

## TEACHING MODELS AND CASE STUDIES: OVERVIEW OF THE SESSION

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This session will consist of three invited papers plus floor discussion. The emphasis of the papers is change. The old way of teaching business statistics has failed to provide the majority of students with tools they can apply to the practical problems of business administration. New ways of teaching are beginning to be tried. The papers by Roberts and Mortensen report "revolutions in progress" at major centers for educating business students, one in the Denmark and one in the United States.

These revolutions are attempting to teach practical tools in as realistic a context as possible. How is this done in the school of business administration? One way it is done is to have students collect their own data for analysis. Another way is to base examples on data and methods actually used in business practice. The paper by Miller shows how the insurance business can be used to provide cases that range from the very simple to the awesomely complex. The paper also advocated use of complex studies as a better teaching tool than the "sanitized" cases presented in typical textbooks.

The goals of this session are

1. to assess the damage done by the old way of teaching business statistics;
2. to outline some new methods of teaching;
3. to assess the gains achieved so far with the new approaches;
4. to point out directions for further improvement.

This session will be vital for those engaged in teaching business statistics. It will be useful to anyone looking for sources of realistic and interesting case material.