

# Warwick Q-Step Methods Spring Camp 2017

20—21 March 2017



*Warwick Q-Step Spring Camp*

*Hosted by the Warwick Q-Step Centre, the annual Spring camp is designed to embed quantitative methods into real world problems, enable undergraduates to have the opportunity to interact with postgraduates (to help bridge the undergraduate/postgraduate divide), provide students with practical hands-on lab-based learning and expose them to the wider University research community across the disciplines.*

*Each year the Q-Step Spring Camp will focus on key quantitative methods themes. The theme of this year's Spring Camp is FORECASTING. The event offers an exciting opportunity for students and staff across the disciplines to come together to focus on the methodological challenges related to forecasting social and political events.*

## **Day 1: Forecasting**

**09.30 — 10.00:**                    **Registration and Coffee—Chancellors Suite**

**10.00 — 11.00:**                    **Dr Andreas Murr, Assistant Professor in Quantitative Political Science at the University of Warwick**

*Forecasting in the Bayesian Way*



Andreas Murr is an Assistant Professor in Quantitative Political Science in the Department of Politics and International Studies and a member of the Warwick Q-Step Centre. His research interests include election forecasting, voting behaviour of immigrants, selection of party leaders, political methodology and Bayesian statistics.

**11.00 — 12.00:**                    **Professor James Mitchell, Professor of Economic Modelling and Forecasting at Warwick Business School**

*Forecasting the Economy*



James Mitchell is Professor of Economic Modelling and Forecasting at Warwick Business School. Recent projects of his have studied the modelling and forecasting of economic and financial variables in probabilistic terms, in the face of uncertainties. He is part of the team that each quarter produces forecasts for the UK economy using the “Warwick Business School Forecasting System” ([www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/wbs/subjects/emf/forecasting](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/wbs/subjects/emf/forecasting)).

**12.00 — 13.00:**                    **Lunch — Rootes Restaurant, First Floor**

13.00 — 14.00:

**Dr Nils Metternich, Lecturer in International Relations at University College London**

*Forecasting Intra-state Conflicts*



Dr Nils Metternich is Lecturer in International Relations at the School of Public Policy at UCL. Dr Metternich's research focuses on the strategic nature of international and civil conflicts and the prediction of their dynamics. His work explores why political actors choose to engage in fighting and conflictual behaviour despite having more desirable alternatives like democratization, economic prosperity, and peace. Dr Metternich analyses the dynamics of peace and conflict with network analytic and other quantitative methods.

14.00 — 15.00:

**Dr Stephen Fisher, Associate Professor in Political Sociology at Trinity College, University of Oxford**

*Forecasting Elections*



Dr Stephen Fisher is Associate Professor in Political Sociology and a Fellow and Tutor in Politics at Trinity College, University of Oxford. His research interests include electoral behaviour, and social and political attitudes, particularly voting in Britain and elsewhere. Having developed a method for long-range election forecasting, which was covered extensively in the media in the 2015 UK General Election, he is one of Britain's key experts on parliamentary elections.

15.00 — 16.00:

**Coffee and Networking** — *Chancellors Suite*

16.00:

**Finish**

**Day 2: Interactive Workshop — Machine Learning and Forecasting**

09.30 — 16.30:

**Elio Amicarelli, Department of Political Science at University College London**

*Machine Learning and Forecasting*

On Day 2 participants will gain hands-on experience in forecasting by taking part in an interactive workshop on **Machine Learning and Forecasting**. The workshop focuses on understanding the theory and practice of forecasting. Participants will learn how to use statistical software to generate and assess forecasts of social and political events.

The workshop will be given by Elio Amicarelli, a PhD student in the Department of Political Science at UCL.



**A step-change in quantitative social science skills**

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