

Session A8

Teacher Training and Retraining

Organiser: John Good (Auckland, New Zealand)

Invited Speakers: Margaret Gallimore (Sheffield, England)
John Kinney (Terre Haute, Indiana, USA)
Richard Madsen (Columbia, Missouri, USA)

*Abstracts and
Short Presentation:* John Dowsey (Melbourne, Australia)
Kay Lipson (Melbourne, Australia)
M B Ulmer (Spartanburg, South Carolina, USA)
and Meckinley Scott (Gadsden, Alabama, USA)

Introduction

The area of teacher training and retraining is one where there is typically a need to address mathematics education in its widest sense and where a special focus on statistical education is more difficult to find. All too often statistics is lost in mathematics courses and teachers in training are grappling with content knowledge themselves without having space to focus on the teaching and learning aspects.

So it was good to have the quality input of the presenters on this theme - to know that there are people who are working in the area of teacher training and retraining with a focus on statistics.

The differences that exist throughout the world are always worth learning about and so it is in this area - differences and common concerns as well. The great difference in running a distance learning course for example that Margaret Gallimore runs, compared to face-to-face work. The inservice work with teachers being trained in the use of quantitative literacy materials that John Kinney and Richard Madsen describe separately (with interesting contrasts), compared to other preservice work with teachers.

My concern for the future is that more work be done in the "learning" area of statistics education and its relevance for teacher training and retraining. Too little is yet understood about how young people grasp statistical concepts and of the best ways of presenting them. Much remains to be done in finding the beliefs and concepts that people typically bring to the study of statistics and which needs to be addressed in the learning process.

Thanks to all presenters for adding to our knowledge and for heightening our awareness and understanding.