
International Association for Statistics Education



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CATALST Group Invites Visitors and Sabbatical Scholars

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the CATALST group in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota. CATALST stands for Change Agents in Teaching and Learning Statistics.

We are conducting statistics education research studies, developing and evaluating new curriculum, hosting seminars

and outside speakers, and more. We have several funded projects and new initiatives coming up.

Visiting scholars are welcome to come and share their work with us and form new collaborations. If you have a sabbatical coming up and would like to spend some time with us, please let us know. We also have possible teaching opportunities to supplement sabbatical support.

Please check out our website at:

Life Changers Award 2008

Dr. Sue Starkings, originally from a tough Southwark estate, has been recognised for her work with people in London boroughs with some of the lowest university participation rates in the country to consider giving higher education a shot. A London South Bank University lecturer, Sue developed a summer Fast Track programme to cater for students from non-traditional backgrounds who would previously not have considered university as a viable option. She secured funding for, and then developed, the ambitious programme under the widening participation umbrella.

The original six-week summer programme she set up in 1998 was driven by Starkings' own experiences of education. Coming from a working class background on an estate in Southwark, with no immediate role models to encourage her to enter education, she left school at 15. However, she returned to education at 24 as a mature student and a working mother of two.

Through sheer determination, she has forged a successful career in higher education and was recently nominated for a prestigious National Teaching Fellow; one of only 50 people in the country to be recognised for the award.

The Fast Track programme has become a model for encouraging students from a wide range of backgrounds to consider university and has given them the opportunity to enhance their skills as independent learners. Over 1,500 students have already individually benefited from Dr. Starkings' course.

Dr. Sue Starkings said: "It is a considerable honour to have been nominated for this award, especially as it was my colleagues who put me forward. We have achieved so much over the years on the course and I am continually delighted each year by the difference that we all make to so many people's lives".

For more information, go to the website

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3272>.

Contributed by the Editors

OZCOTS 2008

On 3rd and 4th July, OZCOTS 2008 was held in Melbourne as an overlapping satellite to the Australian Statistical Conference (ASC) whose 2008 theme was Celebrating Diversity. OZCOTS 2008 was the 6th Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics, and combined the interests of the Statistics Education Section of the Statistical Society of Australia Inc (SSAI) with activities of Helen MacGillivray's Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Senior Fellowship. The ALTC (initially named the Carrick Institute of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education) was established in late 2004 as an Australian Government initiative. The Senior Fellowship Scheme supports leading higher education teachers to undertake a full time program of highly strategic activities over one year. Only one to three senior fellowships are awarded per year over all disciplines and Helen was one of the inaugural fellows. Such recognition of the importance of teaching statistics in higher education is of significant value to the statistical and statistical education communities, and the holding of OZCOTS 2008 in association with the ASC as part of the Senior Fellowship program aimed to highlight this.

The OZCOTS 2008 program consisted of six invited papers, eighteen contributed papers, and two forums. The program, abstracts and preliminary proceedings are available at <http://silmaril.math.sci.qut.edu.au/ozcots2008/>. A link is also

available to photos taken at OZCOTS by that well-known, keen photographer of statistics education events, Brian Phillips. The six invited speakers at OZCOTS are members of the Senior Fellowship's international collaborative team, and their participation in OZCOTS 2008 was fully funded by the Fellowship. OZCOTS was also supported by the Australian Statistical Conference and the Victorian Branch of the SSAI.

OZCOTS was held at the same venue as ASC and delegates could register just for OZCOTS or could "add" registration for the second day to their ASC registration. The arrangement of the first day of OZCOTS being available to ASC delegates at no extra charge was highly successful with standing room only available on the first day with many ASC delegates attending part or the entire OZCOTS program. A number of ASC delegates who had not pre-registered for the second day of OZCOTS were so interested by the first day that they stayed on for the second.

