

Ray Bai

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Academic Employment

- 2025- Assistant Professor of Statistics, George Mason University
- 2020-2025 Assistant Professor of Statistics, University of South Carolina
- 2018-2020 Postdoctoral Researcher in Biostatistics and Informatics, University of Pennsylvania
Supervisors: Yong Chen and Mary Boland

Education

- 2014-2018 PhD in Statistics, University of Florida
Dissertation: Bayesian High-Dimensional Models with Scale-Mixture Shrinkage Priors
Advisor: Malay Ghosh
- 2014-2016 Master of Statistics, University of Florida
Advisor: Nikolay Bliznyuk
- 2010-2012 MS in Applied Mathematics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2003-2007 BA in Economics and Government, Cornell University

Research Interests

probabilistic machine learning, Bayesian statistics, deep learning and deep generative models, causal inference, high-dimensional statistics, scalable algorithms, approximate inference, survival analysis

External Funding

1. National Science Foundation, DMS-2610299 (2026-2029). *Collaborative Research: Generative Bootstrapping Methods for Massive Dependent Data*. **Role: PI**, Collaborative with Ting Fung Ma, University of South Carolina (DMS-2610298). Total amount: \$259,813 (Personal share: \$100,000).
2. National Science Foundation, DMS-2015528 (2020-2024). *Collaborative Research: Bayesian and Semi-Bayesian Methods for Detecting Relationships in High Dimensions*. **Role: PI**, Collaborative with Jun S. Liu, Harvard University (DMS-2015411). Total amount: \$219,562 (Personal share: \$99,562).
3. National Science Foundation, DMS-2038080 (2021-2027). *RTG: Mathematical Foundation of Data Science at University of South Carolina*. **Role: Senior Personnel**. PI: Linyuan Lu, University of South Carolina. Total amount: \$1,996,609 (Personal share: \$10,932).

Submitted Grants

1. National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program (2027-2032). *CAREER: Probabilistic AI for Autonomous Open-Set Adaptation and Self-Calibration*. **Role: PI**. Requested amount: \$654,961. **Status: Under review** (Submitted: July 2026).

Publications

(____ = student whom I supervised, * = co-first author, † = senior author)

Peer-Reviewed Papers

1. **Bai, R.** (2026). Bayesian group regularization in generalized linear models with a continuous spike-and-slab prior. *Annals of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics* (in press).
2. Deshpande, S. K., **Bai, R.**, Balocchi, C., Starling, J. E., and Weiss, J. (2026). VCBART: Bayesian trees for varying coefficients. *Bayesian Analysis*, **21**(1): 281-308.
3. Zgodic, A., **Bai, R.**, Zhang, J., Wang, Y., Rorden, C., and McLain, A. C. (2026). Quantifying predictive uncertainty of aphasia severity in stroke patients with sparse heteroscedastic Bayesian high-dimensional regression. *Computational Statistics*, **41**(1): 7.
4. Wang, S.-H., **Bai, R.**, and Huang, H.-H. (2025). Two-step mixed-type multivariate Bayesian sparse variable selection with shrinkage priors. *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, **19**(1): 397-457.
5. Zgodic, A., **Bai, R.**, Zhang, J., Olejua, P., and McLain, A. C. (2025). Sparse high-dimensional linear mixed modeling with a partitioned empirical Bayes ECM algorithm. *Statistics and Computing*, **35**(4): 109.
6. Zhao, Z., Li, Y., Luo, X., and **Bai, R.**[†] (2025). A unified three-state model framework for analysis of treatment crossover in survival trials. *Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research*, **17**(3): 390-403.
7. Wang, S., Shin, M., and **Bai, R.**[†] (2024). Generative quantile regression with variability penalty. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, **33**(4): 1202-1213.
8. Liu, Q., Huang, X., and **Bai, R.**[†] (2024). Bayesian modal regression based on mixture distributions. *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis*, **199**: 108012.
9. Wang, S., Shin, M., and **Bai, R.**[†] (2024). Fast bootstrapping nonparametric maximum likelihood for latent mixture models. *IEEE Signal Processing Letters*, **31**: 870-874.
10. **Bai, R.**, Boland, M. R., and Chen, Y. (2023). Scalable high-dimensional Bayesian varying coefficient models with unknown within-subject covariance. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, **24**(259): 1-49.
11. **Bai, R.**^{*}, Moran, G. E.^{*}, Antonelli, J. L.^{*}, Chen, Y., and Boland, M. R. (2022). Spike-and-slab group lassos for grouped regression and sparse generalized additive models. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, **117**(537): 184-197.
12. Meeker, J. R., Burris, H. H., **Bai, R.**, Levine, L. D., and Boland, M. R. (2022). Neighborhood deprivation increases the risk of post-induction cesarean delivery. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, **29**(2): 329-334.
13. **Bai, R.** and Ghosh, M. (2021). On the beta prime prior for scale parameters in high-dimensional Bayesian regression models. *Statistica Sinica*, **31**(2): 843-865.

