

15th July, 1955.

My dear Mac,

Many thanks for sending me the translation of Pompilj's paper. I have been looking at it with great interest, as it shows very clearly what I believe I ought to have foreseen, namely that the author trips himself up by accepting, without question, the assumption that all inferences, or I should say all uncertain inferences, must be expressed in terms of mathematical probability, and therefore, that it is proper to reinterpret the common tests of significance as though they were imperfectly developed Bayesian arguments involving unspecified probabilities a priori.

In labouring to guard my readers against this well-worn discensus averti, I have, of course, had to go fairly deep, and to recognize other types of rational inference more primitive than that involved in a probability statement.

That is the sort of thing I hope to develop at Varenna.

Sincerely yours,