
International Association for Statistical Education



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

ICOTS-7: Working Cooperatively in Statistics Education

Information about Registration, Accommodation, and
Tours, Salvador (Bahia), Brazil, July 2-7, 2006



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

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).

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

Information about ICOTS-7 is on the website:

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

and, in particular under the "Registration" tab, there is information about registration, accommodation and tours.

Although the ICOTS-7 information is on the website, we draw your attention to the following:

There are reduced fees for IASE/ISI members, and participants from Latin American or Developing Countries.

There is a programme for accompanying persons – some details are given on the web page. Accompanying persons may choose what they wish to attend and pay for the items they choose while in Salvador. There are some details on the web page about the pre-arranged tours.

Contributed by the Editors

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

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.

We encourage submission of research papers that address questions such as the following:

1. What are the simplest forms of statistical inference that students can understand?
2. How does reasoning about statistical inference develop from the simplest forms (informal) to the more complex ones (formal)?
3. How can instructional tasks and technological tools be used to promote the understanding of statistical inference?
4. What are sequences of activities that can help student develop a conceptual understanding of statistical inference?
5. What types of misconceptions are found in students' reasoning about statistical inference?
6. What types of foundational knowledge and reasoning are needed for students to understand and reason about statistical inference?
7. How do students develop an understanding of the language used in describing statistical inference (e.g., significance, confidence)?

8. How does an understanding of statistical inference connect and effect understanding of other statistical concepts?
9. What are useful items and questions to use to assess understanding of statistical inference?

The Local SRTL-5 Organisers:

Janet Ainley, janet.ainley@warwick.ac.uk

Dave Pratt, dave.pratt@warwick.ac.uk

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

Contributed by Dani Ben-Zvi

IASE Activities at the 56th Session of the ISI

IASE organises several sessions at the 56th Session of the ISI, to be held in Lisbon from 22-29 August 2007:

- Research on Reasoning about Distribution, Joan Garfield
- How modern technologies have changed the curriculum in introductory courses, Lucette Carter
- Preparing Teachers of Statistics, Allan Rossman
- Research on the Use of Simulation in Teaching Statistics and Probability, Rolf Biehler
- Optimising Internet-based Resources for Teaching Statistics, Ginger Holmes Rowell
- Observational Studies, Confounding and Multivariate Thinking, Milo Schield
- Teaching of Official Statistics, Sharleen Forbes
- Teaching of Survey Statistics, Steve Heeringa
- Studying Variability through Sports Phenomena, TBD
- Use of Symbolic Computing Systems in Teaching Statistics, Zaven Karian

IASE Organising 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.

Contributed by Allan J. Rossman

IASE Satellite Conference on Assessing Student Learning in Statistics

(Prior to ISI 56 Lisboa 2007, Guimaraes, Portugal)

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

Theme

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 assessment items to conduct

research into student learning. Proceedings will be available free at the publication page of IASE.

Contributed by Brian Phillips

Joint ICMI/IASE Study Statistics Education in School Mathematics: Challenges for Teaching and Teacher Education

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 (<http://www.mty.itesm.mx>), in July 2008.

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)
- Mokaeanne 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.

Contributed by Carmen Batanero

Proceedings of SRTL-4 Reasoning About Distributions: A Collection of Current Research Studies

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. Many of these papers (all written in English) contain video segments (in English or with English subtitles) of student or teacher interviews, or learning interactions. The video segments and research studies provide a rich resource for researchers and teachers. Note: revised versions of some of these papers will appear in a special issue of the IASE

Statistics Education Research Journal in November 2006. However, they will not contain video links and not all papers in the CD will be in this issue.

Due to ethical agreements with participants in the research studies, the video segments included on the CD are to be used only for research purposes. For any other purpose (e.g., professional development), permission must be obtained from individual authors. The CDs are available for a minimal cost that covers materials and postage. They may be purchased from Dr. Katie Makar at the University of Queensland (Australia). The total cost including shipping in Australia and New Zealand is A\$20 and the total cost for shipping overseas is A\$25 or US\$20. Please make checks (in Australian or US dollars) payable to Katie Makar (SRTL4). Bank transfers can be arranged.

Mail checks to:

Dr. Katie Makar (SRTL4), School of Education, SBS Bldg 24, University of Queensland QLD 4072, Australia

Contributed by Joan Garfield

Information on International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP)

In order to improve the usefulness of the ISLP web pages, we are conducting a survey of users and potential users of these web pages. If you have not yet filled out this (anonymous) survey, please go to

<http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/survey.htm>.

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 web pages 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.

As you may be aware, the web pages of the International Statistical Literacy Project have been on the Internet for three years now. So, several of the page coordinators have decided to step down. Hence, we are seeking new page coordinators or co-coordinators for several of the pages. In particular, coordinators or co-coordinators are needed for the General Resources, Primary Level, Secondary Level, Adult Learner, Teacher Training, and Journalists and other Mass Media web pages. To explore these pages and the other pages of the website, go to

<http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/islplist.htm>.

We would like to expand the material on the web page (<http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/islpart.htm>) that has publicly available newspaper and Internet articles and reports (both good and bad) that can be used when teaching statistics. If you have any good articles or reports (especially from countries other than the USA), please submit the articles, along with an approximately 3- to 5-sentence paragraph of how they can be used when training teachers, to Eunice Goldberg at egoldberg@nl.edu. Please make sure to include a

complete reference to where the article is located and, if possible, information on who needs to be contacted to get permission to reproduce the article on our website.

Finally, the website mostly contains resources in English. If you know of any applicable resources in a language other than English, please send me (at cblumberg@winona.edu; Fax: +1-507-4575376) a description of the item in the language of publication. Also, include an English translation of the description. Descriptions of items in English are also welcome and can be sent either to me or to the appropriate page coordinator

(<http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/islpcoord.htm>).

Please feel free to contact me directly, or by using the (<http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/survey.htm>) survey form, with any suggestions that you have for the ISLP and its web pages.

Contributed by Carol Joyce Blumberg

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 yet 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 web page <http://www.rss.org.uk/main.asp?page=2179>.

Contributed by the Editors

IASE Website

Visit the IASE website: <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase!> It is a valuable resource of statistics education information. In the past few months, the website has become richer in the extensive list of links and publications. The "Links" section provides links categorised in several groups: Research, Learning, Assessment, Curriculum Guidelines, Bibliographies, Discussion lists, Indexes and Abstracting Services, Major Journals, Other Journals, Newsletters, Publishers, Datasets, Java Applets, Software, Statistical Calculators, Organizations, International Agencies and Non-Profit Organizations. Each group provides links to interesting and useful pages for statistics educators and researchers. The other interesting link is the "Publications" section, which has a list of IASE past publications and links to many other sites. Of special interest is the Dissertations in the Stats Ed section. The IASE is beginning to build what we intend to become a comprehensive archive of doctoral dissertations in Statistics Education. We have to thank Chris Wild for the careful updating and maintenance of the IASE web pages.

Contributed by the Editors