

CURRICULUM VITAE
SOUMIK PURKAYASTHA, Ph.D.

Current research interests

1. Information-theoretic framework for **association** and **causality**: development of statistical methods for studying association and causality without relying on traditional causal inference assumptions, with applications in areas like mediation analysis and instrumental variables.
2. Compartmental models for **infectious disease modeling**: development of spatiotemporal forecasting techniques to study transmission and fallout of infectious diseases, with specific emphasis on COVID-19.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

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CITIZENSHIP Indian citizen

2. EDUCATION

2014 - 17 B.Sc. (Hons.)
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, WB, INDIA.

2017 - 19 M.Stat. (Specialisation in Biostatistics)
Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, WB, INDIA.

2019 - 21 M.S. in Biostatistics
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

2019 - 24 Ph.D. in Biostatistics
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

3A. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND POSITIONS

2019 - 20 Graduate Student Research Assistant,
Department of Biostatistics: Abecasis Lab, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

2020 - 23 Graduate Student Research Assistant,
Department of Biostatistics: Statistical Analysis of Biomedical and Educational Research (SABER) group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

2023 - 24 Rackham Predoctoral Fellow,
Department of Biostatistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

2024 - present Assistant Professor (tenure stream),
Department of Biostatistics and Health Data Science, University of Pittsburgh,
Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

2024 - present Research Biostatistician,
US Department of Veteran Affairs Centre for Health Equity Research and Promotion, Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pittsburgh PA, USA.

3B. NON-ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND POSITIONS

2018 Data Science intern, Walmart Labs, Bengaluru, KA, INDIA.

2021 AI/ML intern, Apple Inc., Cupertino, CA, USA.

4. AWARDS

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| 2017 - 19 | Merit-based scholarship for good academic performance, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, WB, INDIA. |
| 2019 | Sabyasachi Roy Memorial Gold Medal, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, WB, INDIA. |
| 2019 | Michigan Data Science Challenge Winner, Michigan Institute of Data Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. |
| 2020 | Richard G. Cornell Fellowship, Department of Biostatistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. |
| 2022 - 24 | Rackham Conference Travel Grant (awarded annually), Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. |
| 2023 | Rising Star Award, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. |
| 2023 - 24 | Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. |
| 2023 | Best Paper Award and Best Presentation (Runner-up) Award, Western North American Region of the International Biometrics Society. |

5. MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

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| 2021 - present | International Biometrics Society, Eastern North American Region (ENAR). |
| 2021 - present | American Statistical Association (ASA). |
| 2021 - present | Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS). |
| 2022 - present | International Biometrics Society, Western North American Region (WNAR). |
| 2023 - present | International Indian Statistical Association (IISA). |

6. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for the following journals:

Annals of Applied Statistics, Biometrics, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A (Statistics in Society), New England Journal of Statistics in Data Science, PLOS One.

Service for School and University:

University of Michigan

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| 2020 - 22 | Department of Biostatistics Seminars and Brown Bag Committee: Member. |
| 2021 - 24 | Statistics in the Community (STATCOM) at the University of Michigan: President (2022-23) and leadership team member (2021-24). |
| 2022 - 23 | Department of Biostatistics Faculty Meetings: Student representative. |
| 2023 - 24 | Michigan Institute of Data Science (MIDAS) Student Council: Leadership team member. |

University of Pittsburgh

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| 2024 - present | Graduate Research and Development (GRAD) seminar: organizer. |
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7. PUBLICATIONS

h-index: 10 ([Google scholar](#)) as of February 2025.

+: co-first author.

Statistical papers (from independent methodological research)

1. Ray, D., Salvatore, M., Bhattacharyya, R., Wang, L., Du, J., Mohammed, S., **Purkayastha, S.**, Halder, A., Rix, A., Barker, D., Kleinsasser, M., Zhou, Y., Bose, D., Song, P., Banerjee, M.,

