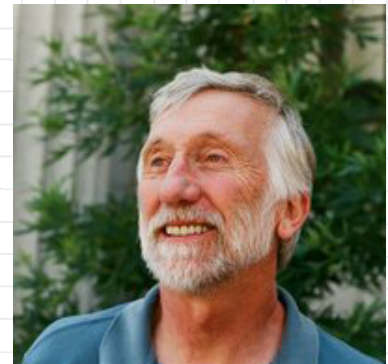# PROBABILITY, OUTSIDE THE TEXTBOOK

Thursday, September 20, 2018
5 pm, 101 Jordan Hall of Science

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Aside from games of chance and topics like opinion polls, there is little overlap between the content of an introductory course in mathematical probability and our everyday perception of chance. In this mostly non-mathematical talk, I will give some illustrations of the broader scope of probability.

For instance, why do your friends have more friends than you do, on average? Why, in a long line at airport security, do you move forward a few paces and then wait half a minute before moving forward again? Why were there an unusual number of candidates for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination whose fortunes rose and fell, and what should we predict for 2020? In what everyday contexts do ordinary people perceive uncertainty/unpredictability in terms of chance?

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