

December 06, 2023

# 30th Biannual ISLS Newsletter

by International Society of the Learning Sciences

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## 30th Biannual Newsletter

### Introduction to the newsletter

Welcome to our 30th Biannual ISLS Newsletter! This newsletter covers updates from...

### President's Address

**ISLS 2024 Conference**

**Journal of the Learning Sciences**

**Equity & Justice Committee**

**Membership Committee**

**Publications Committee**

**International Learning Sciences Students Association (ILSSA) Committee**

Yours truly and always listening,  
ISLS Communications Committee.

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## President's Address

*Contributed by Ravit Duncan*



In my contribution to the newsletter, I want to share transitions in the Board, a few new information items, and reiterate some of the remarks I made in the closing session of ISLS2023.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the dedicated service of our outgoing Board members Oskar Lindwall, Ulrich Hoppe, and Aachey Susan Jurow, and our outgoing Executive Officer Susan Goldman. I similarly extend my warm welcome to our new Board members Leema Berland, Sherice Clarke, Crina Damşa, and Bram De Wever, and to our new Executive Officer Stephanie Teasley. I am also honored to work beside the Past President Joshua Danish and President Elect Jasmine Ma. Lastly, I wish to thank all the wonderful members who have stepped up to take a leadership role on our various committees, you can read contributions from them in this newsletter.

A few items of information. First, ISLS joined the [Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM](#) which we hope will help us in our effort to create a safe and productive scholarly space in our society's events, and in particular the annual meetings. Second, we welcome Michael Baker and Peter Reimann as the new Editors-in-Chief of the International Journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (ijCSCL) for 2024-2028, and we will be launching a search for the next Editors-in-Chief of the Journal of the Learning Sciences shortly. Third, Jasmine Ma (President Elect) honorably represented ISLS at a recent UNESCO sponsored Expert Meeting on Learning Sciences. We hope to continue collaborating with this group on their global initiatives to support high quality and equitable education globally. Fourth, the Board and Annual Meeting Committee have been supporting

the ongoing diligent efforts of the [ISLS2024](#) Local Organizing Committee chairs, Christopher Hoadley and X. Christine Wang, in planning an exciting, inspiring, and healing meeting in Buffalo New York this June. To support the labor-intensive demands of organizing our growing meetings we have hired Nicole Hoover who has extensive experience and expertise in such endeavors. I am looking forward to learning from our incredible community during this meeting.

Lastly, I want to share some of the key points I made during the closing session of ISLS2023. I hope they resonate with you and that we can act on these together to lift our scholarship, care for each other, and make a difference.

I believe we need to invest in our emerging and early career scholars through intergenerational learning within our community. The future of the society is shaped by their brilliance and consequential scholarship. To lift and support them we need our community elders, aunts and uncles among us, to continue mentoring and sharing their wisdom with our newcomers but also learning from them and their new ideas.

Progress in science, any science including ours, depends on pushing boundaries through new ideas and tools, questioning existing paradigms, and offering different lenses for making sense of the world. A plurality of ways of knowing has been, and continues to be, the success of our Society. Our strength is in this epistemic diversity, and we need to repeatedly and intentionally make space for different ways of being and knowing, especially those that have been traditionally marginalized and not legitimated.

Towards this end we need to continue nuancing our understanding of context through critical lenses that consider the historical and political dimensions of the places and spaces in which learning occurs. By political I mean the ways in which power, privilege, and resources are distributed in society and the hierarchies that result. These hierarchies, and the forces exerted by those at the top, are ubiquitous. They impact teachers, learners, and communities in ways that serve to either reproduce or disrupt the distribution of power and privilege, and the benefits or harms that ensue. Hierarchies of power and privilege are a global phenomenon resulting in different forms of inequities and injustice. While the manifestations of inequities look and feel different in different places, these socio-political forces are always there everywhere. We need to understand them better and across a variety of contexts.

I believe that through our varied lenses, through our critical perspectives, through our nuanced attention to context, including power and privilege, we can develop profound knowledge that is generative and consequential. Knowledge that can facilitate change towards greater wellbeing and a more democratic, sustainable, and just future.

