

# Network for Statistical and Causal Inference (NESCI)

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**OUR MISSION** After the success of a first joint IMT-Sant’Anna workshop last Fall, on the topic “Causal Inference, Aggregation, and Heterogeneity”, we see the benefits of starting a new research network. The network aims to consolidate and foster the interactions between IMT Lucca on the one hand, and Sant’Anna, SNS, and Unipi on the other.

**THEME** The proposed research theme is to be broad and relevant enough as to attract economists, psychologists, neuroscientists, data scientists, and philosophers from the above institutions. We converged on the theme “Statistical and Causal Inference”.

**ORGANIZATION** Sponsorship, funds, frequency and locations of the network events are TBD. As regards the format of the events, the main options on the table (not mutually exclusive) are monthly lunch seminars and bi-annual mini workshops.

**YOUR FEEDBACK** At this stage, we want to test the interest in the initiative before the launch of the network. In particular, we want to solicit feedback on the proposed mission of the network and the format for the meetings from possible participants, in order to ensure the highest chances of success of our initiative. We also propose that these

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foundational matters be discussed further in person at the first event of the network, which we intend to organize in January 2023.

**STATEMENT** The network promotes the development of methods for statistical and causal inference across the sciences – with special focus on experimental and machine learning methods – and the exchange of results by researchers from SNS, Sant’Anna, Unipi and IMT. The events of the network will take place at regular intervals in Pisa and Lucca in the form of lunch seminars and/or mini workshops where previously-circulated work in progress is presented and discussed among participants.

**TARGET AUDIENCE** We hope to attract participants from all of the above institutions. To this end, we propose to add you to a mailing list through which the events of the network will be advertised.

**LAUNCH** To get the ball rolling, we plan to organize a small launch event in mid January, a half-day workshop with ice-breaking talks on the network theme from different perspectives. A (non-exhaustive) list of possible topics is:

macroeconomics: VAR; quasi-experimental methods; graphical models; validation;  
microeconomics: experimental design; internal and external validity; nudging and policy;  
psychology: determinants of mental processes; mental categories;  
neuroscience: network mapping of the brain; inference to mental activites from data;  
data science: discussion and development of tools for statistical and causal inference;  
philosophy of science: analysis of scientific concepts; foundations of scientific inference.

We encourage you to participate. We will circulate a “call for papers” in the coming weeks.

**Interested in staying in the loop?** Send an email to any of us:

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