The invited papers were:

"Applied Statistics as a growth engine for statistics programs" by Chris Wild;

"Technological Literacy and Statistics Education: A call for thought and research" by Rob Gould;

"On becoming a statistician" by Peter Petocz;

"Statistical cartoons: The role of graphics in understanding statistics" by Adrian Bowman;

"Experience first, logic later" by Larry Weldon;

"What lies beneath: Inventing new wheels out of old" by Michael Martin.

All the invited and contributed papers gave rise to lively discussions, as did the two forums with panels of the invited speakers leading the discussions. A report on the two forums will be posted on the OZCOTS website.

A statistical education presence during the ASC was also provided by Helen MacGillivray's invited paper on "Building foundations for statistician education" on the day before OZCOTS. This paper was well attended and led to considerable post-paper discussion and interest.

Delegates enjoyed a convivial and lively conference dinner overlooking the river and Melbourne's lights, with entertainment provided by local balladeer extraordinary, Peter Martin. Calls for an encore were satisfied by a repeat performance at the close of the Conference after the forum on "Where to from here?" As a measure of the success of OZCOTS 2008 and the enjoyment expressed by delegates, we are already investigating holding an OZCOTS in association with the next ASC in Perth, 6th-10th December 2010.

Website: <http://silmaril.math.sci.qut.edu.au/ozcots2008/>

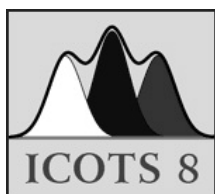
Contributed by Helen MacGillivray

A report from the Satellite Meeting on Teaching/Learning Statistics

A one-day meeting on teaching/learning statistics took place on 24th June 2008 at the Università della Calabria (Italy) as a Satellite of the XLIV Scientific Meeting of the Italian Statistical Society (SIS). The audience was formed by about 60 persons, both school teachers and students of the School for pre-service teachers training in mathematics of Calabria. The Satellite title was: "Statistics in nowadays school curricula ...for the citizens of the future". This was also the title of the Round table held at the beginning of the meeting. The Round table speakers put in evidence the importance of the basic notions of statistics and demography for present and future citizens (D. Cocchi, SIS President; A. Zuliani, past ISTAT President, G. de Bartolo Univ. della Calabria), the research carried on by the Italian group on Statistics education research (A.M. Milito, Univ. of Palermo), the ongoing activities of the university

statisticians within the School for pre-service teachers training in mathematics, particularly in northern Italy. (S. Rigatti Luchini, Univ. of Padua) and the importance of statistics information for managing both a single school and the school system at large (G. Benincasa, Regional School Office of Calabria). Evidence was also given to the engagement of the ISTAT Regional Office of Calabria for the promotion of statistical literacy in the region through a series of initiatives some of which involving schools and the others the "Università della Calabria. The Secretary of the UMI - Italian Mathematical Union (G. Anichini) - presented the nucleus "Data and prevision" of the project "Mathematics for citizens", a project carried on in collaboration among UMI and SIS. A statistics school counsellor (G. Laganà) gave information about her experiences in statistics education in some school of the region, enlightening both interdisciplinary and communicative aspects of the discipline. The assessment in mathematics and in statistics was the object of two presentations, one concerning the activities of the Italian assessment institute (Invalsi) (M. P. Perelli, Invalsi Group on assessment items) and the other concerning the Italian results in the Pisa project (R. Ricci, (National Agency for School Development - ANSAS). The final part of the meeting enlightened a training project of in-service mathematics secondary school teachers carried out by the Italian Ministry of Education together with the Regional Education Offices, the ANSAS and the two scientific associations: UMI and SIS. The project named *m@t.abel* is a blended – online and in presence – training activity based on a number of didactical units – 8 of which also pertain to the "data and previsions" nucleus – uploaded on the ANSAS platform. According to the project protocol, this is a peer-to-peer training activity, where each senior teacher (tutor) instructs about 15 junior teachers. The activity of the *m@t.abel* project in Calabria was presented by two tutors (A. Canonico, secondary school, low level and S. Cutrona, secondary school, high level). Their presentation was enlivened by some 12-13 year old students, who showed how they used the basic notion of statistics to do a survey on "bullism" in their school. They were able to follow the entire cycle of statistical research and reasoning from the definition of the problem to be investigated, the building up of the questionnaire, the collection and analyses of data to the reply to the posed problem. The Satellite was organised by the Local Organising Committee of the XLIV Scientific Meeting of the ISI, the Scientific Committee was formed by M. Gabriella Ottaviani, S. Rigatti Luchini, M. Marozzi. The Satellite was supported by the Regional School Office of Calabria.

