Re: Real Statistics or Surreal Geostatistics?
From: "Isobel Clark" <drisobelclark@kriging.com>
To: "Jan W Merks" <merksmatrix@telus.net>

Jan

I am going to break a promise I made to myself in 1993 and respond to your email. Just this once, never again.

Your blogspot does not verify that you read my book. You did not READ it, neither did you pay attention to anything I said in it. If you had, you would have understood such statements as "Andre Journel taught me the theory of geostatistics". The theory of geostatistics -- not statistics, theoretical or applied, which I learned during a 4 year honours degree program and a Master's degree at the feet of Roger Mead, one of the foremost applied spatial statisticians ever. All this before I ever encountered geostatistics or the theory of regionalised variables. I was a fully qualified statistician and a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society before I came to the Mining Industry. William Harper has a PhD in theoretical statistics and has taught and practiced statistics all his professional life.

If you had bothered to READ anything I wrote -- rather than skim it for those out-of-context sound-bites you love so much -- you would know that I am the last person on earth who insists that anyone slavishly follows any sort of doctrine. My life has been spent in questioning accepted attitudes and combating bigotry in any field I could. I remember, if you don’t, inviting you to meet with me and discuss your own views back in 1993. You refused to even talk to me and have spent the intervening years pouring insults and defamations on my head and those of many other mathematical and statistical scientists working in the fields.

If you READ my presentation at the WCSB you would find no reference to Gy’s theory but only classical statistical ANOVA with classical degrees of freedom. AND the equivalence of the nugget effect divided by 2N to the classical degrees of freedom in the ANOVA.

I watched your presentation at Apcom 2009. No-one responded to your presentation because no-one saw anything to respond to. Unfortunately, this gave you the impression that you had scored some kind of victory.

Rather than embarrass you for your lack of scientific rigour and bibliographical research, I asked your wife to give you a copy of my book which discusses in detail some of those issues which you claim "no geostatistical book since the first" had discussed. You did not even have the decency to cite that book by Michel David, never mind acknowledge that some of us do understand degrees of freedom and the implications in geostatistics. If you had READ that book properly, you might understand why variograms (and semi-variograms) are divided by N and not N-1 for an unbiased estimator. I use the word "might" here, not because I doubt my ability to explain it but because I have doubts of your willingness to accept that you may be mistaken.

It is rare for me to respond to someone who has such a closed mind and such a total sense of their own absolute rightness. Unlike you, I do not see the need to vilify other people so as to justify my own view of the world. Unlike you, I do not see the need to force anyone else to agree with me. Unlike you, I am willing to explain exactly what I do and allow people to judge for themselves whether or not it works in practice. Unlike you, I do not criticise a methodological technique for not working in a case to which it was not even applied -- geostatistics was not used in the evaluation of Bre-X. Unlike you, I acknowledge those people who have helped me grow and develop over the years -- even those like Andre Journel whose path diverged from mine many years ago.

In conclusion, it is pretty obvious that you did not READ my book or any other work by myself. If you had, you might have recognised one of the people you steadfastly ignored during the breaks and in the meeting sessions in Vancouver. Professional differences are always welcome, personal animosity has no place in an educated society.
Your wife seemed like a lovely person. I am glad that your life contains something other than the need to spread calumnies on your web site.

Please do not reply to this email.

Isobel Clark