ISPM Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine
BIHAM Berner Institut für Hausarztmedizin
CTU Clinical Trial Unit

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

Special Talk

Mats J. Stensrud, *MD Dr philos, is a tenure-track assistant professor of biostatistics in the Department of Mathematics at EPFL in Switzerland. His research focuses on methods for causal inference in medicine and epidemiology, usually in settings with exposures and outcomes that depend on time. Before coming to EPFL, Dr Stensrud was a Kolokotrones research fellow and Fulbright Research Scholar at Harvard School of Public Health.*

« Causal reasoning in settings with competing events and truncation by death »

A competing event is any event that makes it impossible for the outcome of interest to occur. The presence of competing events requires us to be careful about the interpretation of classical causal estimands. In particular, the average treatment effect captures effects through the competing event, pathways that may not be of primary interest. As a solution, we have recently suggested the separable effect, inspired by Robins and Richardson's extended graphical approach. In this talk, I will give criteria that allow different interpretations of the separable effects and present identification conditions that can be evaluated in causal graphs. Furthermore, I will extend the definition of separable effects to settings where investigators are interested in treatment effects conditional on a post-treatment variable. These conditional separable effects are compelling alternatives to existing estimands, such as principal stratum effects. In particular, the conditional separable effects are defined in an identifiable subgroup of the population and can be identified under assumptions that are empirically verifiable in a future randomized trial (thus, avoiding cross-world assumptions that are untestable in principle). To illustrate the new estimands, I present analyses from two randomized clinical trials.

Join the talk on Thursday, 30 June 2022 at 12:00 pm
in room 324 or online on zoom!

Join Zoom Meeting
https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/62514799527?pwd=RFBoRGNrSGRORG5wVWY4TVhaWjBSUT09
(Meeting ID: 625 1479 9527 Passcode: 801152)