14. Meeker, J. R., Canelón, S. P., **Bai, R.**, Levine, L. D., and Boland, M. R. (2021). Individual- and neighborhood-level risk factors for severe maternal morbidity. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, **137**(5): 847-854.
15. Boland, M. R., Liu, J., Balocchi, C., Meeker, J., **Bai, R.**, Mellis, I., Mowery, D. L., and Herman, D. (2021). Association of neighborhood-level factors and COVID-19 infection patterns in Philadelphia using spatial regression. *AMIA Annual Symposium Proceedings*, **2021**: 545-554.
16. **Bai, R.** and Ghosh, M. (2019). Large-scale multiple hypothesis testing with the normal-beta prime prior. *Statistics*, **53**(6): 1210-1233.
17. **Bai, R.** and Ghosh, M. (2018). High-dimensional multivariate posterior consistency under global-local shrinkage priors. *Journal of Multivariate Analysis*, **167**: 157-170.
18. Duerr, I., Merrill, H. R., Wang, C., **Bai, R.**, Boyer, M., Dukes, M. D., and Bliznyuk, N. (2018). Forecasting urban water demand with statistical and machine learning methods using large space-time data: A comparative study. *Environmental Modelling and Software*, **102**: 29-38.

Book Chapters

19. **Bai, R.**, Ročková, V., and George, E. I. (2021). Spike-and-slab meets LASSO: A review of the spike-and-slab LASSO. In Tadesse, M. G. and Vannucci, M. (Eds.), *Handbook of Bayesian Variable Selection*, 81-108. Chapman & Hall/CRC Press.

Selected Preprints

(____ = student whom I supervised, * = co-first author, † = senior author)

1. **Bai, R.**, Lin, L., Boland, M. R., and Chen, Y. (2026+). A robust Bayesian Copas selection model for correcting and quantifying the impact of publication bias. *Under revision*.
2. **Bai, R.***, Liu, X.*, Lin, L., Liu, Y., Kimmel, S. E., Chu, H., and Chen, Y. (2026+). A Bayesian selection model for correcting outcome reporting bias with application to a meta-analysis on heart failure interventions. *Under revision*.
3. Olejua, P., Saha, E., Ghosal, R., **Bai, R.**, McLain, A. C. (2026+). Parameter expanded variational Bayes for well-calibrated high-dimensional linear regression with spike-and-slab priors. *Under revision*.
4. Liu, Q., Wang, S., **Bai, R.**, and Bandyopadhyay, D. (2026+). A monotone single-index modal regression powered by deep neural networks for non-Gaussian periodontal data. *Under revision*.
5. Wang, S., Chakraborty, S., Qin, Q., and **Bai, R.†** (2026+). Neural-g: A deep learning framework for mixing density estimation. *Submitted*.
6. Tam, E., Liu, Q., Engelhardt, B. E., and **Bai, R.†** (2026+). Understanding the intrinsic limits to heavy-tailed learning in deep generative models. *Submitted*.
7. Fan, S. and **Bai, R.†** (2026+). BiSSLB: Binary spike-and-slab lasso biclustering for binary datasets. *Submitted*.
8. Fan, S., Xiong, L., Wang, D., Cai, G., and **Bai, R.†** (2026+). BVSIMC: Bayesian variable selection-guided inductive matrix completion for improved and interpretable drug discovery. *Preprint*.

