

## DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND BIOSTATISTICS

**Dylan Small**

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***Football and Mental Functioning: An  
Observational Study*****November 29, 2017****3:20 – 4:20pm**

Light refreshments will be served

**110 Frelinghuysen Road  
Hill Center, Room 552**

**Abstract:** Tackle football is the largest participation sport in US high schools. Recently, many have expressed concern about the sport's safety with some even calling for banning youth and high school football. The sport also has staunch defenders. In this contested area, we conducted an observational study to examine the effect of playing high school football in 1950's Wisconsin on later life cognition and mental health. We will present the results of the study and also discuss methodological aspects of the study that are of general use, especially when conducting observational studies in contested areas.

**Bio** Dylan Small, PhD is a Professor in the Department of Statistics at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Small received his PhD in Statistics from Stanford University and his AB in Mathematics from Harvard University. Dr. Small's research interests include causal inference, design and analysis of experiments and observational studies for comparing treatments, longitudinal data, measurement error and applications of statistics to medicine and health. He has served the statistical community by acting as Associate Editor for numerous journals including the Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics, The American Statistician, Journal of Causal Inference, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B, and the Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports. In 2013, Dr. Small received the honor of being named an American Statistical Association Fellow.

