

The Pleasures Of Statistics: An Autobiography Of Frederick Mosteller

PSYCHOMETRIKA—VOL. 76, NO. 1, 155–157
JANUARY 2011
DOI: 10.1007/s11336-010-9184-2

BOOK REVIEW

MOSTELLER, F. (2010) *The Pleasures of Statistics: The Autobiography of Frederick Mosteller*. S. E. Fienberg, D. C. Hoaglin, & J. M. Tanur (Eds.). New York: Springer. 344 pages. US\$39.95. ISBN: 978-0387779553

Human relationships are seldom symmetric. I first met Frederick Mosteller in Elmont, NY on a Monday in January of 1961, at 6:30 in the morning. He first met me 12 years later in Washington, DC. I have spent the last fortnight reading Professor Mosteller's posthumously published autobiography, *The Pleasures of Statistics*. And what a pleasure it was to reacquaint myself with him! As always with Fred, I learned a great deal along the way.

Charles Frederick Mosteller (December 24, 1916–July 23, 2006) was, in every way except formal title, the longest-serving Statistician General of the United States. Over the course of his remarkably productive career, he participated in almost all of the most important applications of statistics in the latter half of the twentieth century: The National Halothane Study, Review of the Kinsey Report, Pre-election Polls, authorship of the Federalist Papers, the Coleman Report, and an endless list of education studies. These are recorded in more than 58 books and 350 papers and chapters on topics that range so broadly that most would assume that there must be several Fred Mostellers. There was only one.

In January of 1961, as an outgrowth of a high school text on probability and statistics that he had helped to write, Fred taught a course on the topic for NBC's Continental Classroom. It was broadcast in the New York City area from 6:30 to 7:00 every weekday morning during the spring semester of 1961. I was a high school senior at the time and watched all 48 of the half-hour broadcasts. Each morning I was greeted with Professor Mosteller's friendly face, patiently explaining the basics of the field that I have come to call my own. I don't know how many other statisticians were introduced to the topic in this way, although David Hoaglin and Judy Tanur, two of the three editors responsible for getting *The Pleasures of Statistics* published, were.

Fred spoke at a symposium on exploratory data analysis during an AAAS conference in Washington, DC in December 1972. I was a young and nervous discussant. I was also enormously honored to finally meet my first statistics teacher in the flesh. His teaching continued as he thanked me for my comments, recommended I publish them, and made a few suggestions. I, of course, followed his advice as best I could (Wainer, 1974). In *The Pleasures of Statistics*, Fred described how to be effective in giving such advice (p. 272).

"When a colleague gives you a paper to read, he or she wants to hear how wonderful it is. After you have told that and established yourself as a person of taste, discrimination, and intelligence, the author will be happy to hear your suggestions for improvement, no matter how extensive."

He then added, "And if you forget to tell people what you like, they won't listen to your complaints."

The book is divided, roughly equally, into three sections. The first describes six quantitative studies spanning a broad range of applications. In the second, a more-traditional autobiography,

© 2010 The Psychometric Society

155

From his unique perspective, renowned statistician and educator Frederick Mosteller describes many of the projects and events in his long career. From humble. *The Pleasures of Statistics: The Autobiography of Frederick Mosteller* [Frederick Mosteller, Stephen E. Fienberg, David C. Hoaglin, Judith M. Tanur] on. From his unique perspective, renowned statistician and educator Frederick Mosteller describes many of the projects and events in his long. *The Pleasures of Statistics: The Autobiography of Frederick Mosteller* by Frederick Mosteller, edited by Stephen E. Fienberg David C. Hoaglin. *The Pleasures of Statistics* has 3 ratings and 0 reviews. Featuring dozens of photos and with the addition of commentaries from colleagues and former stud. Download Citation On Jan 1, , Frederick Mosteller and others published *The pleasures of statistics. The autobiography of Frederick Mosteller*. Edited by. *The pleasures of statistics: an autobiography of Frederick Mosteller*. Responsibility: Frederick Mosteller ; edited by Stephen E. Fienberg, David C. Hoaglin, and. Download Citation on ResearchGate On Apr 1, , Terry Speed and others published *The Pleasures of Statistics: The Autobiography of Frederick Mosteller*. *The Pleasures of Statistics* is the autobiography of Frederick Mosteller (). Mosteller stopped work on his manuscript around the time. Mosteller, F. (). *The pleasures of statistics: The autobiography of Frederick Mosteller*. Edited by Stephen E. Fienberg, David C. Hoaglin and Judith M. Tanur. Suddenly the book changed pace and went with the early life and education of Mosteller. The end of the book again covered some cases of. 26 Apr - 6 sec Download *The Pleasures of Statistics: The Autobiography of Frederick Mosteller* Read Online. 12 May - 7 sec Read Free Ebook Now zikovic.com?book=PDF *The Pleasures of*. By Howard Wainer; MOSTELLER, F. () *The Pleasures of Statistics: The Autobiography of Frederick Mosteller*. *The Pleasures of Statistics: The Autobiography of Frederick Mosteller* by Mosteller, Frederick; Fienberg, Stephen E. [Editor]; Hoaglin, David C. [Editor]; Tanur. By Frederick Mosteller (auth.), Stephen E. Fienberg, David C. Hoaglin, Judith M. Tanur (eds.) From his precise viewpoint, popular statistician. eBooks *The Pleasures Of Statistics The Autobiography Of Frederick Mosteller* are currently available in various formats such as PDF, DOC and. ePUB which. Charles Frederick Mosteller (December 24, July 23,), usually known as Frederick Mosteller, was one of the most eminent statisticians of the 20th. Download *The Pleasures Of Statistics The Autobiography Of Frederick Mosteller*. by Henrietta Facebook Twitter Google Digg Reddit LinkedIn Pinterest.

[\[PDF\] More Salt In My Kitchen](#)

[\[PDF\] Science Works](#)

[\[PDF\] Divine Signs: Connecting Spirit To Community](#)

[\[PDF\] Through The Communication Barrier: On Speaking, Listening, And Understanding](#)

[\[PDF\] Longing Unveiled](#)

[\[PDF\] Loi Et Usage Concernant Le Controle De La Pollution En Belgique Et Luxembourg](#)

[\[PDF\] Linux To Go](#)