

May 19, 2023

29th Biannual ISLS Newsletter

by International Society of the Learning Sciences



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Introduction to the newsletter

Welcome to our 29th Biannual ISLS Newsletter! This newsletter covers updates from...

ISLS 2023 Conference

Journal of the Learning Sciences

International Journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning

Publications Committee

Equity & Justice Committee

Education Committee

Communications Committee

Yours truly and always listening,
ISLS Communications Committee.

ISLS 2023

Contributed by Liz Charles & Jim Slotta

We're one month away from welcoming you to Montreal and the 3rd Annual Meeting of the ISLS community. Plans are moving quickly now and the two Program Committees, CSCL (Crina Damsa, Marcela Borge, Elizabeth Koh, Marcelo Worsley) and ICLS (Paulo Blikstein, Rita Kizito, Karen Brennan, Jan van Aalst), have worked "magic" to put together an incredible roster of talks, keynotes and special sessions, and fitting them all into the 3.5 day schedule. It's going to be an exciting time with many great presentations and opportunities for meaningful conversations as we get back together in person for the first time in over three years.

Remarkably, the two PCs have organized an overall Program representing over 756 presentations. Here's a breakdown of the numbers by category, across both CSCL and ICLS conferences: 126 long and 286 short papers; 22 symposia; and 286 posters. When it comes to the newer formats, there will be 24 practice-oriented presentations; and 12 tech innovation presentations.

There will be 12 pre-conference workshops: six half-day events on Saturday, June 10th, starting at noon; and six full-day events on Sunday, June 11th, starting at 9:00am. Check out the website for more details.

The LOC is also pleased to announce our four keynote speakers: Henry Giroux, Susan Goldman, Jan Hare, and Nikol Rummel. Susan Goldman and Nikol Rummel are longstanding members of our community and their leadership and scholarly contribution to ISLS have been profound and sustained. Susan's talk, representing the ICLS program of topics, will be an opportunity for us to reflect collectively on the growth of our Society, and entitled, "Research on Learning: Reflections on the Past and Speculations for the Future". Meanwhile, Nikol's talk, representing the CSCL program of topics, asks the question of how we bring together two aspects of learning with digital tools, and entitled, "CSCL and Learning Analytics: The perfect marriage!...?" Henry Giroux is the Paulo Freire Distinguished Scholar in Critical Pedagogy at McMaster University. His talk will explore "How critical pedagogy provides a theoretical and practical project for rethinking both the nature of education, politics, and how these two realms are inseparable." Jan Hare is an Anishinaabe scholar and educator from the M'Chigeeng First Nation, located in northern Ontario. She is currently a professor at the University of British Columbia (UBC). As an Indigenous scholar and educator she has sought to transform education in ways that are more inclusive of Indigenous ways of knowing and languages. We look forward to welcoming these four keynotes and engaging in the ideas they bring to the community. Full information on their talks will be posted on the website in the coming days.

For this year's annual meeting, we have pursued a sustainability certification, which has entailed much more than environmental concerns. Other aspects relating to sustainability involve our use of local services, support for an inclusive environment, plan for reduction of waste both as it applies to food and digital computation, and last but not least, attention to integration of Indigenous perspectives. Working in collaboration with our host, Concordia's Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL), the LOC has successfully completed the certification process and has received a "Platinum" ranking, which is the highest ranking on their scale. This is an impressive score and reflects the significant efforts being made by all contributors who have foregrounded accessibility, equity and environmental issues as key goals for our conferences. In this process, we were particularly happy to include the student perspective with Rim Fathallah, a graduate student at OISE, University of Toronto. Rim's participation was an important part of the process and what she has to say summarizes the significance of this experience for the LOC: For this year's annual meeting, we have pursued a sustainability certification, which has entailed much more than environmental concerns. Other aspects relating to sustainability involve our use of local services, support for an inclusive environment, plan for reduction of waste both as it applies to food and digital computation, and last but not least, attention to integration of Indigenous perspectives. Working in collaboration with our host, Concordia's Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL), the LOC has successfully completed the certification process and has received a "Platinum" ranking, which is the highest ranking on their scale. This is an impressive score and reflects the significant efforts being made by all contributors who have foregrounded accessibility, equity and environmental issues as key goals for our conferences. In this process, we were particularly happy to include the student perspective with Rim Fathallah, a graduate student at OISE, University of Toronto. Rim's participation was an important part of the process and what she has to say summarizes the significance of this experience for the LOC:

Working on the sustainability certification for the conference has been an enriching experience, which extends far beyond the conference. It has taught me the importance of being mindful of my digital consumption (such as deleting obsolete emails) and reducing my carbon footprint. I have also learned about the responsibility of creating spaces for pause and wellness in our busy lives. This certification reflects our team's conscious efforts to improve our environmental and social impact. It also contributes to a more positive experience for participants, as well as local and global communities.