Honors and Awards

McCausland Faculty Fellow, University of South Carolina College of Arts and Sciences, 2023-2025

Graduate School Fellow, University of Florida, 2014-2018

Student Paper Competition Award, Section on Bayesian Statistical Science, Joint Statistical Meetings, 2018

Anderson Scholars Faculty Honoree, University of Florida, 2016

Advising

PhD Students

1. Sijian Fan, PhD in Statistics, 2026, University of South Carolina

Dissertation: Statistical Learning for Binary Data with Applications in Bioinformatics

First job: Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University (New York, NY)

Winner of Huynh-Feldt Award for using statistical rigor in the solving of a practical problem

2. Zile Zhao, PhD in Statistics, 2025, University of South Carolina

Dissertation: Methods and Applications for Bayesian Semiparametric Survival Analysis

First job: Postdoctoral Fellow, Moffitt Cancer Center (Tampa, FL)

3. Shijie Wang, PhD in Statistics, 2024, University of South Carolina

Dissertation: New Deep Learning Approaches to Classical Statistical Problems

First job: Applied Scientist, Gauss Labs (Palo Alto, CA)

Winner of James D. Lynch Graduate Student Research Award

4. Fanghua Chen, PhD candidate in Statistics (expected 2028), University of South Carolina, co-advising with Ting Fung Ma

Member of Doctoral Committee

George Mason University Department of Statistics

Shixue Zhang (PhD 2025)

University of South Carolina Department of Statistics

Jiasong Duan (PhD 2026), Yizhou Cai (PhD 2026), Qingyuan Hong (PhD 2025), Xin Zhi (PhD 2025), Jihyun Kim (PhD 2025), Yuchen Mao (PhD 2024), Zehao Yu (PhD 2024), Qingyang Liu (PhD 2023), Yang He (PhD 2023), Shan Zhong (PhD 2022), Zhen Yang (PhD 2022)

Other Departments at the University of South Carolina

Peter Olejua (PhD in Biostatistics, expected 2026), Anja Zgodic (PhD in Biostatistics, 2023), Chrisogonas Odhiambo (PhD in Computer Science, 2022)

Undergraduate Students

Honors Thesis Students

Leah Wood, BS in Statistics, 2025, University of South Carolina

Thesis: Spatiotemporal Modeling of Maternal Mortality in South Carolina, 2018–2023

Summer REU Students

Evan Funderburg, BS candidate in Computer Science and Data Science, University of South Carolina

Emily Sitnik, BS candidate in Mathematics and Statistics, University of South Carolina

Mark Ritchie, BS candidate in Mathematics, University of South Carolina

*Other Student Supervisions**

(* I mentored these students on research projects but was not their primary supervisor)

Xin Zhi (PhD in Statistics, 2025, University of South Carolina)

Qingyang Liu (PhD in Statistics, 2023, University of South Carolina)

Anja Zgodic (PhD in Biostatistics, 2023, University of South Carolina)

Winner of ENAR Distinguished Student Paper Award

Hung-Tien Huang (BS in Computer Science, 2023, University of South Carolina)

Liyan Xiong (PhD candidate in Biostatistics at University of South Carolina)

Dayuan Wang (PhD candidate in Biostatistics at University of Florida)

Teaching

George Mason University

Undergraduate Courses Taught

STAT 344: Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I, Fall 2025, Spring 2026

Graduate Courses Taught

STAT 676: Linear Models and Advanced Regression Modeling, Fall 2026

University of South Carolina

Undergraduate Courses Taught

STAT 515: Statistical Methods I, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

