

# James Scott

Associate Professor, Department of Information, Risk, and Operations Management at The University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business

Austin, TX, US

Improving statistical analysis and enabling new data discoveries benefiting society

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## Biography

James Scott, co-author of *AIQ: How People and Machines Are Smarter Together*, is a statistician and data scientist looking for better ways to solve problems that have frustrated industry professionals and researchers. His research interests include modern computational methods, Artificial Intelligence, and in Bayesian inference, including recent work on data-augmentation schemes for Bayesian computation; scalable algorithms; multiple testing and high-dimensional screening problems; prior choice in hierarchical models; and Bayesian methods in machine learning.

Scott is an associate professor in the department of information, risk, and operations management at the McCombs School of Business, The University of Texas at Austin. In 2013 he won the National Science Foundation CAREER award for his project, "Bringing Richly Structured Bayesian Models into the Discrete-Data Realm via New Data-Augmentation Theory and Algorithms."

"My goal is not to solve the marketing problem, or the finance problem, or the sentiment analysis problem," he says. "My goal is to look at all of those problems and see a common mathematical structure, some common principle that ties together a whole range of data sets and questions."

Scott received the Savage Award in 2010 for his dissertation on Bayesian statistics, "Bayesian Adjustment for Multiplicity." The International Society for Bayesian Analysis presents the award annually to only two outstanding doctoral dissertations in the world.

His recent collaborative projects have involved applications in healthcare, security, and neuroscience. He has also done work in linguistics, political science, infectious disease, astronomy, and molecular biology.

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## Industry Expertise

Research, Information Technology and Services

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## Areas of Expertise

Artificial Intelligence, Decision Analysis, AI Algorithms, Consumer Behavior, Data Analytics in Science and Medicine, Bayesian Methods, Decision Theory, Probability and Statistics, Statistical Analysis, Social Marketing, Data Analytics, Big Data, Data Security, Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence for Autonomous Systems, Data Analysis and Data Mining

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## Affiliations

The University of Texas at Austin : Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics and Data Sciences, The Annals of Applied Science (Journal) : Associate Editor, Division of Statistics and Scientific Computing : Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies, University Selection Committee for Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships

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## **Event Appearances**

**International Society for Bayesian Analysis**  
ISBA World Meeting

**Invited Talk on Statistics**  
Department of Statistics

**Invited Talk on Statistics**  
International Conference on Computational and Financial Econometrics

**Invited Talk on Statistics**  
Seoul National University

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## **Education**

**Duke University**  
Ph.D. Statistics

**University of Cambridge**  
M.A.St. Mathematics

**The University of Texas at Austin**  
B.Sc. Mathematics and Plan II Honors

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## **Accomplishments**

**CBA Foundation Research Excellence Award for Assistant Professors**  
Research award.

**Trammell/CBA Foundation Teaching Award for Assistant Professors**  
Teaching award.

**UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award**  
University-wide teaching award.

**Career Award**  
Awarded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

**Savage Award**

Awarded for an Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in Bayesian Statistics by the International Society for Bayesian Analysis.

**Graduate Research Fellowship**

Awarded by the National Science Foundation.

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