

# Women in Mathematics Patch

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# My Background



Earlier generations of women in my family had a 6th to 8th grade education. They learned basic arithmetic and mathematics that were useful for shopping, farming, or keeping house.

My mother was the first person in her family to go to college. She earned a BA in Mathematics and was a middle/high school teacher.

**Can you imagine stopping school in 6th grade?**

**I had many women math teachers.**

# A Little About Me Now

- **BA in Psychology** (but I also learned a lot of mathematics and statistics)
- **MS in Industrial/Organizational Psychology** (I learned even more statistics)
- **PhD in Decision Sciences** (statistics focus)
- **Professor at Appalachian State University**

For me, analyzing data feels like solving a puzzle or mystery. It's challenging and fun to answer questions and tell stories with statistics, models, and different kinds of graphs or pictures.



# Other Women Statisticians I Admire



**Florence Nightingale  
(1820-1910)**

To understand God's thoughts, one must study statistics, for these are the measure of His purpose.



**Gertrude Cox  
(1900-1978)**

I majored in math ... because I liked it ... I was working my way through college and managed to land a job in the computing laboratory... I became interested in statistics.



**Jessica Utts  
(1952- )**

"... I took the statistics course offered by the psychology department and also took a course called something like "mathematical models in psychology." From those two courses I realized that there was a way to combine my two majors [mathematics and psychology].

# Data Activity: Are People Squares?

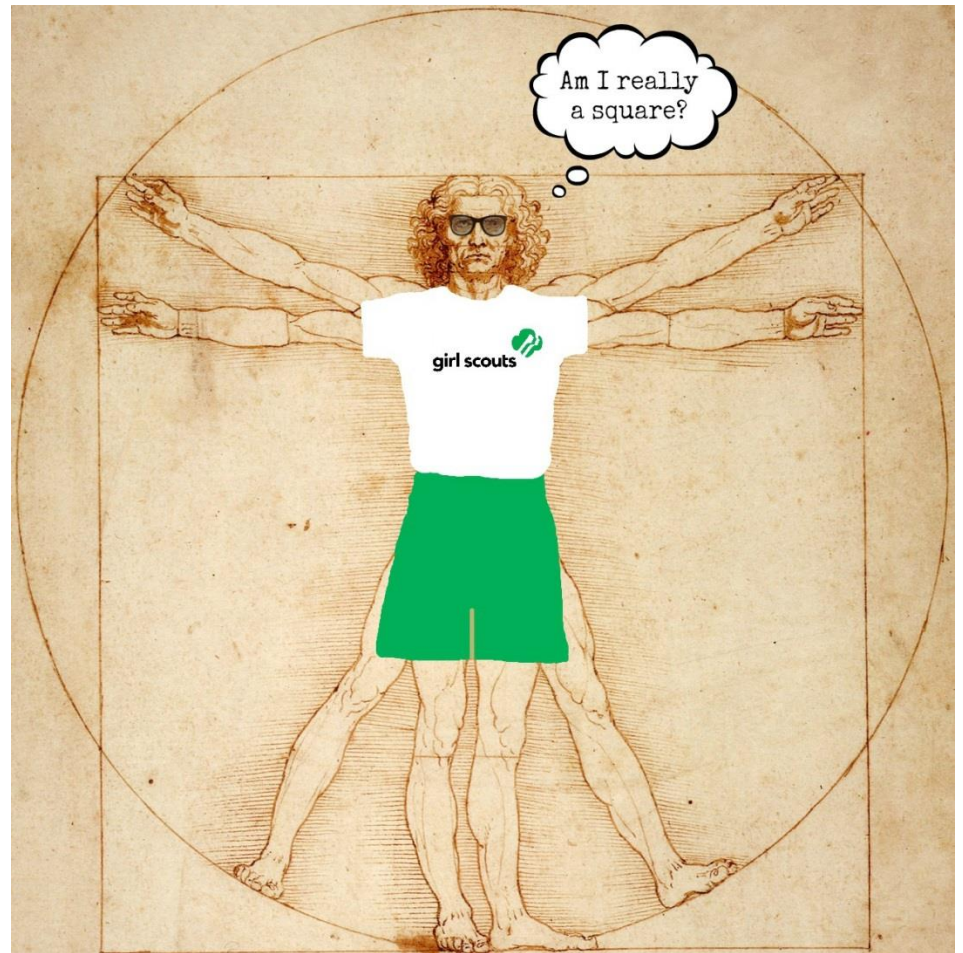
## *Anthropometry*

“anthro” → human

“metry” → measuring

Many different kinds of jobs use anthropometric data in their work, such as:

- archaeologists
- athletes and sports trainers
- criminal investigators
- engineers and architects
- fashion designers
- health care providers
- vehicle designers



# Credits and References

Photos of Florence Nightingale and Gertrude Cox were accessed from Wikimedia Commons (<http://commons.wikimedia.org/>).

The photo of Jessica Utts appears in Katherine Halvorsen and Rebecca Nichols, "Eighth Annual Meeting Within a Meeting Held in Conjunction with JSM," *AMSTAT News*, October 1, 2014.

Available: <http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2014/10/01/mwm-14/>

The Jessica Utts quote is from Alan Rossman, "Interview with Jessica Utts," *Journal of Statistics Education*, 22(2), July 2014, pp. 1-2.

Available: [http://www.amstat.org/publications/jse/contents\\_2014.html](http://www.amstat.org/publications/jse/contents_2014.html)

All other photos in this presentation belong to the speaker and the quotes from Florence Nightingale and Gertrude Cox are widely known.