STAT 517: Advanced Statistical Models, Fall 2022, Fall 2024

Graduate Courses Taught

STAT 714: Linear Statistical Models, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

STAT 718: Selected Topics in Statistics: High-Dimensional Data, Spring 2021, Spring 2023

STAT 721: Stochastic Processes, Spring 2022, Spring 2024

Independent Studies Supervised

STAT 798: Introduction to Causal Inference, Summer 2024

STAT 798: Advanced Algorithms in Bayesian Computing, Spring 2024

STAT 399: Advanced Topics in Stochastic Processes, Spring 2022

*University of Florida***Courses Taught**

STA 3024: Introduction to Statistics II, Spring 2016

Courses Served as Teaching Assistant

STAT 2023: Introduction to Statistics I, Fall 2015

Presentations*Invited Seminar Talks*

1. Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Iowa, November 2026
2. Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, February 2026
3. Merck Oncology, Merck & Company, June 2025
4. Department of Statistics, George Mason University, April 2025
5. Department of Statistical Sciences, Wake Forest University, February 2025
6. Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Pennsylvania State University, October 2024
7. Department of Mathematics and Statistics, McGill University, September 2024
8. Department of Statistics & Operations Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 2024
9. South Carolina SmartState Center for Healthcare Quality, University of South Carolina, March 2023
10. Department of Statistics, University of Georgia, February 2023
11. School of Mathematics & Statistics, University of Glasgow, December 2022
12. Department of Statistics, Virginia Tech, November 2022
13. School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Clemson University, October 2022
14. Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Cincinnati, April 2022

15. Department of Biostatistics, Virginia Commonwealth University, November 2021
16. Department of Statistics, University of South Carolina, October 2021
17. School of Statistics, University of Minnesota, October 2021
18. Department of Statistics, University of California, Davis, April 2021
19. School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Arizona State University, January 2020
20. Department of Statistics, Florida State University, January 2020
21. Department of Mathematics & Statistics, San Diego State University, January 2020
22. Department of Statistics, University of California, Santa Cruz, January 2020
23. Department of Statistics, University of South Carolina, January 2020

Invited Conference Talks

1. CFE-CMStatistics 2026, Berlin, Germany, December 2026
2. 2026 ISBA World Meeting, Nagoya, Japan, June 2026
3. 2026 ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium, Arlington, VA, June 2026
4. 2025 Maryland Statistical Symposium, College Park, MD, December 2025
5. 2024 ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium, Nashville, TN, June 2024
6. 2024 ICSA-Canada Chapter Symposium, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada, June 2024
7. 2024 SRCOS Summer Research Conference, Clemson, SC, June 2024
8. 2023 Joint Statistical Meetings, Toronto, ON, Canada, August 2023
9. EcoSta 2023, Tokyo, Japan, August 2023
10. Invited poster session, 2022 Joint Statistical Meetings, Washington, DC, August 2022
11. EURO 2022 Conference, Espoo, Finland, July 2022 (canceled due to illness)
12. 2022 ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium, Gainesville, FL, June 2022
13. UP-STAT 2022 Hybrid Conference, Buffalo, NY, May 2022
14. CFE-CMStatistics 2021, London, UK, December 2021
15. Fifth EAC-ISBA Conference: A Satellite Meeting of the 2020 ISBA World Meeting in Celebrating James O Berger's 70th Birthday (virtual), November 2021
16. 2021 ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium (virtual), September 2021

Contributed Talks

BNP 14 World Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, June 2025
2024 ISBA World Meeting, Venice, Italy, July 2024
2021 Joint Statistical Meetings (virtual), August 2021
2021 ISBA World Meeting (virtual), June 2021
2019 Joint Statistical Meetings, Denver, CO, July 2019
2018 Joint Statistical Meetings, Vancouver, BC, Canada, July 2018

