

Mathematical Biology Seminar
Wednesday, January 26, 2022
Speaker: Dr. Alex Quijano
Reed College



Title: Exploring Collocations using Data Science: The Complicated Story of Words and Society

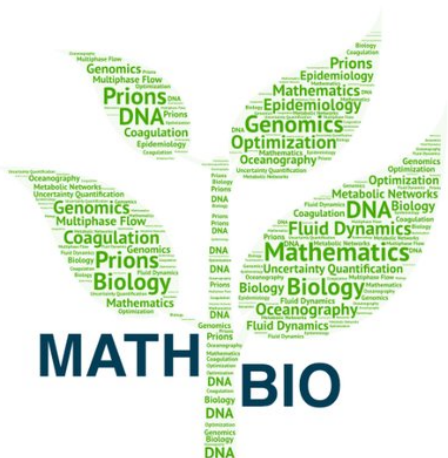
Time: 11am

Zoom Link:

<https://ucmerced.zoom.us/j/98050375649>

Passcode: 172069

Abstract: The phrase “Data Science” is an example of a collocation, a sequence of words of some length with a frequency greater than chance. A collocation is a combination of two or more words that are typically placed together to establish a certain meaning. For example, “Data Science” is not just two random words put together but it means an interdisciplinary field of study in which scientists use scientific techniques, approaches, methods, and algorithms to extract valuable insights and information from structured and unstructured data. In this talk, I will briefly introduce my journey of becoming a data scientist, and my experience of applying statistical and mathematical methods to understand natural language evolution. This talk specifically focuses on using statistical methods to detect collocations within bodies of text. Using simple statistical measures, I will guide you on exploring different combinations of words - their contextual meanings and evolution. Moreover, I will explain how we can use this technique to inform us about our society and how it relates to our most challenging problems in social justice initiatives.



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