

2020 H.O. Hartley Award Recipient

Dr. Bo Li

Dr. Bo Li is the 2020 recipient of the H.O. Hartley Award given by the Texas A&M Department of Statistics. The H.O. Hartley Award is given annually to a former student of the Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University for distinguished service to the discipline of statistics.

Bo is currently a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Statistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Bo received her Ph.D. in Statistics from Texas A&M University in 2006, co-advised by Professor Raymond Carroll and Professor Michael Sherman. After receiving her Ph.D., she became a Post-Doc researcher at the National Center for Atmospheric Research before joining the Statistics Department at Purdue University in 2008 as an Assistant Professor. In 2013 she moved to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as an Associate Professor, and now she is a Professor with Data Science Founder Professorial Scholar and the Department Chair.

Dr. Li's research mainly focuses on spatial and spatio-temporal statistics and environmental statistics concerning problems in climatology, atmospheric sciences, public health, forestry, and agriculture. She has made significant contributions to methodologies on spatial and spatio-temporal data analyses and established herself as a leader in the interdisciplinary research field between statistics, climatology, public health, and environmental sciences. She has published around 50 peer-reviewed papers in a wide variety of journals including Journal of American Statistical Association, Biometrika, Biometrics, JRSS-C, Environmetrics, Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics, Journal of Climate, Climatic Change, Environmental Health Perspective, Remote Sensing of Environment, etc. Her research has been well funded by the NSF, NIH, NASA and Sandia National Laboratories. Dr. Li was the recipient of the Young Investigator Award in the ASA section on statistics and the environment and is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. She has given over 120 invited talks

Dr. Li has been very serious in her service work to statistical societies. She has served on the editorial boards of several journals, including the Journal of the American Statistical Association, Environmetrics, Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES), STAT, and American Mathematical Monthly. She was also the Guest Editor for a special issue in Statistica Sinica and a special issue in JABES. She organized an Environmetrics workshop and has held elected offices for both ASA and International Society for Bayesian Analysis. She represented ASA to meet with staffers of Senators and House representatives at Capitol Hill, Washington DC, to illustrate climate change and its impact.

Bo is a natural choice for recognition with a strong research record and an excellent teacher, receiving the Teaching for Tomorrow Award at Purdue University. Her accomplishments reflect the depth of training provided by Texas A&M and the breadth that honors the contributions of Professor H. O. Hartley.