Contributed by Maria Gabriella Ottaviani



ICOTS 8

Data and Context in Statistics Education:
Towards an Evidence-Based Society
Ljubljana, Slovenia, 11-16 July 2010

The 2010 International Conference on Teaching Statistics will be held in the city of Ljubljana, Slovenia, 11-16 July. It is being organised by the IASE and the Slovenian Statistical Association. The venue will be the Ljubljana Cultural and Congress Centre.

Statistics educators, statisticians, teachers and educators at large are invited to contribute to the scientific programme. Types of contribution include invited papers, contributed papers and posters. No person may author more than one Invited Paper at the conference, although the same person

can be co-author of more than one paper, provided each paper is presented by a different person.

Voluntary refereeing procedures will be implemented for ICOTS 8. Details of how to prepare manuscripts, the refereeing process and final submission arrangements will be announced later.

Plenary Speakers

- Anuska Ferligoj, University of Ljubljana
- Gerd Gigerenzer, Max Planck Institute for Human Development
- Cliff Konold, University of Massachusetts
- Hans Rosling, Karolinska Institutet
- Jessica Utts, University of California

Invited Papers

Invited Paper Sessions are organized within 10 Conference Topics as follows.

TOPICS AND TOPIC CONVENORS

TOPIC 1. DATA AND CONTEXT IN STATISTICS EDUCATION: TOWARDS AN EVIDENCE-BASED SOCIETY

- Brian Phillips (Australia)
bphillips@swin.edu.au
- Irena Ograjensek (Slovenia)
irena.ograjensek@ef.uni-lj.si

TOPIC 2. STATISTICS EDUCATION AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL

- Mike Shaughnessy (USA)
mikesh@pdx.edu
- Doreen Connor (UK)
doreen.connor@ntu.ac.uk

TOPIC 3. LEARNING TO TEACH STATISTICS

- Katie Makar (Australia)
k.makar@uq.edu
- Joachim Engel (Germany)
engel@math.uni-hannover.de

TOPIC 4. STATISTICS EDUCATION AT THE POST SECONDARY LEVEL

- Elisabeth Svensson (Sweden)
elisabeth.svensson@esi.oru.se
- Larry Weldon (Canada)
weldon@sfu.ca

TOPIC 5. ASSESSMENT

- Beth Chance (USA)
bchance@calpoly.edu
- Iddo Gal (Israel)
iddo@research.haifa.ac.il

TOPIC 6. STATISTICS EDUCATION, TRAINING AND THE WORKPLACE

- Gabriella Belli (USA)
gbelli@vt.edu
- Peter Petocz (Australia)
peter.petocz@mq.edu.au

TOPIC 7. STATISTICS EDUCATION AND THE WIDER SOCIETY

- Richard Gadsden (UK)
R.J.Gadsden@lboro.ac.uk

TOPIC 8. RESEARCH IN STATISTICS EDUCATION

- Arthur Bakker (The Netherlands)
a.bakker@fi.uu.nl

- Tim Burgess (New Zealand)
t.a.burgess@massey.ac.nz

TOPIC 9. TECHNOLOGY IN STATISTICS EDUCATION

- Deborah Nolan (USA)
nolan@stat.berkeley.edu
- Paul Darius (Belgium)
paul.darius@biw.kuleuven.be