- Baladandayuthapani, V., Ghosh, P., & Mukherjee, B. (2020). Predictions, Role of Interventions, and Effects of a Historic National Lockdown in India's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Data Science Call to Arms. *Harvard Data Science Review*, (Special Issue 1).
2. Zhou, Y., Wang, L., Zhang, L., Shi, L., Yang, K., He, J., Bangyao, Z., Overton, W., **Purkayastha, S.**, & Song, P. (2020). A Spatiotemporal Epidemiological Prediction Model to Inform County-Level COVID-19 Risk in the United States. *Harvard Data Science Review*, (Special Issue 1).
 3. **Purkayastha, S.**, Salvatore, M. and Mukherjee, B., 2020. Are women leaders significantly better at controlling the contagion during the COVID-19 pandemic? *Journal of health and social sciences*, 5(2), p.231.
 4. Tang, L., Zhou, Y., Wang, L., **Purkayastha, S.**, Zhang, L., He, J., Wang, F. and Song, P.X.K., 2020. A review of multi-compartment infectious disease models. *International Statistical Review*, 88(2), pp.462-513.
 5. **Purkayastha, S.** and Song, P., 2021. Discussion on "The timing and effectiveness of implementing mild interventions of COVID-19 in large industrial regions via a synthetic control method" by Tian et al. *Statistics and Its Interface*, 14(1), pp.21-22.
 6. Salvatore, M., Basu, D., Ray, D., Kleinsasser, M., **Purkayastha, S.**, Bhattacharyya, R. and Mukherjee, B., 2020. Comprehensive public health evaluation of lockdown as a non-pharmaceutical intervention on COVID-19 spread in India: national trends masking state-level variations. *BMJ open*, 10(12), p.e041778.
 7. **Purkayastha, S.**, Bhattacharyya, R., Bhaduri, R., Kundu, R., Gu, X., Salvatore, M., Ray, D., Mishra, S. and Mukherjee, B., 2021. A comparison of five epidemiological models for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in India. *BMC infectious diseases*, 21, pp.1-23.
 8. **Purkayastha, S.**, Kundu, R., Bhaduri, R., Barker, D., Kleinsasser, M., Ray, D. and Mukherjee, B., 2021. Estimating the wave 1 and wave 2 infection fatality rates from SARS-CoV-2 in India. *BMC research notes*, 14, pp.1-7.
 9. Zimmermann, L., Bhattacharya, S., **Purkayastha, S.**, Kundu, R., Bhaduri, R., Ghosh, P. and Mukherjee, B., 2021. SARS-CoV-2 infection fatality rates in India: systematic review, meta-analysis and model-based estimation. *Studies in Microeconomics*, 9(2), pp.137-179.
 10. Bhaduri, R., Kundu, R., **Purkayastha, S.**, Kleinsasser, M., Beesley, L.J., Mukherjee, B. and Datta, J., 2022. Extending the susceptible-exposed-infected-removed (SEIR) model to handle the false negative rate and symptom-based administration of COVID-19 diagnostic tests: SEIR-fansy. *Statistics in medicine*, 41(13), pp.2317-2337.
 11. Salvatore, M., **Purkayastha, S.**, Ganapathi, L., Bhattacharyya, R., Kundu, R., Zimmermann, L., Ray, D., Hazra, A., Kleinsasser, M., Solomon, S. and Subbaraman, R., 2022. Lessons from SARS-CoV-2 in India: A data-driven framework for pandemic resilience. *Science advances*, 8(24), p.eabp8621.
 12. **Purkayastha, S.** and Song, P.X.K., 2024. fastMI: A fast and consistent copula-based nonparametric estimator of mutual information. *Journal of Multivariate Analysis*, 201, p.105270.

1. Giri, S., **Purkayastha, S.**, Hazra, S., Chanda, A., Das, I. and Das, S., 2020. Prediction of monthly Hilsa (*Tenulosa ilisha*) catch in the Northern Bay of Bengal using Bayesian structural time series model. *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 39, p.101456.

Statistical papers under preparation/review

1. **Purkayastha, S.** and Song, P. X. K. *A Mechanistic Framework for Collider Detection in Observational Data*. ARXIV.2502.10317
2. **Purkayastha, S.** and Song, P. X. K. *Quantification and cross-fitting inference of asymmetric relations under generative exposure mapping models*. ARXIV.2311.04696.

Collaborative papers under preparation/review

1. Zhang, L., **Purkayastha, S.**, Kirsner, R., Spino, C. & Song, P. X. K. *Determinants of Enrolment in 284 Clinical Trials for Healing Diabetic Foot Ulcers: A Systematic Review*.
2. Kadura, S., **Purkayastha, S.**, Spino, C., Benditt, J., Anand, A., De Quadros, M., Hobson, M., Biswas, M. J., Collins, B., Ho, L., Raghu, G. *Yoga effect on quality-of-life among patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (YES-IPF): A prospective, randomized control pilot trial by virtual means during the COVID-19 pandemic in Seattle, USA*.

Technical reports

1. **Purkayastha, S.** and Basu, A. On minimum Bregman divergence inference. ARXIV. 2008.06987

8. SOFTWARE

1. Bhaduri R., Kundu R., **Purkayastha S.**, Beesley L., Mukherjee B., Kleinsasser, M. 2021. *SEIRfancy: Extended Susceptible-Exposed-Infected-Recovery Model* [<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=SEIRfancy>]
2. **Purkayastha, S.** and Song, P.X.K., 2024. *fastMI: A fast and consistent copula-based nonparametric estimator of mutual information*. [<https://github.com/soumikp/fastMI>]
3. **Purkayastha, S.** and Song, P.X.K., 2024. *comet: Collider-mediator testing using information theory* [<https://github.com/soumikp/comet>]

9. CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

1. Eastern North American Region (ENAR) of the International Biometric Society Spring Meeting (March 2023). “*An information-theoretic framework for causal discovery in epigenetic data*”
2. Western North American Region (WNAR) of the International Biometric Society Spring Meeting (June 2023). “*Asymmetric predictability in causal discovery: an information theoretic approach.*”
3. Joint Statistical Meetings (August 2023). “*Asymmetric predictability in causal discovery: an information theoretic approach.*”
4. Workshop on *Foundations of Causal Graphical Models and Structure Discovery*. Travel award provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF DMS-2227849) and Texas A&M Institute for Applied Mathematics and Computational Science (IAMCS).

10. SELECTED PRESS

1. Basu, D., Salvatore, M., Kleinsasser, M., Purkayastha, S., Bhattacharya, R., and Mukherjee, B., [We're Focusing on National Data on COVID-19 When We Should Be Looking at State- Level Trends](#). The Wire, 2020.

2. Laguipo, A., [A study of the COVID fatality rates in India during waves 1 and 2](#). News-Medical.Net, 2021.
3. Mukherjee, B., Purkayastha, S., Salvatore, M., & Mishra, S. [Underreporting does hurt the COVID fight](#). The Hindu, 2021.
4. Ellis-Petersen, H. [India's 1.3bn population locked down to beat coronavirus](#). The Guardian, 2021.
5. Bastian, H., [Women Versus Men Leaders in the Pandemic: An Update and Dig Into the Latest Data](#). PLOS Blogs, 2022.