



YCCSA Seminar Series Spring 2019

An interdisciplinary seminar series hosted by the York Cross-disciplinary Centre for Systems Analysis aimed at researchers from all disciplines

Intelligent and/or artificial? Machine learning and health services: possibilities and challenges

Dr Paul Tiffin

Department of Health Sciences, York

Friday, 01 March 2019

Ron Cooke Hub, RCH/204 at 13:30

Abstract:

Over the last decade or so there has been much hype surrounding the concept of 'artificial intelligence', with well-publicised views ranging from apocalyptic visions of killer robots to utopias where humans are freed from the drudgery of routine work. Almost every day, in the news, a new 'micro discovery' related to the wonders of AI in healthcare is announced, though often accompanied by little or no evidence of real world impact. Meanwhile, machine learning algorithms, which form the basis of artificial intelligence, have subtly crept into many aspects of our everyday lives, with us often barely even noticing.

In this short talk, Paul briefly outlines the principles underlying many commonly used machine learning approaches, comparing and contrasting them with traditional statistical approaches. Paul highlights some of the potential for the approach to be used in health services, including in workforce selection. Some motivating examples of the approach are presented, in order to illustrate some of the strengths, as well as the potential pitfalls of these methods, compared to traditional, exploratory statistical approaches. Paul also discusses ways in which these weaknesses could be addressed through future developments in the field.

The seminar includes a refreshment break to fuel interdisciplinary discussion

**Ron Cooke Hub is on Heslington East Campus – accessible by free bus services
Nos. 66 and UB1 running at frequent intervals from Heslington West.
The YCCSA Seminar room is on the second floor**