Contributed Conference Posters

Bayes Comp 2020, Gainesville, FL, January 2020
DBEI and CCEB Research Day, University of Pennsylvania, March 2019
O-Bayes 2017 Meeting, Austin, TX, December 2017

Other Grants

Competitive Internal Grants

University of South Carolina Big Data Health Science Center Pilot Project grant (2023-2024). *Leveraging Side Information for Improved Prediction and Inference in Computational Drug Repositioning*. **Role: PI.** Amount: \$20,000.
University of South Carolina McCausland Fellowship Research Award (2023-2024). *New Methods for Bayesian Semiparametric Survival Analysis*. **Role: PI.** Amount: \$10,000.
University of South Carolina ASPIRE-I, Track 1 (2022-2023). *Scalable Bayesian Survival Analysis with Informative Cluster Size*. **Role: PI.** Amount: \$13,583.

Other Academic Grants

NVIDIA Academic Grant Program, Generative AI Training and Model Development (2026). *Generative Bootstrapping for Learning and Inference under General Dependence*. **Role: Project Collaborator.** PI: Ting Fung Ma, University of South Carolina. Award: 32,000 A100 GPU-Hours on Brev (in-kind \$78,000).

Departmental Service

George Mason University Department of Statistics

Department Seminar Co-Chair, 2025-2026

University of South Carolina Department of Statistics

Colloquium Chair, 2023-2024, 2024-2025

Member of Graduate Committee, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024

Member of Hiring Committee, 2021-2022

Member of Data Science Degree Planning Committee, 2022

Member of PhD Qualification Exam Committee, 2021

University Service

University of South Carolina

Member, ASPIRE Grant Review Committee, 2023

Panelist, LGBTQ+ Graduate Student Association's Queer in Higher Ed Panel, 2023

Member, SPARC Grant Review Committee, 2022

Lunch Ambassador for New Faculty Orientation, 2022

Member, Top Scholar Selection Committee, 2021-2022, 2022-2023

Professional Service

Editorial Activities

Journal reviewer for 68 papers: *Journal of the American Statistical Association* (8), *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B* (3), *The Annals of Applied Statistics* (3), *Journal of Machine Learning Research* (3), *Biometrics* (4), *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* (4), *Biostatistics* (1), *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory* (1), *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing* (1), *Statistica Sinica* (2), *Bernoulli* (1), *Bayesian Analysis* (5), *Electronic Journal of Statistics* (1), *Scandinavian Journal of Statistics* (3), *Statistics in Medicine* (5), *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis* (1), *Statistics and Computing* (1), *Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics* (1), *The American Statistician* (2), *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series C* (1), *Statistical Methods in Medical Research* (4), *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference* (2), *Sankhya B* (1), *Statistical Modelling* (1), *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics* (1), *Lifetime Data Analysis* (1), *Metrika* (1), *Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics* (1), *The R Journal* (1), *Research Synthesis Methods* (1), *Science China Mathematics* (1), *Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences* (1), *BMJ Open* (1)

Judge for SBSS Student Paper Competition, 2020, 2024

Grant Reviewing

External grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation, 2020, 2021, 2022

Panelist for the National Science Foundation, 2022

Conference Activities

Session organizer, “Modern advances in Bayesian computation and inference,” EcoSta 2026

Member of poster committee and poster judge, ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium 2026

Session chair, “Bayesian regression in complex data environments,” ISBA 2026 World Meeting

Session chair, “Junior advances in Bayesian treed regression,” ISBA 2022 World Meeting

Session chair, Section on Bayesian Statistical Science, Joint Statistical Meetings, 2021, 2022

Member of Program Committee, “Your model is wrong: Robustness and misspecification in probabilistic modeling,” NeurIPS 2021 Workshop

Professional Society Memberships

American Statistical Association

International Society for Bayesian Analysis

International Biometric Society

Industry Experience

2012-2014 Systems Engineer, General Dynamics Mission Systems

2007-2010 Business Analyst, State Street Bank & Trust

Last updated: August 3, 2026