Contributed by A. Susan Jurow & Jianwei Zhang

1. Special Issues

We are thrilled to announce that the special issue edited by Antero Garcia and Nicole Mirra - Other suns: Designing for racial equity through speculative education - is ready to meet the readers. In the editors' words, "...the speculative—by its definitional nature—must find and create a point of rupture in the current moment. Wound the present for the sake of tomorrow." We encourage you to engage with the beautiful, challenging, and hopeful ideas that fill this wonderful issue. [See introduction.](#)

Recently, we accepted a proposal for a 2025 special issue, to be co-edited by Erin Furtak, Hosun Kang, and Christopher Wright. This special issue will focus on culturally sustaining approaches to assessment in and out-of-school settings. Be on the lookout for a call for abstracts.

2. Internationalizing JLS

At JLS we strive to better support researchers from countries currently underrepresented in our journal to publish their research. We are excited to see a series of submissions from these regions getting accepted and published. We would like highlight two articles here; more to come out soon.

Jaeseo Lim & Jooyong Park (2023). Self-study enhances the learning effect of discussions. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, DOI: 10.1080/10508406.2023.2185148

Antonia Larrain, Valeska Grau, María José Barrera, Paulina Freire, Patricia López, Sebastián Verdugo, Marisol Gómez, Francisca Ramírez & Gabriel Sánchez (2022). Productive failure and learning through argumentation: Building a bridge between two research traditions to understand the process of peer learning, *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 31:4-5, 673-688, DOI: 10.1080/10508406.2022.2120398.

ijCSCL

Contributed by Sanna Järvelä & Oskar Lindwall

The International Society of the Learning Sciences (ISLS) is searching for a new Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (ijCSCL) for 2024–2027. Applications will be welcomed either from an individual or from a team of co-Editors-in-Chief. Applications must be submitted by May 15th, 2023. For details, see: <https://www.isls.org/news/call-for-ijcscl-editor-in-chief-2/>

Furthermore, ijCSCL has an upcoming special issue, "Fostering collaborative and embodied learning with extended reality". The guest editors for the issue are Rebecca M. Quintana and Jacob Fortman from the University of Michigan. Be on the lookout for this issue in the upcoming weeks.

Publications Committee

Contributed by Anna Keune & David Stroupe

At the ISLS 2023 annual meeting, the Publications Committee plans to host a session on publishing in the learning sciences. To get a better sense on the publications related practices of the community and the topics we should aim to cover in the session, we would like to ask you to respond to this 2-minute survey: [Experiences with Publishing in the Learning Sciences](#). Stay tuned for the details of the session.

The Publications Committee is one of the ISLS committees focused on all things related to publications and maintains the [ISLS Publications FAQ](#). We are open to receive pointers to continue to improve the FAQ. We also provide copyright permissions to use portions of ISLS conference proceedings in other scholarly publications.

The Publications Committee had an increase in membership and we would like to send a note of appreciation to our members: Gahgene Gweon, Wanli Xing, Molly Shea, Nikki Yankova, Pooja Saxena, Ariel Han, Santiago Ojeda-Ramirez, Jamie Gravell, Valentina Nachtigall, Chris Ostrowdun, Jennifer Kahn, Ung-Sang Lee, Christopher Hoadley, and D. Teo Keifert. We also greatly appreciate the continuous contributions by our advisory members: Aachey Susan Jurow, Jianwei Zhang, Carolyn Rosé, and Sanna Järvelä. If you would like to join the Publications Committee, please reach out to the committee co-chairs David Stroupe and Anna Keune.

Equity & Justice Committee

Contributed by Ravit Duncan & Sherice Clarke

As a professional society we are committed to advancing equity and increasing with respect to all its varied forms (e.g. race, ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, geography, language). We recognize that any efforts towards this aim need to be pervasive, ongoing, and be part and parcel of our activities and processes. The Equity & Justice Committee is tasked with infrastructuring for this aim. Essentially, this means creating the infrastructure to help develop, sustain, and deepen our collective ability to see and address inequities. As a society we can reflect on how we might invite broader participation from our communities; In what ways do our practices discourage participation, however unintentionally; and in what ways can our practices and culture nourish diverse communities' participation and belonging? This problem cuts across all our committees and processes and we need to best address these issues systematically and systemically through our society. We hope to develop a collective equity lens that we consistently apply to our existing routines and new initiatives.

