor Dawid?

Group 3

Fienberg, S.E. and Stern, P.C. (2005). In Search of the Magic Lasso: The Truth About the Polygraph. *Statistical Science*, 20, pp. 249-260.

The authors of this article were part of a National Research Council (NRC) committee reviewing scientific evidence for the effectiveness of lie detectors. The article describes their conclusions and their experiences, both with respect to the science and the politics involved.

- ▶ Do you think polygraphs are an effective tool for security screening purposes?
- ▶ Why do you think government agencies were unwilling to adopt the recommendations of the committee?

Group 4

The psychologist Seth Roberts has championed the idea of self-experimentation (where he experiments on himself). Choose one experiment described on his blog at

`http://blog.sethroberts.net`

describe it, and describe some of the possible problems with self-experimentation in the context of the experiment you choose.

Group 5

Read and discuss the following article:

Gelman, Andrew and Roberts, Seth (2007). Weight loss, self-experimentation, and web trials: a mutual interview. *Chance*, 20 (4) 59-63.