



# Southwest Educational Research Association Newsletter

FALL  
2003

## From the President...

I hope all you SERA members enjoyed a relaxing and productive summer and are now into the full swing of another exciting semester. In addition to your teaching, writing, and research activities, I hope you will 'pencil in' the 2004 Annual Meeting of the SERA in Dallas, February 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) to the 7<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) at the Radisson Hotel Central located at Mockingbird and 75. Submissions to this year's conference have again been brisk and the review process is underway as I write this column. Be sure to check the SERA website, [www.sera-edresearch.org](http://www.sera-edresearch.org), for the preview schedule as conference time draws near. In addition to conference and Association information, there is also a link to the Radisson Hotel that includes a list of restaurants and numerous other attractions close by to add to your conference experience.

This past year has been a rewarding one for the SERA punctuated by some exciting changes. Last year we piloted an online submission protocol that proved to be a resounding success. The submission process was greatly streamlined and our contributed to most successful meeting ever in San Antonio. In addition to the new submission opportunity, registration, too, could be handled online. Again, this proved very popular among the membership and many took advantage of this time-saving opportunity. Such changes could not happen if not for the efforts of Kyle Roberts and Vince Paredes whose efforts and talents were instrumental in the design and implementation of our web-based technology.

The strength of the SERA has and continues to be its membership. We rely on our members to review proposals, identify division chairs, elect new Council members and help in conference planning. To keep the organization vigorous and moving ahead we need new people to step forward and become involved. I therefore encourage you to look for ways to become involved. Next year, for example, I requested that a place be made available on the electronic submission page for interested people to sign on as proposal reviewers. The names can then be forwarded immediately to the Division Chairs and expedite the review process. However, you do not need to wait until next year to volunteer. If you wish to get involved in some capacity, please, contact one of the Division Chairs or a member of the Executive Committee.

Let us know you want to help out—we will be more than happy to accommodate you.

Another way to get involved is to submit your paper to the Outstanding Paper Award. Graduate students are also encouraged to submit their papers to the Outstanding Graduate Paper Award. Specific information and guidelines are published elsewhere in this Newsletter. Finally, encourage your colleagues and graduate students to join SERA and come to our conferences. In this way SERA will continue to grow and prosper.



Change seems to be the mainstay theme this year and the Executive Council looks to continue this trend. Preparations are already underway for next year's conference in New Orleans. As a way to accommodate Saturday travellers and those who might wish to extend their stay, the conference will begin and end a day earlier than the traditional Thursday through Saturday format.

The dates are Wednesday, February 9 through Friday, February 11, with special hotel arrangements being made for Saturday night stays as well. More information will follow, but be thinking ahead!

I am also pleased to announce that the President's Invited speaker for the 2004 conference will be Abbas Tashakkori, a professor of Educational Psychology and Research Methodology at Florida International University. He has published more than 70 articles, books, and book chapters and his most recent work is the co-edited (with Charles Teddlie) Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social and Behavioral Research (Sage, 2003). Mixed methods in research represents a timely topic and we are delighted to have Dr. Tashakkori speak to us on its merits. Be sure to include this presentation in your conference itinerary.

Last year's conference in San Antonio built on the momentum established in Austin and I hope to continue the process in Dallas. I look forward to seeing you in Dallas.....

*Ron McBride*



## Your Vote Counts!!!



# Please Return Your Ballots!

# 2004 Outstanding Paper Competitions 2004

## 2004 SERA OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

An award of \$200 and a certificate will be given for the best paper presented by a graduate student member at the annual meeting. For a paper to be eligible, the work must be completed before the annual meeting and presented in a paper or symposium session. Student authors should furnish three (3) completed copies of their papers to the Program Chair to be **received by Friday, January 16, 2004**. The award winner will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Friday, February 6, 2004. Please note that the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award competition is for **completed** graduate student research, and may include theses or dissertations, as well as other graduate student research. Students who present thesis or dissertation research should submit a condensed version of the work, not the full thesis or dissertation. In-progress work presented in graduate student seminars is **not** eligible for this award, nor are preliminary works, such as literature reviews or class projects and proposals.

