



**Sixth Bayesian, Fiducial, and Frequentist (BFF6)
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SPEAKER TITLES/ABSTRACT

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“Unifying Ockham’s Razor”

In science, there is a preference for simpler theories. Simplicity emerges as a criterion for theory choice as a result of the attempt to determine which of the theories is getting the basics right. Model selection methods provide a formal explication of this procedure. More detailed fitting of the theory to the data generally follows. There has been an unfortunate tendency among philosophers to pit different model selection methods against one another and find fault with some as opposed to others. I argue for a more ecumenical approach, which sees the different methods as delivering a more unified explication of features which philosophy of science has described in qualitative terms. According to this point of view, the different methods are better seen as complementary, rather than competing.