

**IASE Satellite Conference  
on  
Statistics Literacy**

Seoul

August, 2001

Brian Phillips  
President IASE




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## Statistics literacy

- The term "statistics literacy" does not have a single accepted meaning, but in general it refers to people's
  - ability to interpret, critically evaluate, and communicate statistical information,
  - data-related claims, or chance-related phenomena which they may encounter in diverse life contexts.
- Some level of statistics literacy may be desirable not only from all school or university graduates, but also of all adults, regardless of their educational and personal backgrounds.
- A set of basic skills, understandings, and dispositions, that all citizens need to be critical consumers of quantitative information in the world around them:
  - Being able to interpret graphs and tables.
  - Being able to read and make sense of statistics in the news, media polls, etc.

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## Statistical Literacy

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**Jessica M. Utts**  
**SEEING THROUGH STATISTICS, Second Edition**

**BOOK TOUR**  
Book Description  
Contents  
Author Bio

**FAQs**  
Questions and answers that will enable you to see through statistics and make it a useful part of your life.



**BOOK FEATURES**

- Thought Questions
- Case Studies

**RELATED LINKS**

Web travel tips and instantaneous connections throughout the world of statistics.

**ERRATA**

<http://www.duxbury.com/statlit/utts/seeingthrustat/>

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## Some FAQ about Statistical Issues in Life

Jessica Utts- Seeing Through Statistics



How can I **increase my chances** of winning the lottery?  
I feel like the "experts" are always coming up with conflicting information about what's good or bad for you. Why does the latest study always seem to **contradict previous wisdom**?  
Chocolate/wine is good!!

In public opinion polls, how can a **few thousand people** possibly represent the millions of people in a country?

I had a vivid dream about a plane crash and the next day there was one. That **couldn't have just happened by chance**, could it?

I don't think it's fair that my auto insurance is so high just because I'm a young male. I've never had an accident or a ticket. My sister had a speeding ticket, so why does she **pay so much less**?

## Statistical literacy activities





**IASE Satellite Conference  
on Statistical Literacy**  
Seoul, Korea, 21-22 August, 2000  
<http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/statlit.html>

**First Announcement and Call for Presenters**

This satellite conference on statistical literacy is jointly organized by the IASE and the The Korean Statistical Education & Consulting Section of the Korean Statistical Society and will undoubtedly provide the ISI sessions in Seoul. It will give the opportunity for people to enjoy presentations given by people who have a special interest in statistical literacy. There will be a number of invited speakers, as well as the opportunity for others to give contributed presentations.

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## SRTL-1 Archive Web Site

**The First International Research Forum on  
Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy**

Kibbutz Be'er, Israel, July 18 - 23, 1999



The SRTL-1 gathering was sponsored by:  
The University of Minnesota, USA  
The Maurice and Gabriela Goldschlager Conference Foundation at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel  
The International Study Group for Research on Learning Probability and Statistics  
Kibbutz Be'er, Israel

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The University of New England AUSTRALIA

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UNE web page [staff member](#)

**SRTL-2** The Second International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy

University of New England  
Armidale, Australia, August 15 - 20, 2001

**What's New? Site Updates**

July 15, 2001	<a href="#">Scientific and Final Announcement</a> is available. <b>News!</b>
July 15, 2001	The panel " <a href="#">Statist.Com: Its Current Role, Mathematics Education Research</a> " - added. <b>News!</b>
July 15, 2001	Small groups <a href="#">Workshops</a> added. <b>News!</b>
July 9, 2001	<a href="#">Condensed Schedule</a> , <a href="#">Full program</a> , and <a href="#">Scientific Program</a> added.
July 9, 2001	All <a href="#">Background Readings</a> are in place ( <b>restricted access</b> ).
July 9, 2001	All <a href="#">Session plans</a> are in place.

SRTL-2 is offered by:  
The IASE Statistical Education Research Group ([IASE SERG](#)).

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE TEACHING OF STATISTICS ICOTS 6

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ICOTS 6 TOPIC AREAS  
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**ICOTS 6**

Developing a Statistically Literate Society

Durban, South Africa  
July 6 - 12, 2002  
The venue for the Conference will be held at:  
[International Conference Centre](#)

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ICOTS 6: The Sixth International Conference on Teaching Statistics

The International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) and the International Statistical Institute (ISI) are pleased to announce that the Sixth International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS 6) will be hosted by the South African Statistical Association (SASSA) at the [International Convention Centre](#) in Durban.

**The theme** world who are involved in statistics education to exchange ideas and experiences, to discuss the latest development in teaching statistics and to expand their network of statistical educators. The conference will include keynote speakers, invited speakers, contributed papers, workshops and forums, demonstration lessons, roundtable sessions, poster sessions, book and software displays, hands-on computer sessions and many opportunities for the evening.

**Developing a statistically literate society**

The IASE will make a concentrated effort to attract African participants, and in particular will offer some financial assistance to delegates from African developing nations. It is also planned that there will be strong participation from local school teachers. To learn more about the ICOTS 6 conference click on the following links:

- [Scientific program](#)
- [The conference location](#)
- [The international Program Committee \(IPC\)](#)
- For more information on local arrangements visit the [local organizers Website](#)
- To submit expression of interest in presenting papers contact directly the session organizers or the [IPC](#)

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### From Milo Schield

- I just received word that the W. M. Keck Foundation approved a three-year \$500,000 grant proposal to "extend statistical education to include statistical literacy": "critical thinking about arguments that use statistics as evidence." The focus is on using statistics for life, not just for very select jobs.
- I am looking for people interested in statistical literacy
  - to write and trial materials
  - rates and percentages, the reading of rates and percentages in tables and graphs
  - the classification of graphs, the description of graphs, etc.
  - More advanced materials: ratio, prediction and explanation, confounding, etc.

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