



Cambridge Society for the Application of Research

What are the Chances? Living with Risk and Uncertainty

Professor David Spiegelhalter

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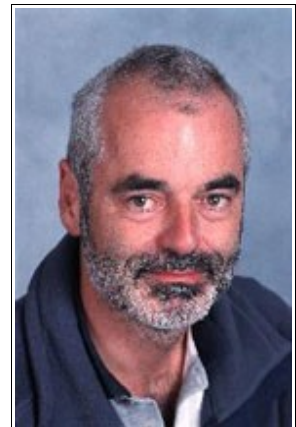
WOLFSON LECTURE THEATRE CHURCHILL COLLEGE

7.30 p.m., Monday 14th May, 2012

None of us know what is in store for us, but facing this full-square can be tricky. I will look at some of the ways that institutions use to communicate uncertainty about the future, whether verbal, numerical or visual, and suggest some alternative metaphors that may be effective. I will also consider the dangers of 'premature reassurance' and the 'calm down, dear' school of risk communication.

About the speaker:

Professor Spiegelhalter is Winton Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk at the University of Cambridge and previously Senior Scientist in the MRC Biostatistics Unit. His background is in medical statistics, particularly the use of Bayesian methods in clinical trials, health technology assessment and drug safety. He led the statistical team in the Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry and also gave evidence to the Shipman Inquiry.



In his post he leads a small team (UnderstandingUncertainty.org) which attempts to improve the way in which the quantitative aspects of risk and uncertainty are discussed in society. He works closely with the Millennium Mathematics Project in trying to bring risk and uncertainty into education. He gives many presentations to schools and others, advises organisations on risk communication, and is a regular newspaper columnist on current risk issues.

He was elected FRS in 2005 and awarded an OBE in 2006 for services to medical statistics.

Additional note:

The CSAR Lectures are open to all; CSAR members are admitted free. Non-members are asked to make a nominal donation of £3.00.

Coffee and biscuits will be available in the Wolfson Foyer from around 7pm until the start of the lecture. Location information: <http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/visitors/directions.php>

The talk will be held in the lecture theatre in Wolfson Hall (4):

