

4th October, 1956.

My dear Chester,

I understand that the fall quarter at Michigan State begins about September 24th, but Katz has informed me through A.E. Brandt that I will not be expected on the campus before the 30th of that month.

It would seem, therefore, that there should be an opportunity for me to visit you, and see some other old friends in the New England neighbourhood, during the latter half of September 1957, before proceeding to the wide open spaces. I suppose with luck I could even get so far South as Raleigh, if this period is not altogether too early to suit Gertrude. I ought also to visit Harvard, and if possible Bar Harbor, where there often are a number of entertaining mice.

I shall be much interested to learn how you, and others among your countrymen, bear with my efforts to draw the necessary logical distinctions, and to use words accurately, in a subject which has been so deeply entangled and knotted together as the theory of probability had become early in the century, and the theory of testing hypotheses since about 1930.

I believe, now, I should have stressed early and loudly that Keynes was mistaken in defining probability as "the measure of rational belief", in that whereas the phrase "measure of rational belief" was a penetrating one and needed in the subject, yet it is not the classical and mathematically defined concept of probability that fills this bill. This does appear, indeed, gradually and by stages in the course of Chapters II and III, but perhaps you could give me an opinion as to whether the reader might like to have fair warning of so large a semantic change. The effort to find probability statements appropriate to every case in which belief, or disbelief, in some degree can be supported on good and communicable reason, is, of course, the main cause of the numerically erroneous values arrived at on the basis of Pearson and Neyman's theory of testing hypotheses, of which I give an example in the current J.R.S.S., Series B, which I hope you may see before I have an offprint to send you.

If it occurs to you that I ought to give one or more lectures at New Haven during full term, would it not be possible for me to come over for a day or two, perhaps at a weekend, rearranging any commitments at East Lansing for the purpose?

Sincerely yours,