



## Frontiers in Forensic Science

# Should statisticians be the gatekeepers of forensic science?

International Forensic Research Institute

**A Presentation by James Curran, Ph.D.**  
*Professor of Statistics, University of Auckland*



Although there is a long history of statistical methods being applied to various forensic disciplines, it wasn't really until the latter part of last century that statisticians started to become seriously involved in forensic science. We are still a minority, but we can sometimes be a very vocal minority. In this talk James Curran will discuss what he believes the role of a statistician is in our joint endeavor and perhaps question whether the bounds are being overstepped.

James Curran joined the Statistics Department at the University of Auckland in 2005 after six years at the University of Waikato. Professor Curran's research focuses on statistical problems in forensic science. These range from issues associated with the statistical assessment of the weight of evidence, to modelling and data analysis involved in the fundamental science behind new forensic techniques and evidence types. He is currently the President of the New Zealand Forensic Science Society (and the Vice-President New Zealand of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society). He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics, and a past-President of the New Zealand Statistical Association. He serves on the editorial board of Forensic Chemistry. Curran is a Fellow of the United Kingdom's Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (CSFS).

**Tuesday,**  
**Feb. 21, 2017**  
5 p.m.

WC - 130

*This event is free  
and open to the public.*

**International Forensic Research Institute**

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