

# ABBASS AL SHARIF, PH.D.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Data Sciences and Operations Department  
USC Marshall School of Business  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, California, 90089-0808  
United States of America

Phone: +1 (435) 757-3431  
Email: [asharif@marshall.usc.edu](mailto:asharif@marshall.usc.edu)  
Web: <http://www.alsharif.info>  
Github: <https://github.com/abbassalsharif>

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### OUR OFFICE INC.

2018 – Present

*Member, Advisory Board*

- Provide advice to the CEO and CTO on building their data science team
- Provide advice on data strategy
- Participate in the board's monthly meetings or when needed

### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

2015 – Present

*Academic Director, Business Analytics Graduate Program*

- Increased the program's size from 32 students to 100 students per cohort in less than 2 years
- Elevated the Program's ranking to #1 among all graduate Business Analytics programs in the USA, and #3 in the world
- Ran and Supervised 12 different analytics consulting projects for students (175+ students) with different departments in the City of Los Angeles, Kaiser Permanente, Telesign, Cisco, RAPP, and many more
- Updated the curriculum to bridge the gap between industry practice and academia
- Created and administered networking trips for students to visit the analytics departments at companies in the Bay Area (Facebook, Google, Fitbit, and Cisco), the Greater Los Angeles Area (Paramount Pictures, Legendary, Fullscreen, and Sony Pictures), and Seattle (Amazon, T-Mobile, REI, and Microsoft)
- Established 150+ industry connections for the program
- Sustained 100% students' employment and internship rate
- Added specialty classes on Fraud Analytics, Healthcare Analytics, Game Analytics, and Digital Analytics Strategy to the program
- Organized and ran three conferences that attracted a total of 2000+ attendees and 100+ talks: (1) Big Data Day LA, (2) Building Smarter Los Angeles, and (3) International Conference on Business Analytics

### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

2013 – Present

*Assistant Professor, Data Sciences and Operations Department*

- Taught 11 different classes (6 newly created) that ranges from statistical computing and data visualization in R, to applied machine learning using R and Python, and data analysis for decision making
- Created and taught an online analytics class for USC's online MBA program
- Supervised 200+ analytics students' internships
- Sustained a 4.5+/5 teaching evaluations
- Won 3 awards: Golden Apple for Excellence in Teaching (2014), Evan C. Thompson Award for Teaching and Learning Innovation (2017), and the Dean's Award for Community (2017)

### UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

2007 – 2013

*Graduate Researcher, Mathematics and Statistics Department*

- Created new visualization techniques for functional actigraphy data
- Taught 3 statistics and 2 mathematics classes

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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<b>STATISTICAL COMPUTING</b>	R, SAS, Python, C, SQL, Assembly, HTML
<b>STATISTICAL VISUALIZATION</b>	ggplot2, ggmap, ggvis, shiny, and tableau
<b>DATA CLEANING</b>	dplyr, lubridate, stringr, and rvest
<b>ANALYTICS:</b>	regression (linear, RF, LASSO, etc.), classification (logistic, DT, LDA, etc.), clustering (hierarchical and K-means), resampling methods (cross validation and bootstrapping), and time series analysis

## EDUCATION

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<b>PHD, STATISTICS</b>	<b>2012</b>
Utah State University	
<b>MS, INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>2012</b>
Utah State University	
<b>MS, COMPUTER SCIENCE</b>	<b>2006</b>
Lebanese American University	
<b>BS, COMPUTER SCIENCE (MATHEMATICS MINOR)</b>	<b>2004</b>
Lebanese American University	

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Sharif, A. and Symanzik, J. (2017). Visual Data Mining Techniques for Functional Actigraphy Data, *Statistics in Medicine* (in progress).
- Sharif, A., Symanzik, J., and Shannon, W. D. (2012). An Object-oriented Approach in R for the Visualization of Functional Actigraphy Data, *Computing Science and Statistics*, 41.
- Ding, J., Symanzik, J., Sharif, A., and Shannon, W. D. (2011). Functional Representation of Actigraphy Data, *Chance*, 24(3):3036.
- Kim, Y., Xu, B., and Sharif (2008), A. Pedagogical Agents as Social Models in an Online Learning Environment MathGirls, *International Transactions on Systems Science and Applications*, 4(2), 99-106.

### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Xiaotian, D., Symanzik, J., Sharif, A., and Fu, G. (2017). Quantitative Genetic and Environmental Mapping and Visual Exploration for Leaf Shape Variation. In *Biological Shape Analysis: Proceedings of the 4th International Symposium*, pp. 95-112.
- Sharif, A. and Symanzik, J. (2012). Graphical Representation of Clustered Functional Actigraphy Data, *Joint Statistical Meeting*, San Diego, CA.
- Sharif, A., Symanzik, J., and Shannon, W. D. (2010). An Object-oriented Approach in R for the Visualization of Functional Actigraphy Data, *Computing Science and Statistics*, Seattle, WA.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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<b>EVAN THOMPSON TEACHING AND LEARNING INNOVATION</b>	<b>2017</b>
University of Southern California	
<b>DEAN'S AWARD FOR COMMUNITY</b>	<b>2017</b>
University of Southern California	
<b>CERTIFICATE, BUSINESS ESSENTIALS FOR MANAGERS</b>	<b>2017</b>
University of Southern California	
<b>GOLDEN APPLE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING</b>	<b>2015</b>
University of Southern California	
<b>DISSERTATION RESEARCH AWARD</b>	<b>2013</b>
American Statistical Association	
<b>CITATION OF HONOR</b>	<b>2013</b>
Utah Legislature	
<b>ROBINS AWARDS - FINALIST - MAN OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>2011</b>
Utah State University	