Competing and Caring: Urban Research for European Urban Policy – Amsterdam, 14-17 September 2005

We urge all of you to take the time to visit the website for the “Competing and Caring: Urban Research for European Urban Policy” Conference held in September 2005 and sponsored by SCORUS, KCGS International, and O+S (the Department of Research and Statistics) of the Municipality of Amsterdam.

http://www.kcgs-i.nl/du/ec/bijeenkomsten/speeches/index.html

The Conference site has posted PowerPoint presentations and papers from the Conference, as well as a Conference Journal. The following quotes from the Conference Journal indicate both the quality and scope of this Conference, as well as highlighting the concerns of SCORUS as expressed over the past 50 years of its existence.

“At the national level, the roles of cities are more and explicitly recognized. At the same time, the cities themselves have increasingly gone in search of cooperation. The most important aspect is the exchange of knowledge between cities. Cities can inspire each other. This means that the wheel does not need to be invented over and over again. By learning from each other, we build on successes, and the quality and effectiveness of urban policy is visibly increasing.”

“The point of creating encounters was a recurring issue: Bringing people into contact with each other within the community. Supporting creativity and engagement with everybody in the community were the final points related to governance. A second central theme was leadership, important to create initiatives from the public and the private sector, and who can work with young and older people in education. People are needed who can make new combinations in the cities. And embedded leadership is required so that there is a structure that the community can fall back on when the leader is gone. A long-term perspective and planning is welcomed by researchers who are often asked for short-term results. Without urgency from outside for change, there won’t be any change in policy.”

For general information on SCORUS or to join in an open dialogue among SCORUS members, please visit: http://www.scorusnet.com.

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. Toloi 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.

Almost all the 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. Please note the following recent message from the Organisers:

"In view of the initial problems with payment by VISA, it has been decided to delay the Early Registration date to 28/02/2006 from 31/01/2006. If you experience problems with registration, contact the registration help-line icots7@ime.usp.br. If you have problems with accommodation arrangements or tour details, contact Mrs. Rosangela Magalhaes at rosiesuzano@eventusturismo.com.br. Planning is going well. Refereeing is almost complete, and about 350 papers have been submitted so far."

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 program 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.

Proceedings of Round Table on Curricular Development now available

The Proceedings of the 2004 IASE Round Table on "Curricular Development in Statistics Education" held in Lund, Sweden, in 2004 are now available from the IASE site http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/ (see the left-hand panel of the Publications page).

The Editors of this 300-page proceedings volume were Gail Burrill (Michigan State University, USA) and Mike Camden (Statistics New Zealand, NZ). The Technical Editor was Glenda Breaux (Michigan State University).

From 28 June to 3 July 2004, the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) held a Round Table on Curricular Development in Statistics Education in Lund, Sweden. This Round Table provided a forum for 26 participants from nine countries to consider aspects of the statistics curriculum from primary school to the tertiary level and across courses in statistics, mathematics, teacher preparation, and stochastic processes. The backdrop for the papers and discussion was:

- Research - What do we know and what do we need to know?
- Policy - Who is responsible for developing and putting in place a curriculum?
- Practice - What is important to teach, when should it be taught and how?

The papers were clustered into five sections:

1. Curriculum Perspectives and Statistics Education
2. Curricular Approaches to Teaching Statistics
3. Content Issues Related to Teaching and Learning Statistics
4. Statistics Education Research and Implications for Teaching
5. Policy Decisions and Implications for Curriculum Implementation.

Also included are reports arising from the discussions of Working Groups. The discussion ranged from the development of a statistics curriculum to common issues and promising solutions to questions of how to best construct learning trajectories that will enable all students to make sense of data and to apply statistical reasoning when making decisions based on data. The conversation was framed by questions, such as: How do we help the world understand that statistics education is vital in a world where social policy, technology, environment, allocation of resources depend strongly on careful design of investigations and very fine analysis of data? What topics are important to teach? When and how should the important topics be taught? How do we carefully structure the curriculum? What do we know about when and how particular concepts should be taught? How can we make statistics education more inviting? What do we know about teaching and learning statistics? What do we still need to know? How does research on statistical education link to practice? Who is responsible for developing and implementing the curriculum?


Contributed by Chris Wild

Statistical Grammar?

Many of our institutions, including the IASE, speak of "statistical education". The meaning of the phrase is presumably education in the discipline of statistics, and yet the adjective "statistical" suggests that it is the mode of education that is being described. For example, "statistical education" in art might include a look at the frequency of production of paintings by the great masters by decade. Statistical education in music might be an analysis of the melodies associated with the most popular songs. Some have suggested that "statistics education" might better describe the interest of the IASE. If you wish to comment on this, the Editors would be glad to receive your comments via e-mail.

International Association for Statistical Computing

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I. IASC Committees

The IASC Council has approved a revision of the IASC Committees. The new Committees and their respective Chairpersons are as follows:

- IASC Programme Committee for ISI 2009 (Durban) - Yutaka Tanaka
- Committee for Liaison with Machine Learning and KDD Organizations - Djamel Zighed
- IASC Publications Committee - Stan Azen, Erricos Kontogiorghes
- IASC Elections and Nominations Committee - Jaromir Antoch
- IASC Membership Committee - Lutz Edler
- IASC Nominations Committee for ISI Membership - Yuichi Mori
- IASC Electronic Affairs and Public Relations Committee - Gianfranco Galmacci