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Statistical Engineering Paper Wins 2023 ASQ Søren Bisgaard Award!

Roger Hoerl, Diego Kuonen, and Thomas Redman co-authored the paper titled "Problem framing: Essential to successful statistical engineering applications" which appeared in Issue 4, Volume 34 of *Quality Engineering*. This paper has been awarded the ASQ Søren Bisgaard Award which recognizes the paper with "the greatest potential for advancing the practice of quality improvement". Roger Hoerl accepted this award earlier this month at the Fall Technical Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. Congratulations Roger, Diego, and Thomas! And thank you for your important work.

If you are interested in learning more about this paper, Roger presented its contents in the ISEA webinar series this month. If you could not attend, you can access the recording on the ISEA YouTube Channel here. The abstract of the paper is included below.

The first two phases of the statistical engineering process are to identify the problem, and to properly structure it. These steps relate to work that is often referred to elsewhere as framing of the problem. While these are obviously critical steps, we have found that problem-solving teams often "underwhelm" these phases, perhaps being over-anxious to get to the analytics. This approach typically leads to projects that are "dead on arrival" because different parties have different understandings of what problem they are actually trying to solve. In this expository article, we point out evidence for a consistent and perplexing lack of emphasis on these first two phases in practice, review some highlights of previous research on the problem, offer tangible advice for teams on how to properly frame problems to maximize the probability for success, and share some real examples of framing challenging problems.

Keep Up with Previous Webinars

Note that if you want to watch *any* of our past webinars, you can do so on the ISEA YouTube Channel.

Join our Next Webinar!

Andressa Siroky and Carla Vivacqua, professors of statistics at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte in Brazil, will be giving the next ISEA webinar on **Thursday December 7, 2023 at 10:00am ET**. They will discuss a Statistical Engineering training and application initiative in Brazil that they have undertaken in collaboration with Geoff Vining of Virginia Tech. The webinar abstract is included below. Click here to register.

Teaching and Applying Statistical Engineering in Brazil

In this work we share our experience of teaching and applying Statistical Engineering. The initiative is led by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN) in Brazil to undergraduate and graduate students in Statistics. Our efforts have been mentored by Geoff Vining, the primary initiator and founding Chair of ISEA. We provide an overview of the actions taken and the challenges we face, including subjects studied and partnerships we have established. We expect to spread the use of Statistical Engineering to solve problems and to contribute to the improvement of the training of students in the Statistics course at UFRN, as well as to serve as an example of how universities can implement Statistical Engineering as a discipline in their curriculum courses.