To produce this sort of knowledge we must learn from each other, build shared understandings, and uphold the value of our different experiences, perspectives, and aims. We need to infrastructure this learning, sharing, and valuing -- especially now, in this growth spurt we are experiencing and the complicated and challenging times and places we inhabit. Most importantly, and echoing Jan Hare's emphasis on trust and relationships in her keynote at ISLS2023 -- we need to build relationships of care for each other as humans, practitioners, and scholars.

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## ISLS 2024

*Contributed by X. Christine Wang and Chris Hoadley, Conference co-chairs*



Photo Credit: University of Buffalo | Douglas Levere

ISLS Annual Meeting 2024: Learning as a cornerstone of healing, resilience, and community

ISLS 2024 proposals are rolling in, and the local organizing committee is eager to welcome people to the ISLS 2024 annual meeting in Buffalo, New York, hosted by the University at Buffalo and its new Institute for Learning Sciences. This year's theme applies not only to the contents of the program, but also the format, which will be intended to support healing, resilience, and community for the participants. Updates are being posted frequently at <http://2024.isls.org>. Please note that it's not too early to begin applying for visas to the United States; for many countries of origin, visa times are quite lengthy. We look forward to seeing you June 10-14 (or the weekend before if you are participating in workshops).

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## Journal of the Learning Sciences

*Contributed by Susan Jurow and Jianwei Zhang*

### **JLS Outstanding Paper of 2022**

We are pleased to announce the JLS Outstanding Paper of 2022 --

Folashadé Solomon, Dionne Champion, Mariah Steele, and Tracey Wright's [article](#) Embodied physics: Utilizing dance resources for learning and engagement in STEM. The article was published in the special issue on "Learning in and through the arts".

Check out the authors' video at <https://www.isls.org/news/category/jls-featured-articles/>

### **Special Issue Proposals**

Journal of the Learning Sciences (JLS) invites proposals for a special issue to be published in 2026. Instructions for preparing a proposal are posted on the [JLS website](#). Proposals are due December 20, 2023 and will be peer reviewed by the journal's editorial leadership team.

<https://www.isls.org/news/journal-of-the-learning-sciences-call-for-special-issue-proposals-for-2026/>

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## Equity and Justice Committee

*Contributed by Sherice Clarke and Miwa Aoki Takeuchi*

We are continuously living in a world where our acts of learning are strongly tied with our need to create a more just and equitable world. Toward our shared vision, the Equity and Justice Committee will continue to support the development of an infrastructure for equity and justice that can help us, as members of ISLS, to identify, problematize and transform the ways in which our norms/expectations,

policies, and procedures create and/or invariably maintain inequities. We see this work as distinctly collaborative and collective. Thus, instead of working in isolation, the Equity and Justice Committee aims to work with other ISLS committees, task forces and initiatives to identify needs and opportunities for change. Together, we hope to identify short-term and long-term visions to develop procedures, practices, and tools to disrupt inequities manifesting in our ISLS community and move us toward justice.

Over the last year, our collaboration with the Wallace Foundation brought together a speaker series featuring Nicki Washington (Duke University), Stephanie Tolliver (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) & Harper Keenan (University of British Columbia). These scholars, close cousins of the Learning Sciences, challenged us to think of the ways in which institutions, pedagogies and material artifacts are carriers of bias that privilege the humanity of some over others. Thus, a provocation from us (the Equity + Justice Committee) to you (members of the International Society of the Learning Sciences) is: *how can our scholarship not just surface injustice but design for justice?*

One of the public events we are planning to host this year includes the Social Annotation activity to develop as a community our mission and vision of equity and justice. The ISLS [Equity and Justice Mission and Vision Statement](#), was crafted as our collective starting point by the Equity and Justice committee in 2021 under the leadership of Kris Gutiérrez (University of California, Berkeley) and Shirin Vossoughi (Northwestern University). The Social Annotation event will be a virtual event to collectively make meaning of our commitments, mission and vision, and particularly what it means for our society. We hope that this event will help our community to develop shared language and understandings towards realizing our visions.