TOPIC 10. AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON STATISTICS EDUCATION

- Delia North (South Africa)
northd@ukzn.ac.za
- Enriqueta Reston (The Phillipines)
edreston@yahoo.com

TOPIC 11. CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

- Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium)
Gilberte.Schuyten@UGent.be
- James Nicholson (UK)
j.r.nicholson@durham.ac.uk

TOPIC 12. POSTERS

- Mojca Bavdaz (Slovenia)
mojca.bavdaz@ef.uni-lj.si
- Alesa Lotric Dolinar
alesa.lotric.dolinar@ef.uni-lj.si

Session themes within each Topic are currently being discussed. The themes and Session organizers with e-mail contact are available on the ICOTS 8 website <http://icots8.org/>, under "Scientific Programme". Those interested in submitting an invited paper should contact the appropriate Session Organiser before 1st December 2008.

Contributed Papers

Contributed paper sessions will be arranged in a variety of areas. Those interested in submitting a contributed paper should contact Gilberte Schuyten (*Gilberte.Schuyten@UGent.be*), John McKenzie (*mckenzie@babson.edu*) or Flavia Jolliffe (*F.Jolliffe@kent.ac.uk*) before 1st September 2009.

Posters: Those interested in submitting a poster should contact Mojca Bavdaz (*mojca.bavdaz@ef.uni-lj.si*) or Alesa Lotric Dolinar (*alesa.lotric.dolinar@ef.uni-lj.si*) before 15th January 2010.

General Issues

It is important to know that all participants have to register for the Conference. Details about the registration procedure will be given later.

If requested, the IASE is normally happy to give permission for authors to submit their papers (or a more comprehensive version) to other journals. If this occurs the author must seek approval of the Editors of the ICOTS 8 Proceedings and the IASE President. The paper must have an acknowledgement saying "This article was written for, and published in, the ICOTS 8 Proceedings and is reprinted (in revised form, if relevant) here with the permission of the IASE".

More information, including the first notice is available from the ICOTS 8 website at <http://icots8.org/>, which will continue to be updated over the next three years, or from the ICOTS IPC Chair John Harraway, (*jharraway@maths.otago.ac.nz*), the

Programme Chair, Roxy Peck (*rpeck@calpoly.edu*) and the Scientific Secretary, Helen MacGillivray (*h.macgillivray@qut.edu.au*).

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Follow the news published on the ICOTS 8 web page:
<http://ICOTS8.org>.

Contributed by John Harraway

Teaching statistics session at Applied Statistics 2008

Statistical Society of Slovenia organizes annual international conferences named Applied Statistics. The Conferences attract researchers from diverse fields of statistical application and research ranging from social science methodology, bio statistics, bioinformatics, data mining, economics and many others. Each year, we have at least one session of Teaching statistics papers. The Applied Statistics 2008 Conference, which was organized from 21-24 September at the small village of Ribno near Lake Bled, attracted more than 110 participants from 27 countries. On the last day of the Conference, an excellent session of four contributions from the teaching statistics field were presented:

- Improvements in Teaching Statistics in Slovenian Secondary Schools (Drobnic Vidic A. and Pustovrh S., Slovenia) reported about the project in which statistics and other topics will be combined to improve the teaching of statistics.
- How to Research the Effectiveness of Constructivist Statistics Education? An approach Based on Reproducible Computing (Wessa P., Belgium) presented a newly developed computing platform that enables the students to interact, experiment and collaborate in a e-learning environment.
- Generating Tests Using R and LaTeX (Lusa L., Slovenia) presented a simple, yet effective, way for production of individualized test.
- Statistics101: an Extended Implementation of the Resampling Stats language (Vidmar G., Slovenia) showed the potential of resampling for teaching.

The session was well attended, gathering more than 25 highly interested participants. The abstracts and presenters' addresses are available at <http://conferences.nib.si/AS2008>.

Contributed by Andrej Blejec