

Institute for Data Science

Seminar Series

Data Science at The New York Times



Chris Wiggins

**Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics
Columbia University
Chief Data Scientist
The New York Times**

Date: Tuesday, February 25th, 2020

Refreshments: 4:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Time: 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM

Location: NJIT@JerseyCity - 101 Hudson St., Suite 3610, Jersey City, 07302, NJ

[To RSVP Please Click Here](#)

Abstract: The Data Science group at The New York Times develops and deploys machine learning solutions to newsroom and business problems. Re-framing real-world questions as machine learning tasks requires not only adapting and extending models and algorithms to new or special cases but also sufficient breadth to know the right method for the right challenge. I'll first outline how unsupervised, supervised, and reinforcement learning methods are increasingly used in human applications for description, prediction, and prescription, respectively. I'll then focus on the 'prescriptive' cases, showing how methods from the reinforcement learning and causal inference literatures can be of direct impact in engineering, business, and decision-making more generally.

Bio: At Columbia Chris Wiggins is a founding member of the executive committee of the Data Science Institute, and of the Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics as well as the Department of Systems Biology, and is affiliated faculty in Statistics. He is a co-founder and co-organizer of hackNY (<http://hackNY.org>), a nonprofit which since 2010 has organized once a semester student hackathons and the hackNY Fellows Program, a structured summer internship at NYC startups. Prior to joining the faculty at Columbia he was a Courant Instructor at NYU (1998-2001) and earned his PhD at Princeton University (1993-1998) in theoretical physics.