Over the past year, we have been engaged in several activities toward these ends. First, in our efforts to engage our community in critical conversations about equity and justice, we helped curate a series of virtual seminars on critical scholarship on equity and justice through the ISLS Wallace speaker series. We hope this series will developed into sustained discussions about how the tools of our field might help to address some of these critical issues. Second, we are working on how we might develop infrastructures that can broaden participation in our annual meeting beyond scholars in North America and Europe. Expanding our community, means expanding and enriching our scholarship. The ISLS standing committees are being asked to include a new section in their annual reports that represents each committee's reflections on ongoing activities and how these as well as future activities might address the ISLS commitment to increasing equity and diversity. This new section is an initial (hopefully generative and ongoing) opportunity to think about the ways in which our existing structures and procedures benefit some members (and member groups), disadvantage or invisibilize others, and either disrupt or reproduce inequities. Since each committee has a representative to the Equity & Justice committee we hope that these liaison members can help the committee engage with this important task. We anticipate that this effort will yield productive discussions that can help us reflect on our current practices and how they can be changed to slowly, but surely, make our society a more equitable and just space.

Education Committee

Contributed by Crina Damsa & Julia Eberle

In addition to supporting coordination of the Doctoral Consortium, Early Career, and Mid-Career Workshops for ISLS 2023, the Education Committee began the “Learning Sciences C.H.A.T.S – Community Hackathons to Advance Thinking and Solutions”, an initiative facilitated by Sarah Bichler, Danielle Murphy, Thomas Underwood, and Na’ama Av-Shalom. Learning Sciences C.H.A.T.S is designed to strengthen community by advancing thinking and solutions and engaging members across all participatory levels in the Learning Sciences community to integrate each member’s knowledge and ideas in a joint effort to tackle (currently) relevant questions, problems of practice, and dilemmas. More information can be found at this [link](#), or use learningsciences.c.h.a.t.s@gmail.com to request more information, share comments, or ask questions.

Communications Committee

Contributed by Irene-Angelica Chounta, Ravit Duncan, & Martina Rau

What does the Communications Committee do?

We often get questions about what communications we share through our various channels. To increase the transparency of our procedures, the ISLS Communications Committee provides the following guidelines, also available on our website.

1. Emails to ISLS members

Generally, we are happy to send out emails with announcements that are of benefit to ISLS members including information about events, related conferences, award opportunities (e.g., calls for nominations). If you would like us to send an email on your behalf, send an email to the Communications Committee chairs (see <https://www.isls.org/members/committees/>) with the following information:

- Subject line
- Fully body text, including desired formatting and links (text needs to be copyable, please *don't* send pdfs)

Please be aware of the following:

- We cannot send attachments (though we can embed photos and links)
- We do not send out announcements of publications; please contact the publications committee about this
- We do not send out job postings; see below

2. Posting job announcements

If you have a job you’d like to advertise via ISLS, please submit it via this form <https://www.isls.org/submit-job-post/> (we will not be sending them out via email)

3. Posting on social media

If you have news you’d like to share via the ISLS social media channels, please send us an email (see <https://www.isls.org/members/committees/>).

4. Behind-the-scenes work

The Communications Committee is charged with maintaining and updating some parts of the ISLS website such as the ISLS Fellows page. (Note that website functionality and maintenance is the purview of the Technology Committee.) We also collect and develop content for the bi-annual ISLS newsletter (and we greatly appreciate a timely response when we request information for these publications) We are also proud to highlight the accomplishments of members such as our ECW and DC participants via social media posts.

There are also a few things we don’t do:

- We don't add or remove people from the ISLS mailing list. When someone becomes a member or renews their membership they are automatically added to the ISLS mailing list, If for some reason you are not receiving communications from ISLS please send an email to the membership coordinator at islsmembership@gmail.com.
- We don't handle communications of the ISLS annual meeting. Those are handled by the local organizing team across channels.
- We don't handle technical issues related to the ISLS website. Those fall under the responsibility of the Technology Committee (see <https://www.isls.org/members/committees/>).