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**Using fun in the statistics classroom: an exploratory study of college instructors' hesitations and motivations.**

J. Stat. Educ. 21, No. 1, 33 p., electronic only (2013).

Summary: This study examines statistics instructors' use of fun as well as their motivations, hesitations, and awareness of resources. In 2011, a survey was administered to attendees at a national statistics education conference, and follow-up qualitative interviews were conducted with 16 of those ( $n = 249$ ) surveyed to provide further context for interpreting the quantitative results. Motivations were similar for men and women, but female instructors admitted more hesitations in many areas. While many instructors are using or are open to using fun in the statistics classroom, the findings suggest that not having available resources at hand and not being aware of resources such as the CAUSEweb collection are major hesitations. Methods of alleviating hesitations are discussed.

*Classification:* D35 C25 K45 K75 K85

*Keywords:* university teaching; statistics education; resources; student anxiety; motivation; educational research; interviews; questioning; usage of fun; hesitations; gender differences

<http://www.amstat.org/publications/jse/v21n1/lesser.pdf>