### Rules:

- The Program Chair must **receive** completed papers on or before the **January 16, 2004**, deadline. Late papers are **not** eligible for consideration.
- If multiple authors write the paper, the first author must be a graduate student.
- At the discretion of the award committee, an award may not be made if fewer than 3 meritorious papers are submitted for competition. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made.
- Graduate students must indicate their student status on the title page of the paper.
- The Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award competition is for **completed** graduate student research

Send completed papers for 2004 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award to:

**KATHLEEN CAGE MITTAG, SERA PROGRAM CHAIR**  
**2004 OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD**  
**SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**  
**501 WEST DURANGO BLVD., SAN ANTONIO, TX 78207**  
**(210) 458-2580, KMITTAG@UTSA.EDU**

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## 2004 SERA Outstanding Paper Award

SERA presenters are encouraged to submit five (5) copies of their SERA papers for the SERA Outstanding Paper Award. Papers must be received by the SERA Executive Director, Bruce Thompson, by February 27, 2004. The 2004 winner is recognized at the 2005 SERA luncheon, and also presents the paper at the 2004 AERA meeting in sessions featuring the state and regional outstanding paper winners. SERA awards a stipend of \$500 to help defray costs for attending the AERA meeting.

The winners of the 2003 SERA Outstanding Paper Award were Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie, Howard University, and Nancy Leech, University of Colorado at Denver. Their paper was titled, "Taking the 'Q' Out of Research: Teaching Research Methodology Courses Without the Divide Between Quantitative and Qualitative Paradigms." A list of other past SERA Outstanding Paper winners is available at: <http://www.sera-edresearch.org/Conf/outstand.htm>

Remember that:

1. Papers presented at the meeting may be revised before being submitted for the competition.
2. Five (5) copies must be received by the deadline; late papers will not be considered.
3. Electronic submission is not acceptable.
4. An award may not be made at the discretion of SERA if 3 or fewer papers are submitted for the competition.
5. SERA Executive Council members, including appointed members, are not eligible for this competition.

Papers should be submitted to:

**Bruce Thompson, SERA Exec Director**

**TAMU Dept of Ed Psychology**

**704 Harrington**

**College Station, TX 77843-4225**

**<http://www.coe.tamu.edu/~bthompson>**

## SERA Annual Conference

February 5-7, 2004

### Radisson Hotel Central Dallas

**Address:**

6060 N. Central Expressway  
Dallas Texas 75206  
USA

**Telephone:**

(214) 750-6060

**Fax:**

(214) 750-5959

According to the Radisson Hotel Central/Dallas website, **service** is their specialty. The hotel received the **Presidents Award**, the Radisson's highest honor in 1999, 2000 and 2001, for providing the highest levels of service to their guests.



Some of the amenities that await SERA Conference attendees at the Radisson Hotel Central/Dallas are an indoor/outdoor swimming pool and whirlpool spa, on-site parking, complimentary shuttle transportation within a five-mile radius, and a weekday USA Today newspaper. The hotel also informed us that an all-day wireless internet connection for \$10 is available for interested members. Access can be made in the hotel bar that is conveniently located off the registration area. Visit the Radisson's web site at:

[http://www.radisson.com/dallastx\\_centralexpy](http://www.radisson.com/dallastx_centralexpy)

Also, check out the Radisson's various links (such as the ones below) to information/destination guides outlining Dallas' many enjoyable sites, activities and restaurants (check out Bruce's list, too!).

[http://www.radissondestinationguide.com/location.process/OID\\_EB39EA2D/OLID\\_3752/](http://www.radissondestinationguide.com/location.process/OID_EB39EA2D/OLID_3752/)

<http://www.guidelive.com/>

**Preregister**  
**for the 2004 Conference**  
**Today**  
**at**  
<http://www.sera-edresearch.org>

### **Editorial Note:**

We will highlight new strides in the field of educational research in our

**"methodological moment"** column. To submit an article or suggest a topic/contributor

for this column, contact Amy Dellinger at **[abdellinger@cox.net](mailto:abdellinger@cox.net)**.

## SERA Dallas

### An Exciting Location!

Bruce Thompson

Don't think that the only attraction for SERA 2004 is a low, \$99 hotel rate. The hotel is at a great location. The Radisson is at 6060 N Central, just north of Mockingbird at Central. On Greenville, the 4200 block of Greenville crosses Mockingbird.

