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ISLS Newsletter - Fall 2018

by International Society of the Learning Sciences



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Message from the President



I am honored to serve as society president for 2018-19. In my comments here, I'd like to build on the ICLS 2018 conference theme, "making the learning sciences count." In the coming year and beyond, I call on our society to focus on *people*, *places*, and *pathways*.

With regard to *people*: the learning sciences need to be human sciences, or we all lose. We need our work to humanize rather than dehumanize. Who are the people in our research and development groups, at our meetings, and in our journals? And what positionalities, practices, and purposes do they represent? For instance, in our community, we have seen increasing involvement of learners, practicing teachers, and school administrators as active, agentic participants in our research and design efforts. As we expand who is involved, we must continue to critically examine issues like: who is interacting with whom, and whose ideas are being heard, by whom? We should not expect everyone to agree, but we need to engage with each other in true dialogue, and try to know one another. One productive initiative undertaken by the Communications Committee along these lines have been "spotlights" of early career learning sciences researchers on the Society's [Facebook page](#). Check them out if you haven't.

And consider who should be at our meetings and in our journals, from cultural, theoretical, and methodological perspectives.

Which brings me to *places*. In our research and development, we must continue to think about: What are the places we are doing research, and taking action? We have not limited our work to schools, and we must continue to be concerned with learning wherever it happens. Who do we collectively and individually engage with deeply, and where do we do so? I implore all members of the Society to work together in overcoming ideological, methodological, theoretical, and geographical boundaries. It is extremely important that we work to overcome barriers both within and at the edges of our current community.

We can overcome barriers by focusing on *pathways*. In the learning environments we design, many of our community members thoughtfully plan for and examine how well we welcome in and provide guidance as well as opportunities for agency by all participants. In the Society, we have a long tradition of striving to have supportive pathways for the diverse society membership, with wonderful programs like the doctoral consortium, early and mid-career workshops, and NAPLeS. But we can't be complacent. I invite you all to consider people and places who could be part of our big tent, as former president Nikol Rummel referred to our community. I especially invite you if you are new to the society, or early in your career. Who else would be productive dialogue and action partners with us? Please invite them personally to come to our future conferences, and send manuscripts to our journals.

Over the past few years, the board has been pursuing a number of boundary-breaking initiatives. These include our involvement in the [International Alliance to Advance Learning in the Digital Era \(IAALDE\)](#), the co-location of ICLS 2018 with Learning@Scale and AIED, and a regional workshop sponsored by the Society in early 2018 in South Africa. Look for announcements this year of expanded efforts to support further regional and thematic initiatives.

And be a part of expanding the people and places engaged with the learning sciences, by constructing and tending pathways we can take toward transforming our world.

Joe Polman
President, International Society of the Learning Sciences

ISLS Presidential Election



The ISLS Board has elected Heisawn Jeong of Hallym University as the next President-Elect for the society. Her term as president-elect began at the end of ICLS 2018. Joe Polman is the current society president through CSCL 2019, and Bill Sandoval has moved into the role of Past-President. Thanks to Nikol Rummel who has completed her 3-year term as elect, current, and past president.

ICLS 2018 Recap

The *2018 International Conference of the Learning Sciences* in London was a success full of high quality presentations, productive conversations, and ample time to gather with friends and colleagues from around the world. Many thanks to the UCL based team for organizing the conference along with the larger Festival of Learning that included the AIED and L@S conferences.

The Naomi Miyake Best Student Paper Award was given to Kenneth Holstein, Bruce M. McLaren, and Vincent Alevan for their paper titled, "Informing the Design of Teacher Awareness Tools through Causal Alignment Analysis".

The Best Paper Award was given to Michael Madaio, Kun Peng, Amy Ogan, and Justine Cassell for their paper titled, "A Climate of Support: A Process-Oriented Analysis of the Impact of Rapport on Peer Tutoring".



New ISLS Fellows Mitch Nathan and Sadhana Puntambekar, with Inaugural Fellow Cindy Hmelo-Silver

New ISLS Fellows named at the conference include Barry Fishman, Ton de Jong, Mitch Nathan, and Sadhana Puntambekar. Be on the lookout for solicitation of new fellow nominations in the coming months.

CSCL 2019 Update



CSCL 2019, which has the theme of 4E (Embodied, Enactive, Extended, and Embedded) Learning in Collaborative Contexts, will be in Lyon, France. CSCL will take place June 17-21, 2019. The conference chair is Kris Lund, and the international scientific committee is listed at the CSCL 2019 website. Keynote speakers will be announced shortly. The first submission deadline is November 12, 2018.

ICLS 2020 Location Announcement

ICLS 2020 will be hosted in Nashville, Tennessee in the United States. The conference co-chairs will be Ilana Horn and Melissa Gresalfi. The theme will be *Interdisciplinarity of the Learning Sciences*. The conference will emphasize strands related to Learning and Identity; Teaching; Design and Technology; Race, Culture, and Power; and Context and Structure. Stay tuned for more announcements.

Journal of the Learning Sciences

Two papers from the 2017 volume of the journal were named Best Papers during ICLS 2018. These include:

- Allen, C. D., & Eisenhart, M. (2017). Fighting for desired versions of a future self: How young women negotiated STEM-related identities in the discursive landscape of educational opportunity. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 26(3), 407-436.
- Chi, M. T., Kang, S., & Yaghmourian, D. L. (2017). Why students learn more from dialogue-than monologue-videos: Analyses of peer interactions. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 26(1), 10-50.



Micki Chi with her award certificate, along with JLS Co-editor-in-chief, Susan Yoon.

The journal is pleased to continue hosting webinars with authors and commentators on recent papers published in the Journal. Please see a recording of the webinar on "Why Ideology Matters" at [this link](#).

A call for special issues to be published in 2021 has come out. The editorial team expects JLS to have a special issue annually now that the journal is expanding to five published issues each year. Many thanks go out to the reviewers and authors for helping to keep this a leading journal.

International Journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning

In the most recent issue, five papers are presented. Two are about novel forms of collaborative learning interactions using location-based technology, while the third is about teachers' facilitation using a specially designed orchestration tool. The fourth paper is a theoretical discussion about collaborative cognitive load theory. The fifth is introspective about CSCL as a community or multiple communities.

In addition we hope that many participants in the Learning science community will read and take part in the discussion about the paper by Wise and Schwarz in which they raise eight provocations to the community (Wise, A. F., & Schwarz, B. B. (2017). Visions of CSCL: Eight provocations for the future of the field. *International Journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning*, 12(4), 423–467.)

Please also follow ijCSCL on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).

ISLS Communications Options for Members

The ISLS communications committee has been working on making some communications policies more widely known. Any member can share announcements and begin conversations on the [Facebook Group](#). Job listings to appear on the ISLS website can be [submitted at this link](#). Postings are updated each Friday. Requests for announcements to go through the ISLS Listserv should be sent to news@isls.org. The society screens messages for distribution, and cannot guarantee that every request for outgoing email will be sent out to the membership. Requests for message distribution must go through the news@isls.org email address separately from any other posting or submission. More information about communications policies for the society will be posted at isls.org in the coming weeks.

Acknowledgments

The ISLS newsletter is prepared by the Communications Committee. Current members include Victor Lee and Martina Rau (Co-Chairs), Heisawn Jeong, Christopher Williams, Christa Asterhan, Flavio Azevedo, Elizabeth Charles, Irene-Angelica Chounta, Kshitij Sharma, Anouschka van Leeuwen, Chandan Desgupta, Feng Lin, and Jason Yip. To join the committee, contact one of the co-chairs.

Follow us on social media!



