

Registration, The Meeting Room, Wi-Fi, and Technology

Registration

The meeting room is located on the floor above the Knight Center entrance on Throop Drive. There will be a registration table outside the meeting room. You can't miss it. Pick up your plastic name badge and name tent card, and come on in! If you are arriving late, do the same.

The Meeting Room

As you can see from Rob Tibshirani's outstanding talk last year¹, the room has 3 projectors with screens, and white boards behind those. All of the seats have electrical plugs for laptop chargers. The chairs are comfortable, too. What you can't see is that there is a second exit, and you can walk behind the top row of the tiered seating to exit quietly. The doors can also be closed quietly.



Wi-Fi Internet Access

While there are several options available, the easiest Wi-Fi is our open network: `wustl-guest-2.0`. There is no log in or password required. You can also use `eduroam` on campus (for those whose home institutions participate).

Technology

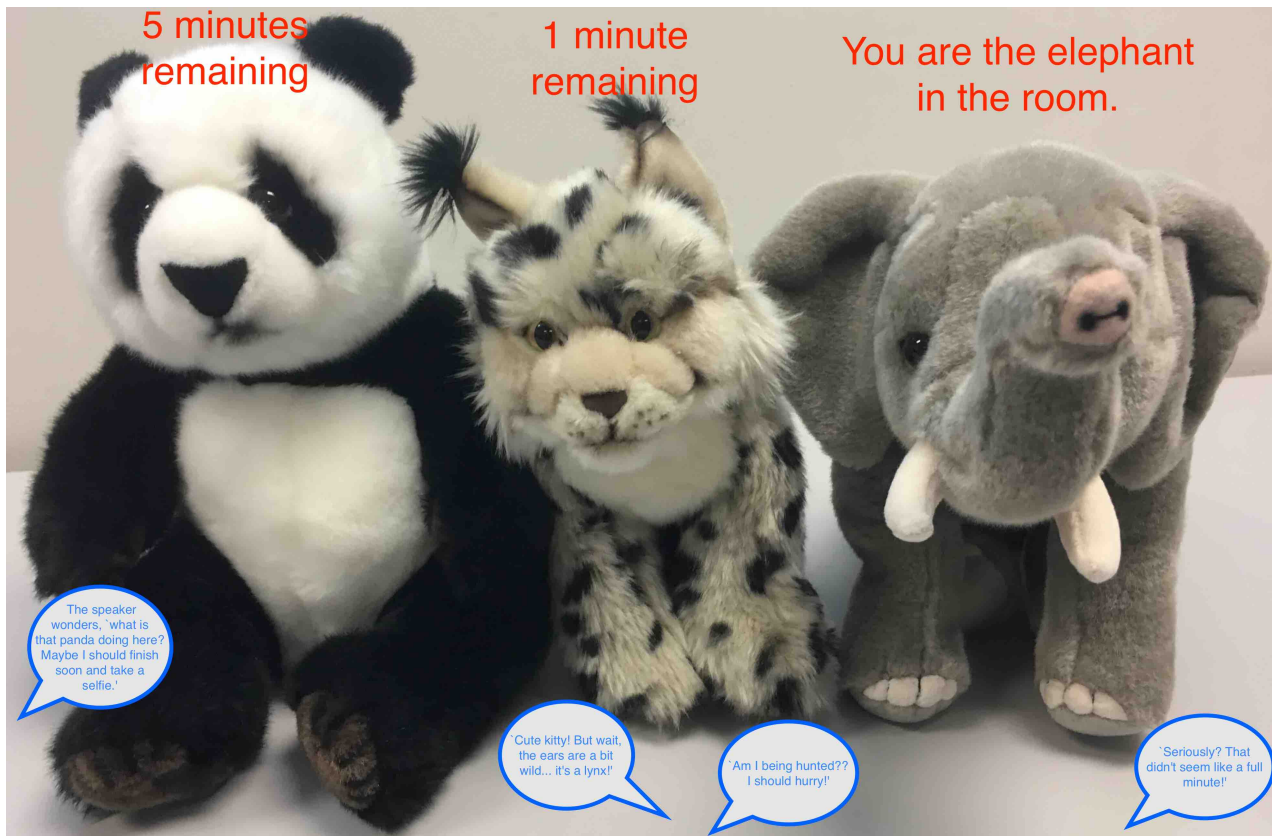
The computer console has slots for USB flash drives, and also connections for Apple and PC laptops. The session chairs will help load the slides onto the computer, or connect the speaker's laptop. It's a good idea to make sure everything works beforehand, e.g. during a coffee break or lunch. My co-organizer John Kolassa² and I will handle the first two sessions on Saturday, to help everyone learn the process. There will be one wireless lavalier microphone for the speaker, and 3 wireless handheld microphones for the audience to use during discussions. There will also be a flipchart on an easel for a portable drawing and writing surface. It can be used by speakers to write key definitions, or we may use it for announcements.

¹<http://www.math.wustl.edu/~kuffner/WHOA-PSI-1/TibshiraniSlides.pdf>

²By the way, John Kolassa is amazing – as a statistician and as a human being. You should really talk to him, although I will selfishly try to keep him to myself. There's no way this workshop could have happened a second time without him. Ryan Tibshirani is also wonderful, and has been very helpful; 'tis a pity he is not able to be with us this time!

Finishing Talks On Time Part I: Todd's Stuffed Animal Notification System

We have a very tight schedule, and need to stay on time as much as possible. One problem faced by session chairs is that it is not always easy to get the speaker's attention. It can also be disruptive and aggressive to verbally interrupt the speaker. Last year I proposed the following system to solve this problem. It's more gentle, and the session chair can just briefly hold the stuffed animal in the air to get the speaker's attention, without verbal disruption. The Panda signals that 5 minutes remain (out of the initial 30), the Lynx indicates that 1 minute remains, and the Elephant appears when the speaker goes over-time. We will be using this system again this year.



