

## David Blackwell (1919-2010): Statistician



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*It never occurred to me to think about teaching in a major university since it wasn't in my [racial] horizon at all.*

## Game Show: Friend or Foe

Contestants select whether he/she is a friend or a foe.

- If both choose friend, 50/50 split
- If both choose foe neither gets any money
- If one chooses friend and the other foe, then foe receives the entire trust fund and friend receives zero

	Contestant 2: Friend	Contestant 2: Foe
Contestant 1: Friend	\$2250//\$2250	0//\$4500
Contestant 1: Foe	\$4500//0	0//0

Activity from an article by William Butterworth and Paul Coe



## David Blackwell

Basically, I'm not interested in doing research and I never have been. I'm interested in understanding, which is quite a different thing. [Albers & Alexander, 1985]

*In fact, the situation with the Soviet Union has elements like this in it. To cooperate is to disarm and to double-cross is to re-arm with bigger and bigger weapons. That takes a lot of resources and we would both be better off disarming. But each is afraid that if he throws away his weapons, the other one will not and he will be at a great disadvantage. So, when I saw that this led to an armaments race, so to speak, I realized I was not the one to come up with a satisfactory theory...*

## *Interdisciplinary Fields*

- Cooperative versus selfish strategies
- Ethics of what to work on
- Prisoner's Dilemma
- Decision Matrices
- Economics
- Game Theory
- Statistics