



Southwest Educational Research Association Fall 2004 Newsletter

SERA 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 9-12, 2005

HOTEL MONTELEONE

NEW ORLEANS, LA

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

Conference Rate: \$125/night Wed—Friday nights

\$199/night on Saturday (Valentine's Day Weekend)

**MUST register by January 10th, 2005 to receive conference rate.
Please register early!**

Lisa Towne: 2005 SERA Presidential Invited Speaker

The National Research Council (NRC) was organized in 1916, and is the principal operating agency of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS; founded by Congress in 1863), the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. The NRC commissions reports to inform public policy or to comment on the nature of the scientific enterprise. During his NAS Presidency, Bruce Alberts identified transforming education into an increasingly evidence-based field as "one of the most important goals of my presidency." In 2002, the NRC published one hugely influential report titled, Scientific Research in Education. We are thrilled that Lisa Towne, a senior program officer in the NRC's Center for Education, and co-editor (with Richard Shavelson) of Scientific Research in Education, is the SERA 2005 Presidential Invited Speaker. During her address, Lisa will discuss past and future initiatives of the NRC regarding educational research.

NOTICE

Training Sessions Available during SERA 2005

Two statistics training sessions will be conducted in conjunction with the 28th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association in New Orleans, February 9-12, 2005. Required advance training registration forms are available at: <http://www.coe.tamu.edu/~bthompson/training.htm>.

#1 Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (EFA/CFA) (\$60)

This workshop will be held Friday afternoon (2/11/05) and Saturday morning (2/12/05). This workshop will be presented by Bruce Thompson, *Texas A&M University and Baylor College of Medicine (Houston)*:
<http://www.coe.tamu.edu/~bthompson>

Participants in this workshop will receive a complimentary copy of Professor Thompson's new book on factor analysis, Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis: Understanding Concepts and Applications, as part of their registration dues.

The workshop will be **introductory** and will cover both exploratory and confirmatory methods. Special emphasis will be placed on the linkages between EFA and CFA.

#2 Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) (\$30)

This workshop will be held on Wednesday afternoon (2/9/05). The workshop will be presented by Kyle Roberts (*University of North Texas*) and Tasha Beretvas (*University of Texas*). This workshop is designed to provide an introduction to hierarchical linear modeling.

HLM methods simultaneously consider the effects of variables operating at 2 or more levels within a nested data structure (e.g., students nested within classrooms, spouses nested within marriages). Because HLM honors the reality of such natural and common data structures, the methods have great ecological validity for many research problems.

The benefits of the appropriate modeling of the dependency inherent in educational data (such as of students within classrooms, classrooms within schools, patients within therapists, etc.) will be discussed. Formulation of versions of the simplest model (in which there is only one level of grouping or clustering) will be presented. In addition, use of the HLM software for estimating the relevant parameters as well as interpretation of its output will be demonstrated.

Copies of overheads used in this workshop will be distributed to attendees. In addition, copies of all datasets and syntax used to demonstrate the HLM will be provided as well as student versions of HLM and SPLUS software. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring PC laptop computers on which the software can be loaded so that they can use the software to estimate some of the models themselves.

Deadline

The deadline for registering for the training sessions using the registration form below is **January 15, 2005**. However, limited seats are available, and these will be reserved first come, first served, based on submission of the training registration fees.

Please note that training registration fees are **strictly nonrefundable**. However, registrants unable to attend the training will be sent copies of session handouts upon request.

Letter from the President

Hope all of you had a great summer and I'm sure everyone is busy with the fall semester. We at SERA have been busy preparing for our 2005 annual meeting. The dates are Wednesday, February 9, through Saturday, February 12, and will be in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the Monteleone Hotel (800-535-9595). We have negotiated excellent room rates (\$125/night) so be sure and reserve your room as soon as possible before the Monday, January 10, 2005, reservation deadline.

The Executive Council, the governing body of SERA, is ecstatic about the record number of proposal submissions! We have over 300 proposals submitted, and they have all been sent out for blind review. This year, unlike last, there were no problems with the online submission process thanks to Kyle Roberts' hard work. The 2005 program chair and president elect, Jan Scott, is hoping to have the preliminary program available at the SERA website during the second week of December, 2004. Acceptance notices will be sent out sooner.

Overview of 2005 Program Changes

- Beginning conference on Wednesday (2pm) instead of Thursday.
- Adding two statistics training sessions. The registration deadline is January 15, 2005. You may register for these training sessions at <http://www.coe.tamu.edu/~bthompson/training.htm>
 1. Wednesday, Feb. 9 from 1:30 pm-5:30 pm. Hierarchical Linear Modeling Workshop (\$30) presented by Kyle Roberts, University of North Texas and Tasha Beretvas, University of Texas at Austin.
 2. Friday, Feb. 11 from 1:30 pm-5:30 pm and Saturday, Feb. 12 from 8 am-noon. Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (\$60) presented by Bruce Thompson, Texas A&M University.
- Having the Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Thursday instead of Friday.
- Offering 50-minute paper sessions instead of 90-minute paper sessions. We are doing this because participants will be able to attend more sessions. The symposia will still be 90-minutes.

