



Summer 2002

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THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON TEACHING STATISTICS

Cape Town, South Africa
7 - 12 July 2002
<http://www.beeri.org.il/icots6/>



ICOTS-6 - BREAKING NEWS - CAPE TOWN, JULY 7-12, 2002

Due to circumstances that are out of the control of ICOTS-6 IPC and LOC and the IASE Executive, the ICOTS-6 venue has been changed from Durban to Cape Town, South Africa. The local organisers will be helping participants in any problem with changing their travel tickets and accommodations. For further details contact the local organisers at delegates@itikzn.co.za. Do not miss the chance to attend the main event in statistics education and to visit one of the most beautiful cities in the world. For registration details go to the on-line registration facility (<https://www.amlink.com.au/secure/icots02.htm>), or contact Sue Bumpsteed Conferences on delegates@itikzn.co.za.

2002 will be the year of ICOTS-6 for the IASE. Twenty years after the first ICOTS at Sheffield, UK, looking after the growing needs of statistics knowledge and competencies, the IASE has devoted this Conference to "*Developing a Statistically Literate Society*". The meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Cape Town. The International Programme Committee has prepared a very interesting and comprehensive Scientific programme with something for everyone involved with teaching statistics. The following topics will be explored: Statistics literacy; statistics education at the school level, post secondary level, and the workplace; statistics education and the wider society; research in statistics education; technology in statistics education; an international perspective on statistics education; and other determinants and developments in statistics education. Contributed papers and poster sessions, demonstrations, forums, commercial exhibits and special sessions are planned. Six plenary sessions and an international forum on statistics literacy complete this framework.

This will be the occasion for you to meet the interesting world of Statistics Education. A very exciting one – where statisticians, teachers, educators and practitioners work together, discussing better ways to present statistics and the many problems of statistics teaching and learning at all levels and in the society at large.

The Conference Website provides all the information you need on the Conference: <http://www.beeri.org.il/icots6/>. Proposals for posters can be submitted until June 1, 2002. See the Posters section in the Website, or contact Andrew I. Dale: le@scifs1.und.ac.za. All statisticians and statistics educators and researchers are invited to join the IASE and ICOTS-6 in Cape Town, South Africa. We look forward to see each of you,
The ICOTS-6 International Program Committee Executive:

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International Association for Statistical Education

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The Netherlands [Tel: +31 70-3375737, Fax: +31 70-3860025, E-mail: isi@cs.vu.nl]

IASE web page: <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.html>

CONFERENCE REPORTS

OZCOTS-4 Swinburne University of Technology, Australia, December 4 and 5, 2001

Brian Phillips, bphillips@swin.edu.au

This two day Statistical Education Workshop consisted of three workshops (Excel Workshop, Live-to-Air Online Statistics Class, PaceXL Workshop) and regular presentations. There was also a session on "The statistical re-education of psychology" in which a number of researchers, including students dealt with topics such as: statistical reform, editorial influence on statistical practices and interpretation of graphically-presented confidence intervals.

The presentations were of the highest standard with a number of presenters taking the opportunity to trial their proposed ICOTS-6 talk. If this is typical of what we can expect to hear at ICOTS-6, we are assured of a wonderful experience. Some images of the sessions can be seen in the photo gallery of the OZCOTS4 site <http://www.swin.edu.au/mathslase/ozcots4.html>

Stochastics Section of German Math Education Association, Kassel, Germany, November 9-11, 2001

ak-stochastik@ph-ludwigsburg.de

Inspired by the current debate on statistical thinking and international curricula for its implementation (e.g. NCTM Standards, Quantitative Literacy Project) the Section is preparing a declaration calling for changes and innovations in the school curriculum regarding stochastics instruction. The objective is to present a statement outlining a school curriculum throughout all grades that recognizes statistical literacy and quantitative reasoning skills. One controversial issue relates to the role of formal mathematics in probability and statistics instruction. The statement is intended as a guideline for curriculum planners for all types of schools in Germany and Austria. The plan is to continue the internal discussion process until spring 2002, then to open the debate on the internet to the interested public, before voting on a final declaration.

<http://www.uni-klu.at/ak-stochastik>

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

LatinoAmerican meeting in Mathematics Education, La Habana, Cuba, 15-19 July, 2002.

ecarlos@ind.ispjae.edu.cu

The activities are intended to encourage delegates to share experiences and research on the teaching and learning of mathematics, including the teaching and learning of statistics and statistical thinking. For more information see

<http://www.cinvestav.mx/clame>.

PME-NA XXIV. Psychology of Mathematics Education. North American Chapter, Athens, Georgia, USA, October 26-29, 2002.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide a forum for scholarly discussion of central and current issues in mathematics education, particularly as they pertain to the role of psychology in mathematics education. English is the official language of the conference. The theme for PME-NA XXIV is Linking Research and Practice. The conference aims to highlight examples of the interplay between research and practice.

<http://www.pmena.org/2002>

InterAmerican Conference on the Teaching of Statistics, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October, 28 to November 1, 2002.

This conference is organised by the InterAmerican Statistical Institute (IASI) and the Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero, in connection with CLATSE V (LatinoAmerican Conference of Statistics), which is organised by the Argentinean, Chilean and Uruguayan Statistical Societies and the Argentinean Group of Biometry.

More information from Celina Curti

ccurti@ciudad.com.ar

Stochastics Section of German Math Education Association, Dortmund, Germany, November 8-10, 2002

ak-stochastik@ph-ludwigsburg.de

The topic will be: Stochastics education and new technologies.

<http://www.uni-klu.at/ak-stochastik>

IASE Conference on Statistics Education and the Internet, Berlin, Germany, August 11-12, 2003.

Chair, Larry Weldon Weldon@sfu.ca

This conference is to be organised by the IASE in cooperation with the Section on Stochastics of the German Mathematics Education Association, the Max-Planck-Institute for Human Development and the Stochastics Section of the German Mathematical Society. It will immediately precede the ISI session in Berlin.

The aim of this conference is to discuss the implications of Internet for teaching and learning Statistics, web based teaching, materials and resources. There will be a number of invited speakers, as well as the opportunity for others to give contributed presentations. In addition to research reports, there will also be non-technical presentations, suitable for teachers who would like to learn how to make better use of Internet resources ideas in their everyday work in the classroom. This meeting is intended to be of

interest to a wide cross section of society including teachers, educational administrators, and researchers in statistical education.

IASE IPM at ISI-54 Berlin, Germany, August 13-20, 2003

The list of IASE Invited Paper Meetings for Berlin is finalized. The seven IASE meetings cover a broad field of statistical contents and a variety of educational levels. Moreover four meetings are organized by IASE joint with other ISI sections and guest societies such as the International Biometrics Society and the European Mathematical Psychology Group.

On top of this an exhibition "**History of statistics and its teaching**" is set up (contact: Maria-Gabriella Ottaviani mariagabriella.ottaviani@uniroma1.it).

The IASE IPM will give statistics educators the opportunity to share their work during an exciting week at Berlin. IASE and ISI place particular emphasis to encourage people from developing countries to participate as speakers.

Here follows the list of meetings with the contacts.

IPM44 Teaching probability with a modeling approach : Michel Henry, France, henry@math.univ-fcomte.fr;

IPM45 Statistics training for consultants or collaborators: Gabriella Belli, USA, gbelli@vt.edu;

IPM46 International co-operation in research on statistics education: Lisbeth Cordani, Brazil, lisbeth@maua.br;

IPM47 Mathematics teachers teaching statistics: Susan Starkings, UK, starkisa@sbu.ac.uk;

IPM48 Statistics education for media reports: Maxine Pfannkuch, New Zealand, pfannkuc@math.auckland.ac.nz;

IPM49 Teaching and learning approaches aimed at developing statistical reasoning, thinking or literacy: Joan Garfield, USA, and Dani Ben-Zvi, Israël, jbg@tc.umn.edu ..and .. dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il ;

IPM50 Statistics Teaching in the Internet Age: Wolfgang Haerdle, Germany, haerdle@wiwi.hu-berlin.de;

IPM68 Assessment of literacy, numeracy and other life skills: Denise Lievesley, UK, d.lievesley@unesco.org;

IPM69 Impact of developments in information systems on statistics education (joint IASE/ IASC): Annie Morin, France, and Albert Prat, Spain, Annie.Morin@irisa.fr;

IPM70 Teaching biostatistics (joint IASE/ Guest Society: International Biometrics Society):: Elisabeth Svensson, Sweden, and Els Goetghebeur, Belgium, elisabeth.svensson@esi.oru.se;

IPM71 Educational implications of statistical method and modeling developments in psychometry (Joint IASE/ Guest Society: European Mathematical Psychology Group): Helena Bacelar, Portugal, and Francesca Cristante, Italy, hbacelar@fc.ul.pt

Interested people are invited to contact the above mentioned organizers or the Chair of the IASE Programme Committee Gilberte Schuyten Gilberte.Schuyten@rug.ac.be

IASE PUBLICATIONS

Papers from the IASE Satellite Conference on Statistical Literacy

Most of the papers and or presentations given at the IASE Satellite Conference on Statistical Literacy Seoul, Korea, August 21-22, 2001 can now be found from <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/statlit.html>

Statistics Education Research Journal

Flavia Jolliffe, F.R.Jolliffe@gre.ac.uk

Carmen Batanero, batanero@ugr.es

The International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) announces the first issue of its new electronic journal, the *Statistics Education Research Journal* (May 2002). This journal, *SERJ*, replaces the Statistics Education Research Newsletter. The journal's aims include the encouragement of research activity in statistics education, the advancement of knowledge about students' attitudes, conceptions, and difficulties as regards stochastic knowledge, and the improvement of the teaching of statistics at all educational levels. The intended readership is researchers and teachers engaged in statistical education research or in any aspect of statistical education. The editorial board encourages the submission of papers and research reports, theoretical or methodological analyses, literature surveys, thematic bibliographies, summaries of research papers and of dissertations of relevance to the journal's aims. All the papers will be refereed. The web address will be announced widely at the earliest opportunity.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Royal Statistical Society and Statistical Education

Harvey Goldstein, University of London, h.goldstein@ioe.ac.uk.

Recently, aware of the serious lack of suitably qualified statisticians to meet a considerable demand from government, education and industry and commerce, an Educational Strategy Group is established. This group will coordinate the Society's educational

activities and draw up a long term education strategy and will take over much of the work of the Society's old Education committee and Education section. The Group includes members drawn widely from education and includes people with expertise in all phases from Primary to Higher education, as well as people with knowledge of government and industry and those concerned with the school curriculum. A major concern of the new Group is to reach out to the general public and various proposals for taking part in popular science events are being considered. One of the challenges in doing this is to find ways of explaining the relevance of statistics through well-motivated applications. The Centre for Statistical Education has a great deal of such material, including the recent Census at School project which provides survey data on some 60,000 pupils, their schools and their homes. In addition the journal 'Teaching Statistics' contains expository articles, materials and general information about statistics education (contact Gerald Goodall, g.goodall@rss.org.uk). The Group is keen to collaborate with other bodies concerned more widely with Mathematics and Science education. We are very open to suggestions about our activities not only from fellows of the RSS but also from others concerned with enhancing statistical literacy. The RSS web site is a useful source of activities about the Royal Statistical Society generally.
www.rss.org.uk

Request for Statistical Disaster and Success Stories

President SSAI, Nicholas Fisher

The Statistical Society of Australia Inc (SSAI) is preparing a nationwide Public Awareness campaign, primarily to support Professional Accreditation and to promote awareness of the importance of professionalism in the practice of Statistics. We shall be targeting groups such as Government, employers, contractors of statistical services, statisticians, students and prospective students. In preparing the campaign, we need to accumulate a collection of stories, both of successes due to good statistical practice, and of disasters that arose either from bad practice or from failure to use Statistics. For example, the Challenger disaster provides a classic example of failure to use statistical methods. We are appealing to statisticians around the world to send us such materials. What we require is a description of (say) at most a page, together with references to any publications that provide verification. We would also appreciate direct references to any books or journal articles addressing such matters.

Please send any responses to SSAI Business Office, P.O. Box 85, AINSLIE ACT 2602, Australia or by Fax +61 2 6249 8266

All contributions will be acknowledged.

Statistics Education Activities in Peru

There is an increasing interest towards statistics education in Peru. The Department of Statistics and Informatics at the Universidad Agraria La Molina, Lima, Peru is the only University in Lima, on charge of training the future statisticians and is also offering introductory courses to different majors, such as Forestry, Agronomy, Economics.

Statistics on the Streets at the Balearic Ilands *mbeltran@ibae.caib.es*

The aim of this project is to extend and diffuse the teaching of statistics and increase statistical literacy in the Balearic Ilands. A book is published "Dice and data" where elementary statistical concepts and historical information about the development of statistics are introduced in an easy way in a comic. European Workshops on the Teaching and the Diffusion of Statistics are organised.

The International conference "Problems of economical statistics in transition countries", Kiev, Ukraine

Ruslan Motoryn, Zina Palyan, motoryn@kneu.kiev.ua

There were four thematic sections at the International conference. The first section discussed such statistics problems as methodology and informational foundation, the second section covered modern problems of applied statistics. Also the problems of demographic statistics and statistical education were dealt with. The submitted reports have caused uncommon interest for audience and were widely discussed. Within the framework of the conference and a scientific seminar, questions concerning improvement of statistical education and ties with economic universities were raised.