

## Quality Assurance

### Measuring Criminalistic Uncertainty

*Joseph (Jay) Kadane, Carnegie Mellon University, United States*

Abstract: There are many sources of uncertainty in criminalistics, including the integrity of the material at source, the chain of custody, the handling of the material in the lab, and the determination of the analyst. Some of these sources may be amendable to some degree of measurement and control, others may not. Reduction of total uncertainty rests on reduction of the most uncertain source. To the extent that laboratory uncertainty dominates, some experiments may shed light on, and permit reduction of, important sources of total uncertainty.