Our 2023-24 Equity and Justice Committee Members include:

- Sakinah Alhadad - Australia - Standing Member
- Leema Berland - USA - Wallace Foundation Committee
- Paulo Blikstein - Brazil – Brazil Affiliate
- Ali Blake - USA – ILSSA
- Sherice Clarke - USA - Co-Chair
- Joshua Danish - USA – ISLS Past President
- Ravit Duncan - USA – ISLS President
- Melissa Gresalfi - USA - Conference
- Aireale Joi Rodgers - USA - Publications
- Rita Kizito - South Africa - Membership
- Ung-Sang Lee - USA - Publications
- Preeti Raman - Canada - Technology
- José Ramón Lizárraga - USA - Standing Member
- Jasmine Ma - USA - ISLS Board of Directors, ISLS Secretary
- Christopher Ostrowdun - UK - Publications
- Dylan Paré - Canada - Standing Member
- Nisumba Soodhani - India - ILSSA
- Miwa Aoki Takeuchi - Canada - Co-Chair
- Naomi Thompson - USA - Communications
- Suraj Uttamchandani - USA - Education

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## Membership Committee

*Contributed by Dimitra Tsovalti, Jun Oshima, and Toshio Mochizuki*

### **New Members Session 2023 and the Future**

ISLS New Members Session was fully successful at the inaugural ISLS in-person annual meeting! With over 100 new members participating, we were treated to warm welcoming talks from our outgoing President Joshua Danish, and the incoming President Ravit Golan Duncan. Additionally, we had the privilege of hearing from five editors of learning sciences journals - Susan Jurow and Jianwei Zhang (JLS), Sanna Järvelä and Carolyn Rosé (ijCSCL), Eleni A. Kyza (Instructional Science), Hassan Khosravi (JLA), and Rebecca B. Reynolds (Information and Learning Sciences)! They offered lots of advice and thoughtful suggestions to help

participants for their successful publication in the journals. Freydis Vogel also delivered a clear and insightful introduction to our LS educational program, NAPLeS (Network of Academic Programs in the Learning Sciences).



Then, we had the New Members' poster session with approximately 20 presenters who wished to interact with the new members and mentors in the field of the learning sciences! The beautifully designed exhibition space known as the Warren G. Flowers Art Gallery at Dawson College was a great place to have this delightful poster session! During the poster session, the space was filled with enthusiasm and discussion between presenters and audience members. It was a highly productive start to their first experience at the annual meeting.





The Membership Committee will continue to create opportunities for interaction with online participants and engagement with the ISLS community, both before and after the annual meeting season. We hope you will maintain your involvement in ISLS! We look forward to seeing you all at the prospective online events between conferences and the next annual meeting in Buffalo, NY, and online!

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## Publications Committee

*Contributed by Anna Keune and David Stroupe*

The Publications Committee maintains the ISLS Publications FAQ. Please contact Anna Keune or David Stroupe, the co-chairs of the Committee, to obtain copyright permission to use portions of your ISLS conference proceedings in other scholarly publications.

Currently, we are working on a statement about AI and ChatGPT for consideration by ISLS. Please share any example statements we can draw on with the co-chairs.

We would also like to welcome our new members, Aireale J. Rodgers and Ashlyn Pierson. If you are interested in joining the publications committee, please reach out to the co-chairs.

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## ILSSA Committee

*Contributed by Lisa Siciliano and Canan Ece Turkmen*

### **New Board**

We have a new board in place for the 2023-2024 year. This new board includes several new positions which expands ILSSA's international representation.

- Ali Blake, Communications Chair
- Lora Cawelti, Secretary
- Early Sol Gadong, Treasurer
- Finn Goehrig, Annual Meeting Representative
- Maria Susana González de Benítez Cudas, Central and South America Regional Representative
- Lisa M. Siciliano, Co-Chair
- Sebastian Simon, Europe/UK Regional Representative
- Xintian Tu, Membership and Outreach
- Canan Ece Turkmen, Co-Chair
- Grace Xing, Annual Meeting Representative

### **Communications Channel**

ILSSA has moved its communications channel from Slack to Discord. All students

and post-docs are encouraged to join the new ILSSA Discord server. To request an invitation link, members should fill out this form: <http://bit.ly/ilssadiscordsignupform>