YOUNG SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS COMPETITION 2016/2017
OPEN CATEGORY
WINNER

A Statistical Analysis of a Scientist Haplessly in Love

H1: is to remain great friends
H0: is that my ridiculous fantasy of us falling in love never ends

On both the Cluster Diagram and Multidimensional Scaling
Our personalities keep clustering together.
And while my t-tests of your commitment to my imaginations keep failing,
Our interests seem to correlate more than ever.

I try to get your attention
By shamelessly flaunting my Canonical Correlations.
But you look past me like one would a point in the 3rd dimension
Thus killing any hope of success in my machinations.

When I test the success of my modelled daydreams based on any evidence
Our probabilities seem slim to none.
Regardless, I will act with a great degree of Confidence
And screw the stats by investing 95% of my time in having a bit more fun.

I don't need a couple of Fisher's LSD's
To test the significance of how desperate it feels to have such a clueless lover.
Desperate enough to admire your co-dependencies
On your sister and your mother.

By Anisha Dayaram

Anisha is an ecologist, runner and serial procrastinator whose primary means of procrastination is creative writing. She has worked in ecological science and conservation since 2012, based at an NPO, an NGO and in private industry. She currently works as a vegetation scientist with a small team on the vegetation map of South Africa (VEGMAP project) at the South African National Biodiversity Institute.

She currently lives in Cape Town with her potted Portulacaria afra.

This is what she says:

"I feel quite strongly about changing the perception of scientists as cold, methodical, logic-driven two dimensional people. We are warm, often funny, and creative. My favourite scientists in history were poets and inventors."

Oh, I know that my methods are a complete mess
And it's no surprise that I've had no success
In trying to approximate a normal distribution
By attempting a relationship with you without your contribution.

In your ignorance, you help me laugh through these shallow depressions
As you cut through my dark points with your positive regressions.
I need no Monte Carlo
To re-re-reiterate a 100 times how I miss you when you're not here
For the Eigenvalues that we share are clear.

No matter how we are finally classified
I hope that we will remain closely correlated.
Yet, I will be far more satisfied
If we reach this dreamy Null Hypothesis that I have created.

ABOUT THE YOUNG SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS COMPETITION

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA's) Young Science Communicators competition is an initiative that aims to encourage young scientists to communicate their world to the public, beyond their academic peer community.

It is one of a number of initiatives at SAASTA aimed at developing science communication skills in scientists and researchers.

The competition awards four categories, namely: popular article; video clip; audio clip; and an open category. Participants are encouraged to explore their creativity in communicating their work.

For more information visit www.saasta.ac/competitions/young-science-communicators

These entries are the original submissions of the participants and have not been edited or adjusted by SAASTA

science & technology
Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NRF National Research Foundation
SAASTA South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement