



Autumn 2006

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/>

**Editorial Address:** *Andrej Blejec, National Institute of Biology, Vecna pot 111 POB 141, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. Tel: +386-1-423-33-88, Fax: +386-1-2412-980 E-mail: [andrej.blejec@nib.si](mailto:andrej.blejec@nib.si)*

*and K. Laurence Weldon, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC, Canada V5A 1S6 Tel: +1-604-291-3667, Fax: +1-604-291-4368 E-mail: [weldon@sfu.ca](mailto:weldon@sfu.ca)*

### ICOTS-7: WORKING COOPERATIVELY IN STATISTICS EDUCATION

Salvador (Bahia), Brazil, July 2–7, 2006



#### IPC Executive Committee:

Carmen Batanero (Chair), Susan Starkings (Programme Chair), Allan Rossman and Beth Chance (Editors of Proceedings), John Harraway (Scientific Secretary) and Lisbeth Cordani (Local organisers representative).

**Local organisers:** Pedro Alberto Morettin (Chair), Lisbeth K. Cordani, Pedro Silva, Clélia Maria C. Toloí and Wilton de Oliveira Bussab.

The International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) and the International Statistical Institute (ISI) organized the Seventh International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS–7) which was hosted by the Brazilian Statistical Association (ABE) in Salvador (Bahia), Brazil, July 2–7, 2006.

ICOTS conferences are the world's largest international forums for statistics education. At ICOTS-7 more than 400 participants were registered, presenting more than 200 invited papers, about 100 contributed papers and 100 posters.

When this issue was prepared, the conference was about to start. A detailed report will be published in the next IASE Matters. Until then, visit the ICOTS-7 web page where you can find all the abstracts and other updated information about this interesting event.

#### ICOTS-7 web page:

<http://www.maths.otago.ac.nz/icots7>

### THE 2007 SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE, ISI-56

Lisboa, Portugal, August 22–29, 2007

*Reported by Allan Rossman*



The 56th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) will be held in Lisboa, Portugal. IASE is usually very active at ISI meetings and will sponsor several Invited Paper Meetings (IPM).

#### IASE sponsored IPMs and their organizers:

IPM37 *Research on Reasoning about Distribution*,  
Joan Garfield ([jbg@umn.edu](mailto:jbg@umn.edu))

IPM38 *How modern technologies have changed the curriculum in introductory courses*,  
Lucette Carter ([lucette.carter@gmail.com](mailto:lucette.carter@gmail.com))

## *International Association for Statistical Education*

A section of the International Statistical Institute, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, PO Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands

Tel: +31 70-3375737, Fax: +31 70-3860025, E-mail: [isi@cbs.nl](mailto:isi@cbs.nl)

ISI web page: <http://www.cbs.nl/isi> IASE web page: <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase>

- IPM39 *Preparing Teachers of Statistics*,  
Allan Rossman (arossman@calpoly.edu)
- IPM40 *Research on the use of simulation in teaching statistics and probability*,  
Rolf Biehler (biehler@mathematik.uni-kassel.de)
- IPM41 *Optimizing Internet-based Resources for Teaching Statistics* (cosponsored by IASC),  
Ginger Holmes Rowell (rowell@mtsu.edu)
- IPM42 *Observational Studies, Confounding and Multivariate Thinking*,  
Milo Schield (milo@pro-ns.net)
- IPM43 *Teaching of Official Statistics* (cosponsored by IAOS),  
Sharleen Forbes  
(Sharleen.Forbes@stats.govt.nz)
- IPM44 *Teaching of Survey Statistics* (cosponsored by IASS),  
Steve Heeringa (sheering@isr.umich.edu)
- IPM45 *Studying variability through sports phenomena* (cosponsored by Sports Statistics),  
TBD
- IPM46 *Use of Symbolic Computing Systems in Teaching Statistics* (cosponsored by IASC),  
Zaven Karian (Karian@Denison.edu)

#### **IASE Organizing Committee:**

Allan J. Rossman (USA) arossman@calpoly.edu  
Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium)  
gilberte.schuyten@UGent.be  
Chris Wild (New Zealand) c.wild@auckland.ac.nz

For more information visit the ISI 56 website at <http://www.isi2007.com.pt/> or contact members of OC.

### **IASE SATELLITE CONFERENCE ON ASSESSING STUDENT LEARNING IN STATISTICS**

Guimaraes, Portugal, August 19–21, 2007

#### *Reported by Brian Phillips*

This satellite conference invites papers on all aspects of assessing student learning in statistics. For example, we expect to have papers on writing effective exam questions, on exam implementation strategies, and on alternative assessment methods such as projects, lab assignments, and writing assignments. We also encourage submissions on how to use assessment to improve student learning, and on developing and administering assessments items to conduct research into student learning. Proceedings will be available free at the publication page of IASE.

#### **Conference Committee**

Brian Phillips (Australia) (Joint Chair and Joint Chief Editor) bphillips@swin.edu.au  
Beth Chance (USA) (Joint Chair) bchance@calpoly.edu  
Allan Rossman (USA) arossman@calpoly.edu  
Ginger Rowell (USA) rowell@mtsu.edu  
Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium)  
gilberte.schuyten@UGent.be  
Larry Weldon (Canada)  
(Joint Chief Editor) weldon@sfu.ca

#### **Local Organiser:**

Bruno C. de Sousa (Portugal) bruno@mct.uminho.pt  
For more information visit the website at:  
<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/conferences.php?show=iasestat07>.

### **JOINT ICMI/IASE STUDY; STATISTICS EDUCATION IN SCHOOL MATHEMATICS: CHALLENGES FOR TEACHING AND TEACHER EDUCATION**

#### *Reported by Carmen Batanero*

The aim of this study is to reflect on the detail of statistics teaching at the school level: more particularly, to consider the training of mathematics teachers to face the challenge of teaching statistics. It is intended to develop some recommendations and produce materials that can be used in the training of both prospective teachers at the university level, and for in-service teachers who had never had adequate preparation for teaching school statistics.

The Study Conference will be merged with the IASE Round Table Conference in 2008, and will be held at the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico in July, 2008.  
(<http://www.mty.itesm.mx>)

Open Informative Meeting at ICOTS (Thursday 6th, 12:30–14:00): The aim of this session is to present the state of planning for the Joint ICMI/IASE Study and receive suggestions from IASE members to better focus the Discussion Document. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

#### **International Programme Committee:**

Carmen Batanero (Spain)  
Bernard Hodgson (Canada; ICMI representative)  
Allan Rossman (USA IASE representative)  
Armando Albert (México ITSM representative)  
Dani Ben-Zvi (Israel)  
Gail Burrill (USA)  
Doreen Connor (UK)  
Joachim Engel (Germany)  
Joan Garfield (USA)  
Jun Li (China)  
Maria Gabriella Ottaviani (Italy)

Maxine Pfannkuch (New Zealand)  
Mokaeane Victor Polaki (Lesotho)  
Chris Reading (Australia)

**Local Organising Committee:**

Blanca Ruiz (Chair),  
Tomás Sánchez,  
Armando Albert

More information is available from Carmen Batanero,  
batanero@ugr.es or from [http://www.ugr.es/~icmi/iase\\_study/](http://www.ugr.es/~icmi/iase_study/)

**PROCEEDINGS OF SRTL-4:  
REASONING ABOUT DISTRIBUTIONS**

*Report by Joan Garfield*

We are pleased to announce the publication of Reasoning about Distributions: A Collection of Current Research Studies, a unique CD that contains research papers on reasoning about distributions presented at the Fourth International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy (SRTL4) held in July 2005 at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

You can order SRTL-4 Proceedings from  
Dr Katie Makar (SRTL4)  
School of Education, SBS Bldg 24  
University of Queensland QLD 4072 AUSTRALIA  
E-mail: [k.makar@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.makar@uq.edu.au)

**SRTL-5  
The Fifth International Research Forum on  
Statistical Reasoning, Thinking, and Literacy  
The University of Warwick, Coventry, UK,  
August 11–17, 2007**

Reasoning about Statistical Inference:  
Innovative Ways of Connecting Chance and Data.

*Report by Dani Ben-Zvi*

The Forum's focus will be on informal ideas of inference rather than on formal methods of estimation and tests of significance. This topic is emerging from the presentations and discussions at SRTL-3 and 4 and is a topic of current interest to many researchers as well as teachers of statistics. As new courses and curricula are developed, a greater role for informal types of statistical inference is anticipated, introduced early, revisited often, and developed through use of simulation and technological tools. We encourage research papers that address reasoning about statistical inference at

all levels of education including the professional development of elementary and secondary teachers.

A list of topics is available at SRTL-5 website or in the previous issue of IASE Matters.

**The local SRTL-5 organizers:**

Janet Ainley, University of Warwick,  
[janet.ainley@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:janet.ainley@warwick.ac.uk)  
Dave Pratt, University of Warwick,  
[dave.pratt@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:dave.pratt@warwick.ac.uk)

**SRTL-5 Website:** <http://srtl.stat.auckland.ac.nz/>

**INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
LITERACY PROJECT (ISLP)**

*Reported by Carol Joyce Blumberg*

For those unfamiliar with the ISLP, its mission is to provide those interested in statistical literacy with information and resources, and to aid them in the development of statistical literacy around the world. Presently, the major focus has been on webpages that list these resources in useful groupings. For each resource, a few sentences are given that describe that item, and complete access or ordering information is given. The emphasis is on items available for free on the Internet.

To explore ISLP web pages and the other pages of the website, go to  
<http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/islplist.htm>.

**GUY LECTURER**

Susan Starkings has been appointed Guy Lecturer for 2006. A Guy Lecturer is appointed by the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) each year and prepares the 'RSS Schools Lecture'. This lecture is aimed at sixth form students and draws out the importance and widespread applicability of statistics in a serious but accessible and entertaining way. The official delivery of this lecture takes place once in the year, and it is available to other schools that request it for repeat deliveries.

Susan's lecture for 2006 is entitled "Can you see the wood for the trees? Survey, sampling, estimation and approximation". It looks at the decision-making process on how to assign a value to trees, using surveys, sampling, estimation and approximation. A brief summary can be found on the RSS website page: <http://www.rss.org.uk/main.asp?page=2179>.