2005 SERA Invited Presidential Speaker: (1:30pm-2:30pm Thursday, February 9)

I am pleased to announce that the Presidential Speaker will be Lisa Towne. She is a senior program officer in the National Research Council's (NRC) Center for Education and is co-editor (with Richard Shavelson) of a hugely influential report, *Scientific Research in Education*, published in 2002. The NRC was organized in 1916 and is the principal operating agency of

the National Academy of Sciences that was founded by Congress in 1863. During her address, Lisa will discuss past and future initiatives of the NRC regarding educational research.

SERA By-laws Amendments

The Executive Council met September 23-24, 2004 in New Orleans, LA. We voted to propose several by-laws amendments to be included on the 2004 ballot. They deal with the creation of a LEA (Local Education Agency) Board Position, changing the quorum for council meetings, changing voting to a Hare voter preference system, and changing how dues and fees are established. Exact changes and rationales will be included on the ballot and mailed directly to members.

Paper Competitions

SERA offers two different paper competitions to its members. The 2005 SERA Outstanding Paper Award is open to any member who presents a paper at the 2005 annual meeting (that does not serve on the Executive Council). Authors are encouraged to revise and submit five copies of the paper to the Executive Director, Bruce Thompson, by Friday, February 27, 2005. The 2005 SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award will be presented at the award ceremony in New Orleans. Student authors should submit three copies of their completed paper to Jan Scott by Friday, January 14, 2005. Rules and other competition information is available in the 2005 Call for Proposals available at the SERA website.

Final Note

I would like to thank all of the people who submitted proposals because we could not have a conference without presenters. We also could not have an organization without all the help of the Executive Council, Division Chairs, Reviewers, and people who attend the conference. Organizations such as SERA are totally run by volunteers who donate their own time and money to organize the conference, attend the board meetings and attend the conference. It is so exciting to see a conference "come together" because of all the hard work of these great volunteers.

Personally, I am so excited about the 2005 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. This conference will have a record number and variety of presentations so attendees will be able to learn much. It will be the third SERA conference we have had at the Monteleone Hotel and anyone who has attended one of our previous New Orleans conferences can attest to the great hospitality and ambiance of this French Quarter hotel. Of course, New Orleans itself also offers many fine dining and entertainment opportunities. I am sure that "Fun Will Be Had By All", and I am looking forward to both the educational and social opportunities offered by the annual meeting.

**Kathleen Cage Mittag
2004 SERA President**

A Letter from the Program Chair and President-Elect

Planning for the 2005 SERA Annual Meeting in New Orleans is well under way. Special thanks go to the Program Review Committee, which had the daunting task of reviewing a large number of submissions, well over 280, received this year – an excellent batch to put together a program! Many thanks go to the chairs of each division, Larry Daniel, Jace Hargis, Amy Dellinger, Robin Henson, Gilbert Naizer, Bill Jasper, Kevin Rowell, and Fred Bonner, and the MANY reviewers who gave their time and energy to the difficult process of evaluating these outstanding proposals and grouping them into meaningful sessions. Program space is at a premium this year, which makes the job doubly difficult. But, I am excited about the large number and the variety of proposals that were submitted. If all goes according to plan, the short program will be posted by December 15.

Since this year's conference begins on Wednesday afternoon, some events have shifted. The conference will open with "How to do SERA" (probably 1:30 Wednesday). This will be followed by literally hundreds of choices of sessions and symposiums. You will find a conference pre-registration form on the website.

We are thrilled that Lisa Towne, a senior program officer in the NRC's Center for Education, will be our President's Invited Guest Speaker from 1:30-2:30, Thursday, following the luncheon. We have her scheduled for the Fireside Chat for Graduate Students at 2:30. Lisa will discuss past and future initiatives of the NRC regarding educational research, and we are fortunate that she will share her thoughts with us.

Local arrangements chair, Dianne Taylor, is doing a terrific job of organizing the many logistical aspects of the meeting. The Monteleone has agreed to a special conference room rate of \$125 (single, double, triple, or quad). It is located at 214 Royal Street in the heart of the French Quarter, with a multitude of opportunities for dining and entertainment within easy walking distance. **Be sure to make your reservations before the reservation deadline of January 10, 2005.**

For those who are planning to submit for the SERA Outstanding Paper Award, the deadline will be **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2005**. Please consider submitting your papers with revisions and comments from the discussions during the sessions. The deadline for the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper is **FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2005**. For more information, contact me, <mth_mjs@exchange.shsu.edu>, or Bruce Thompson, <bruce_thompson@tamu.edu>.

Finally, let me encourage you to donate to your SERA Foundation. To maximize the long-term potential for the fund, the Executive Council has taken the position that a rather substantial base fund be established so that "interest only" disbursements may be made from the fund without the need to deplete the fund's principal. Your tax-deductible contribution will greatly help in our achieving our vision for the fund. Please include your contribution on your registration form.

