

STANFORD UNIVERSITY & UC BERKELEY  
DEPARTMENTS OF STATISTICS  
BERKELEY-STANFORD COLLOQUIUM

4:15 p.m., Tuesday, December 2, 2003  
3:30pm Coffee in 361 Evans Hall, UC Berkeley  
4:00pm Talk in 60 Evans Hall, UC Berkeley  
5:30pm Reception in 1011 Evans Hall, UC Berkeley

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*Stanford University*

**A statistician flips a coin**

Abstract:

Is coin tossing "random" or physics? In joint work with Richard Montgomery, we have carefully done the physics and can prove that coin tossing is biased to come up the way that it started. Assessing the practical size of the bias involves an excursion into inverse problems and the working of high-speed slow motion cameras.