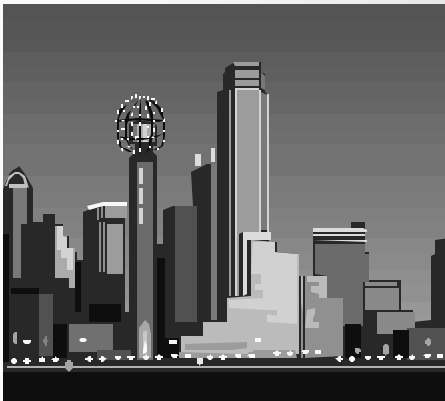
Within blocks of that location, there are numerous places to dance or hear music on Greenville or nearby Deep Ellum. As another example, there is a neat movie theater showing art films that is only a short walk from the hotel:

<<http://www.angelikafilmcenter.com>>.

Doubtless one SERA evening, the official Party Maven, Kathy Mittag, will be arranging a trip on the nearby DART to the West End, featuring numerous restaurants and haunts. So plan to stay awhile!

To give you a feel for the numerous nearby exciting things to do, take a look at the list of good places to eat focusing on places on Greenville. In other words, SERA is about good scholar-

ship,



### TAKE NOTE!

SERA 2005

New Orleans, LA

Make plans now to pass a good time, cher!

## Clip Out Restaurant Guide

Cost	Cuisine	Restaurant	Location
\$\$	Japanese	<b>Royal Tokyo</b>	7525 Greenville @ Meadow <i>very wide selection</i>
\$\$	Thai	<b>Royal Thai</b>	5500 Greenville @ Lovers <i>among best Thai in Dallas</i>
\$\$	Greek	<b>Kostas Cafe</b>	4914 Greenville @ University <i>tasty Greek food, including combo selections</i>
\$ EE	Thai	<b>Bangkok City</b>	4503 Greenville @ Yale <i>great Thai food, but don't go for the decor</i>
\$	Mexican	<b>Gloria's</b>	3715 Greenville @ Martel <i>good margaritas</i>
\$\$ EE	Mid East	<b>Cafe Izmir</b>	3711 Greenville @ Mockingbird <i>numerous wines by glass</i>
\$	pizza	<b>Campisi's</b>	5610 Mockingbird @ Greenville <i>among very best pizzas in town</i>
\$\$\$ E	steak	<b>Kirby's</b>	3525 Greenville @ McCommas <i>semi-formal steak place</i>
\$\$ E	Japanese	<b>Blue Fish</b>	3519 Greenville @ McCommas <i>very good sushi, mucho different sakes</i>
\$\$\$ E	French	<b>St. Martin's</b>	3020 Greenville @ Monticello <i>many, many wines; cozy</i>
\$\$\$ EE	American	<b>Grape, The</b>	2808 Greenville @ Vickery <i>bistro with many wine choices</i>
\$ E	seafood	<b>Dodie's</b>	2129 Greenville @ Bell <i>informal, Cajun seafood heaven</i>
\$\$\$ EE	Japanese	<b>Teppo</b>	2014 Greenville @ Oram <i>superb sushi</i>
\$	Mexican	<b>Nuevo Leon</b>	2013 Greenville @ Ross <i>more Mex than Tex-Mex</i>
\$\$ E	eclectic	<b>Firehouse</b>	1928 Greenville @ Ross <i>various spicy dishes</i>
\$\$ E	seafood	<b>Daddy Jack's</b>	1916 Greenville @ Belmont <i>especially go for lobster and lobster bisque</i>
\$ E	Mid East	<b>Ali Baba</b>	1905 Greenville @ Oram <i>great food; no decor</i>
\$\$ EE	steak	<b>Matt's No Place</b>	6326 La Vista @ Gaston <i>steaks and wild game; fun</i>
\$\$\$\$ EE	American	<b>York St</b>	6047 Lewis St @ Skillman <i>small, exquisite</i>

Note. "\$" = \$10-\$19; "\$\$" = \$20-\$29; etc.

All these restaurants are very good; but "E's" are exceptional, and "EE's" are exceptionally exceptional.

