

Biography of Peter J. Bickel

Peter Bickel has been a leading figure in the field of statistics in the 43 years since he received his Ph.D. in Statistics at the age of 22. He is widely recognized as one of the greatest statisticians of our time in any metrics: breadth, depth and productivity. He has made wide-ranging and far-reaching contributions to the discipline of statistics. He has pioneered the research in many statistical disciplines and has made fundamental contributions to many areas in statistics. These include robust statistics, decision theory, semiparametric modeling, bootstrap, nonparametric modeling, machine learning, computational biology, and many other areas (e.g. transportation and genomics) where statistics and quantitative approaches play an important role. His exceptional record of research accomplishment is evidenced by his exceptionally many publications in the very top ranking journals in the field of statistics. His scientific findings have strongly reshaped statistical thinking, methodological development, theoretical studies, and data analysis. His research has strongly influenced the development of other quantitative disciplines such as engineering, economics, finance, computational biology, public health, among others.



Peter J. Bickel

Bickel's wide-ranging and far-reaching contributions to statistics have been significantly recognized internationally by numerous awards and honors. These includes the first recipient of The COPSS Presidents Award in 1980, and The Wald Lecturer in 1980. His work has also been greatly recognized outside the statistical profession. These include his John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1984, Guggenheim, NATO, Miller Fellowships, and his election to the American Academy for Arts and Sciences in 1985, the National Academy of Sciences in 1985, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1995. He was also honored the (UC-Berkeley) Chancellor's distinguished professor (1996-1999).

Professor Bickel is a strong professional leader. He has provided strong leadership at all levels, from his enthusiastic administrative services to Berkeley as the department chairman (76–79, 93–98), director of statistical laboratory (87-92), to a dean (twice) of the Physical Sciences and many other important committees; from professional services such as the President of The Institute of Mathematical Statistics (1980–1982), the president of The Bernoulli Society (1991–1993), and the Board of Trustee of National Institute of Statistics (1991 —) to the national level such as various leading positions in the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Council of Scientific Advisors and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.