

# ***Slippery Math in Public Affairs***

***Price Tag and Defense***



***William J. Adams***

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## **Slippery Math In Public Affairs Price Tag And Defense:**

*Slippery Math In Public Affairs* William J. Adams, 2002-08-02 Highlighting how slippery numbers and questionable mathematical conclusions emerge and what can be done to safeguard against them this book examines flawed usage of math in public affairs through actual cases of how mathematical data and conclusions can be distorted and misrepresented to influence public opinion The author analyzes the cost of slippery math in terms of squandered resources and identifies common misperceptions about the role of math in public affairs He discusses how math education can be reformed to sharpen public awareness of slippery math the development of math models and their use and misuse and proper and improper polling methods

*Slippery Math In Public Affairs* William J. Adams, 2002-08-02 An examination of the flawed usage of math in public affairs through actual cases of how mathematical data and conclusions can be distorted and misrepresented to influence public opinion

*The Nitty-Gritty in the Life of a University* William J. Adams, 2007 An esteemed professor and one time chairman of the mathematics department at New York s Pace University Adams interested in all facets of university administration has produced an almost Jeffersonian volume of correspondence from his tenure His views on textbook selection collective bargaining and the proper role of the university have all flowed from his notebook and no problem was too minute to evade his scope The frivolity of some of these papers is balanced by Adams s opinions on weightier issues including sexual harassment and compensation in higher education His approach and forward manner on these situations despite how genuine sometimes engendered resentment from his fellow faculty But for those interested in the particulars of an academic career this book offers a glimpse of what life may really be like inside the ivory tower Kirkus Discoveries

*Finite Mathematics, Models, and Structure* William J. Adams, 2009-02-16 Still another book on finite math Why Hasnt everything that should have been said been said No I would argue The shortcoming that troubles me most about the books I am familiar with is their failure to provide perspective on what math technique and the use of technology can do for us and its limitations This can only be addressed through vigorous and sustained use of the mathematical modeling perspective which is a hallmark of this books exposition A point continually stressed is that reaching a mathematical answer to a problem is not the end of the story It is in a sense the end of a chapter but the next chapter is concerned with questions about whether and how the mathematical answer should be implemented Also addressed is the question of what to consider when more than one answer is obtained for a problem

**Reflections on the University Scene** William J. Adams, 2008-06-28 *Reflections on the University Scene* presents a sample of ideas thoughts and points of view intimate to the university scene They include the nature of the university governance limits of dissent academic freedom tenure collective bargaining liberal education admissions higher education and high tech and memorable teachers and teaching Alarming!

The Chasm Separating Education of Applications of Finite Math from it's Necessities William J. Adams, 2013-07 William J Adams Professor of Mathematics at Pace University is a recipient of Pace s Outstanding Teacher Award He was Chairman of

the Pace N Y Mathematics Department from 1976 through 1991 Professor Adams is author or co author of over twenty books on mathematics its applications and history including Elements of Linear Programming 1969 Calculus for Business and Social Science 1975 Fundamentals of Mathematics for Business Social and Life Sciences 1979 Elements of Complex Analysis 1987 Get a Grip on Your Math 1996 Slippery Math in Public Affairs Price Tag and Defense 2002 Think First Apply MATH Think Further Food for Thought 2005 The Life and Times of the Central Limit Theorem Second Edition 2009 and Alarming The Chasm Separating Basic Statistics Education from its Necessities 2013 His concern with the slippery side of math and what math can do for us and its limitations is a prominent feature of his writings on applications Concerning higher education in general he is the author of The Nitty Gritty in the Life of a University 2007 **Think First, Apply Math, Think Further** William J. Adams, 2005 *Alarming! The Chasm Separating Basic Statistics Education from its Necessities* William J. Adams, 2013-05 The fairly large sample of current basic statistics books I gave thought to recently may in my view be characterized as number pushers with a large number of illustrations intended to convey a sense of the importance of statistics to the study of real world problems What s wrong with that Nothing provided that what I submit to be the necessities of statistics education are given the attention they warrant are not smothered by glitz overwhelming attention to number pushing do not receive shortshrift or are not mentioned at all Am I being too critical I invite you to give thought to fifteen issues questions that are the core of the aforementioned chasm and render your verdict Food for thought in support of the issues questions raised along with answers discussion are included Many students and those who apply statistics to their fields of interest subscribe to the view that to apply statistics to a problem situation all you need do is throw your data into a computer and let it do its thing The further they travel along this road of thought the more we can expect misunderstanding of statistics and when it comes to publication statistical junk I believe that the only way to change the direction of this road of thought is to incorporate into our teaching of basic statistics what is feasible of the necessities of statistics education For further discussion of the necessities of basic statistics education I recommend the book I coauthored with my colleagues Irwin Kabus and Mitchell Preiss Statistics Basic Principles and Applications 2nd ed Kendall Hunt Publishing Co 2000 or the revised 2nd ed W J Adams Xlibris 2009 Math is Precise, Period, vs. Math is Precise, Strings Attached William J. Adams, 2010-01-18 This book is the outcome of my conclusion that current mathematics education taken in total is a disaster and that by sharing my experience and thoughts about teaching mathematics I might be helpful to colleagues students and others who are concerned about mathematics education to mitigate this state of affairs Mathematics education disaster in what sense No it s not in the sense that I believe insuffi cient attention is being given to number fundamentals It has to do with the almost unanimously held erroneous view about the nature precision and infallibility of mathematics that we acquire from the current state of mathematics education Current mathematics education does not prepare us for life in the 21st century which requires an understanding of the mathematical modeling perspective of what mathematics can do and its

limitations and an appreciation of the questions that should be considered to help us distinguish numbers that inform from those that deceive If the wizards of Wall Street had a 21st century mathematics education there is a good chance that they would not have put unquestioning faith in their value at risk math models and the financial meltdown of 2008 09 would have been avoided or at least softened If the nation's decision makers and the public at large were better educated about what questions to give thought to when numbers continually hurled at them are the basis for decision making they would be less vulnerable to accepting faulty numbers and all of us would be less at risk to the consequences of bad decision making

*Analele științifice ale Universitatii "Al. I. Cuza" din Iași. Serie nouă* Universitatea "Al. I. Cuza" din Iași, 2002     *Abstracts of Public Administration, Development, and Environment* ,2001     **Mathematical Reviews** ,2003     *Choice* ,2003  
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*Congressional Record* United States. Congress,1967     The Spectator ,1855 A weekly review of politics literature  
theology and art     **The Examiner** ,1855     *Open Economics* Richard Arena, Sheila Dow, Matthias Klaes, 2009-06-02 This book offers an up to date assessment of economics in relation to other disciplines combining the work of leading international scholars and rising young stars and presenting an historical introduction to the disciplinary context of economics

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