## Inference Quality and Inference Transferability in Mixed Methods Research

Charles Teddlie, Louisiana State University  
Abbas Tashakkori, Florida International University

Recent theoretical writing in Mixed Methods (MM) research has suggested terms to replace the traditional validity (QUAN) and trustworthiness (QUAL) criteria when investigators are conducting MM studies. We (Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2003) have proposed (1) inference quality as a substitute for internal validity/credibility/trustworthiness and (2) inference transferability as a substitute for external validity/transferability.

We contend that MM terms should be coined when three conditions exist: (1) the described processes (QUAL/QUAN) are highly similar; (2) there is confusion across the languages; and (3) appropriate terminology exists. These conditions exist regarding inference terms. First, the QUAL and QUAN processes are similar as described by Lincoln and Guba (1985), who proposed credibility to substitute for internal validity and transferability to substitute for external validity.

Second, confusion exists across languages with an overspecification of QUAN terms and an inconsistency of terms related to QUAL designations. For instance, Shadish, Cook and Campbell (2002) listed 37 specific threats to their four types of QUAN validity. On the other hand, Teddlie and Tashakkori (2003) identified 17 QUAL validity/authenticity types, with a variety of inconsistent definitions.

Third, an alternative language exists using “inference” as an umbrella term referring to final outcomes from a study that may have a variety of meanings encompassing QUAL and QUAN connotations. Quality is a term with a transparent meaning in both the QUAL and QUAN orientations that has not been overused. Transferability was derived from the QUAL orientation, but appears to be understandable across many research contexts.

Our MM inference distinctions are not meant to replace terminology used in either QUAL or QUAN studies. They are to be employed in MM investigations as more parsimonious descriptions of similar QUAL/QUAN processes. These terms may be outlined as follows:

- I. **Inference quality**
  - A. Design quality
    1. Within-design consistency
  - B. Interpretive rigor
    1. Conceptual (or inferential) consistency
    2. Interpretive agreement (or interpretive consistency)

3. Interpretive distinctiveness

- II. **Inference transferability**
  - A. Ecological transferability
  - B. Operational transferability
  - C. Population transferability
  - D. Temporal transferability

We propose the following definitions of the more important terms:

- **Inference quality:** the degree to which the interpretations and conclusions made on the basis of the results meet the professional standards of rigor, trustworthiness, and acceptability as well as the degree to which alternative plausible explanations for the obtained results can be ruled out.
- **Design quality:** comprises the standards for the evaluation of the methodological rigor of the mixed methods research.
- **Interpretive rigor:** comprises the standards for the evaluation of the accuracy or authenticity of the conclusions.

- **Inference transferability:** This refers to generalizability or applicability of inferences obtained in a study to other individuals or entities, other settings or situations, other time periods or other methods of observation/measurement.

Details regarding these terms and definitions are found in the *Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social and Behavioral Research*. Please address comments on these proposed MM terms to [edtedd@lsu.edu](mailto:edtedd@lsu.edu) or [tashakko@fiu.edu](mailto:tashakko@fiu.edu).

Lincoln, Y.S. & Guba, E.G. (1985). *Naturalistic inquiry*. Beverly Hills: Sage.  
Shadish, W., Cook, T., & Campbell, D (2002). *Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for general causal inference*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Tashakkori, A., & Teddlie, C. (Eds.) (2003a). *Handbook of mixed methods in social and behavioral research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.  
Teddlie, C., & Tashakkori, A. (2003). Major issues and controversies in the use of mixed methods in the social and behavioral sciences. In A. Tashakkori & C. Teddlie, (Eds.) *Handbook of mixed methods in social and behavioral research* (pp. 3-50). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.





**The SERA Foundation is accepting Donations IN MEMORY of Larry Daniel's father, who recently died in a tragic accident. Donations on behalf of Larry and the memory of his father may be sent to Jan Scott, SERA Treasurer, at Sam Houston University.**



Fall

Vince Paredes  
Evaluation Software Publishing  
1510 West 34th St., Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78703-1433

2004

# *Destination DALLAS*

2004

For more information on the  
2004 Annual Conference in Dallas on  
February 5-7, 2004, or to **preregister**,  
consult the SERA website at:

<http://www.sera-edresearch.org>

## SERA BOARD MEMBERS

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