Janine Scott



SERA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President: Kathleen Cage Mittag
President-Elect/Program Chair: Janine Scott
Immediate Past President: Ron McBride
Treasurer: Janine Scott
Members at Large: Tyson Bennett*
Tasha Beretvas
Kevin Rowell*
Kyle Roberts
Kelly Shapley
Mary Margaret Capraro
Amy Dellinger
Fred Bonner*

Secretary: Kelly Shapley
Graduate Student Rep.: Antoinette Duffey
Membership Chair: Terri & Vince Paredes*
Historian: John J. Hedl, Jr.
Graduate Student Advisors: Kyle Roberts
Janine Scott
Executive Director: Bruce Thompson
Newsletter Editor: Amy B. Dellinger

**Council members not shown in picture. Also shown are former SERA president and local arrangements coordinator, Dianne Taylor, and Sonya Carr, assisting with local arrangements.*

New Orleans Dining Guide

Welcome to the Big Easy. This list represents an effort to describe a few of the noteworthy restaurants in New Orleans. In a recent year Travel & Leisure magazine ranked New Orleans the third best food city in the **world** (behind New York City and Paris)! So there are lots of good choices. This list emphasizes (a) mostly places in or near the Quarter and (b) places that are affordable. For a more comprehensive list, see the AERA Dining Guide for the recent AERA meeting in New Orleans, co-authored by Bruce Thompson, Betty Davidson, and Patricia Snyder at <http://www.coe.tamu.edu/~bthompson/nodine.htm>.

Some Nearby Affordable Places

- Mother's. 401 Poydras (between Magazine and Tchoupitoulas): Great food, cheap. Great po-boys, including seafood or roast beef.
- Lulu's. 307 Exchange Alley (at Bienville): No booze. Good food reasonably priced. It's small. You may need to ask for help finding it.
- La Marquise. 625 Chartres (between St. Peter and Toulouse) and Croissant d'Or Patisserie. 617 Ursuline (between Chartres and Royal): Both good places for breakfast pastries and good coffee, if you're tired of beignets.
- Central Grocery. 923 Decatur (between Dumaine and St. Phillip): Great place for a muffaletta sandwich. If you have never had one, it's time to experiment.
- Port of Call. 838 Esplanade (at Dauphine): GREAT hamburgers, plus baked potatoes!
- Acme Oyster House. 724 Iberville (between Bourbon and Royal): Great oysters and seafood.
- Petunia's. 817 St. Louis (Bourbon and Dauphine): Great crepes.

Some Nearby More Upscale Places, so You Can Dream

1. Quarter Peristyle. When AERA met in the Big Easy in 2000, Betty was in a huge funk because a fire had closed this, her favorite restaurant (not to mention the theft one night of all the shutters off her Garden District home). To her delight both situations have now been remedied. Lunch is served here on Fridays, but don't get your hopes up about eating there at that sitting. However, dinner is served Tuesday through Saturday. Chef Anne Kearney Sand was recently on the cover of the Wine Spectator. One of Betty's favorite dishes is the combination of lump crabmeat and beets—that's right beets—held together by a light mayonnaise based ravigote sauce. On a recent visit Bruce was delighted with an unusual and delicious presentation of trout almandine. (Go with the seafood.) Location is 1041 Dumaine Street, best to take a cab given its location, reservations essential, 593-9535. \$\$\$\$, A+. Dressy casual.
2. Quasi-Quarter August. August Duke Robins from the "Bayou" country loved the food at the Grill Room in the Windsor Court Hotel created by chef John Besh. In fact, August's passion was so great that he spent \$4,000,000 to build his own new restaurant across the street from the Windsor Court and hired as the chef, you guessed it, John Besh. The chef seems somewhat eccentric, but his cooking reflects passion and creativity (always appreciated by us ed researchers). Bruce considers superb duck a great challenge, but here (crispy skin while still moist and flavorful) a grand success. Location is 301 Tchoupitoulas, walking distance from Canal Street, lunch M-F; dinner M-Sa, reservations a must, 299-9777. \$\$\$\$, A+. Dressy casual.

Rock and Bowl New Orleans Style!

Make plans to attend New Orleans' Rock and Bowl - MidCity Lanes for an SERA Gathering on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2005. We will meet in the hotel lobby about 8:30pm to share cab rides. Thursday is Zydeco night. Come relax and have fun. Sign-up at the SERA conference registration booth at check-in so we can try to reserve adequate tables and/or lanes.



FALL 2004

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

A Note From Antoinette Duffey

Graduate Student Representative

We're bringing an exciting innovation to this year's SERA Conference in New Orleans! During the Executive Board meeting in September, I suggested to the board that it add a special topics meeting just for us. Consequently, we now have The Graduate Student Representative Invited Symposium! This is in addition to the fireside chat with our guest speaker. Here is yet another example of SERA's commitment to graduate student growth and development. Every year, the graduate student representative will propose and chair a symposium. This year, the topic will be qualitative research, and our discussant will be Dr. Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie. In case you missed it, he and Dr. Nancy Leech have won the outstanding paper two years in a row. His additional insight into qualitative research will complement graduate student presentations. Come and experience some innovative research methodologies in the developing area of graduate student qualitative research.

GRADUATE STUDENT CORNER

