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Embracing Uncertainty: Weaving Ethics into Statistics Education

The foundational role of uncertainty in statistics provides a unique opportunity to meaningfully integrate ethics into the curriculum. While many students, particularly those with strong mathematical backgrounds, seek definitive answers, statistical practice inherently involves judgment under uncertainty. This talk explores how the ubiquitous "it depends" of statistical decision-making naturally aligns with ethical reasoning. Rather than treating ethics as an isolated topic confined to a dedicated week, we demonstrate how uncertainty serves as a bridge between technical content and ethical considerations. Through examining both clear-cut ethical rules and context-dependent dilemmas, students learn that navigating uncertainty is both a statistical and ethical skill. This integrated approach not only produces more ethically-minded practitioners but also develops students' comfort with ambiguity – a crucial skill for modern statistical practice. I will present practical examples of how I have integrated ethical discussions into core statistical curricula, transforming students' discomfort with uncertainty into a valuable professional asset.