Finishing Talks on Time Part II: AllAnswered.com Discussion Board

One thing I've noticed at conferences is that speakers tend to prepare more slides than can reasonably be covered, and the discussion periods are rushed or non-existent. This is doubly-unfortunate, because the speaker does not receive enough feedback or questions, and also the audience does not have enough opportunities to interact with speakers. My proposed solution last year was to create an online discussion board, with one thread for each talk. Mathematical typesetting is now supported (LaTeX). The audience can ask speakers questions during and after the talk, and then the speaker can respond at his or her convenience. This also creates a publicly-accessible commentary on the speaker's research. The forum created for last year's workshop has hundreds of views for each talk.³ You can also find the slides by clicking on the links for each talk. This year's forum is located here:

<https://www.allanswered.com/community/s/whoa-psi-2017/>

Please register now and join the community! I will post links to the slides for each talk as they become available from speakers. You can also ask administrative questions there, so that others can see the reply. Here are instructions for entering mathematics in TeX or LaTeX on AllAnswered:

<https://www.allanswered.com/post/wrbr/how-to-enter-math-equations-on-allanswered-com/>

The top two users of AllAnswered, as measured by the amount of meaningful interaction in the form of questions and comments, will receive either a panda or lynx as shown above. The winners will be decided in the late morning on Monday.

³<https://www.allanswered.com/community/50/whoa-psi-2016/>

Finishing Talks on Time Part III: Starting On-Time after Coffee Breaks and Lunches

What follows is said with only the best intentions! Unfortunately, we will have to start talks on time, regardless of whether people have returned from coffee breaks and lunches. I emphasize that the coffee break spreads are available continuously all morning and all afternoon, and they are located literally several meters from the meeting room. It is actually less disruptive to quietly step out during a session when needed, rather than to have a large group of people enter in the middle of a talk. The lunches are located in a large dining room on the floor above the meeting room. It is greatly appreciated if everyone can help shepherd others back to the meeting room on time, in order to be fair to all of the speakers. Don't get me wrong – no one will be taking attendance! I just want to be considerate of all of our wonderful speakers, many of whom have traveled great distances.

Starting Early in the Morning: Incentivizing Attendance

We have to start at 7:45am on Sunday and Monday. The brilliant Stefan Wager will kick off the talks on Sunday. Due to the benevolence of statistical savant and performance artist Xiao-Li Meng, who accepted my unreasonable request, there will be a stand-up comedy performance from 7:30-7:45am on Sunday. This is something that no one will want to miss! On Monday, the awe-inspiring Rina Foygel Barber will initiate that day's intellectual and spiritual journey. Those who miss this talk will surely regret it for the rest of their lives! I have also ordered 15 oz. WHOA-PSI-emblazoned bistro mugs, which I will be giving away at some point to everyone who is able to get up early :-)

Details for Breakfast, Coffee Breaks, Lunch, and Banquet Dinner

All of the following are included in the meeting fees – please help yourself!

Breakfast Buffet, available each day from 6:30–9:00am

Chef's Seasonal Breakfast Entree, Scrambled Eggs and Egg Beaters, Sausage or Bacon, Hot and Cold Breakfast Cereals, Fresh Cubed Fruit and Berries, Assorted Breads/Muffins/Pastries, Bagels and Cream Cheese, and Yogurt Cups, Regular and Decaf Coffee, Herbal Teas, Assorted Juices, Assorted Sodas, Milk, and Water

Morning Coffee Breaks, available continuously just outside meeting room from 9:00am–12:00pm each day

Assorted Pastries, Selections of Breads, Fruit, Assorted Juices, Soft Drinks, Water, Herbal Teas, and Coffee

Lunch Buffet, available each day according to Workshop Schedule, varies day-to-day

Fresh Fruit, Mixed Field Greens, Chef's Choice of Two Cold Salads, Three Entrees (includes one vegetarian), Two Seasonal Vegetables, Starch, Soup of the Day, Assorted Desserts and Fresh Baked Knight Center Cookies, Assorted Juices, Sodas, Water, Herbal Teas, and Coffee

Afternoon Coffee Breaks, available continuously from 1:00pm–6:00pm each day

Sweet and Salty Snacks, Assorted Candies and Mixes, Assorted Juices, Sodas, Water, Herbal Teas, and Coffee

Banquet on Saturday Aug. 12, 6:15pm

There will be a wireless microphone in the banquet room in case anyone has an announcement. The banquet is preceded by drinks, imported and domestic cheese display, seasonal fruit, fresh garden crudités with dips and pita chips. There is an open bar with several wines, soft drinks and spirits. In particular, Absolut Vodka, Beefeater Gin, Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum, Dewar's White Label Scotch, Seagram's 7 Whiskey, Jack Daniel's Bourbon, and Jose Quervo Gold Tequila. Cocktail service to the tables is also included. Seating begins at 7:00pm. A caesar salad will be served when all guests are seated. The entree choices are pre-selected and cannot be changed now (you indicated Chicken, Fish or Vegetarian):

- Lemon Rosemary Chicken served with Roasted Red Potatoes and Green Beans
- Pan-Seared Salmon with Lemon Thyme Butter Sauce served with Root Vegetable Mash and Baby Green Beans
- Roasted Moroccan Vegetable Stew served over Rice (this dish is vegan)

Dinner is followed by Passion Fruit Crème Brûlée. The bar will remain open until roughly 10:00pm, when we need to leave the room.