

# Leverhulme-Bridges Programme

## External Speaker Event

WARWICK



**Uri Simonsohn**

The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Date: 17/02/16 (Wed)

Time: 2.30-3.30PM

Location: Room A0.23 (Social Science)

### **Researchers as boundedly rational statisticians**

This talk discusses  $p$ -curve and specification curve, two recent statistical tools that allow controlling for, and reducing the prevalence of, the selective reporting of analyses that “work.” They exemplify an approach to thinking about statistics that explicitly and formally considers how boundedly rational motivated thinkers, researchers, actually use statistical tools. The incorporation of psychology into economics led to the successful field of behavioral economics; a similar movement could take place in statistics, creating tools that are robust to, reduce the likelihood of, and control for, boundedly rational analyses. Motivated ‘researcher error’ can be more consequential than sampling, measurement or specification error, yet it is all but entirely ignored in statistics.

# Bio

Uri Simonsohn is an associate professor at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He is a Judgment and Decision Making researcher working at the intersection of psychology, economics and statistics. Over the last 5 years Uri has also been working on methodological issues generally related to selective reporting in social science, including (1) disclosure requirements for lab experiments, (2) p-curve, a tool that assesses if a set of statistically significant results have evidential value, (3) using p-curve to estimate the statistical power of a set of studies, (4) evaluating replication results, (4) detection and prevention of scientific fraud, (5) the reporting of alternative specifications for econometric analyses, and (6) simplified pre-registrations. Uri co-hosts the blog [DataColada.org](http://DataColada.org) and co-run the pre-registration site [AsPredicted.org](http://AsPredicted.org)