

Professional Achievements: Milo Schield

Milo Schield graduated from Rice University with a PhD in Space Physics. He has taught critical thinking for 10 years and introductory statistics (statistical inference) for more than 30 years.

During the last 25 years, he has dedicated himself to advancing statistical literacy: the study of statistics as evidence in arguments. By focusing on statistics in arguments, statistical literacy is better situated to function as an integral part of a liberal education and to be more accessible to – and valued by – students in all majors. This shift in focus from randomness to argument is arguably the biggest change in the introductory statistics course in decades.

Students like statistical literacy. When asked whether this argument-based statistical literacy course should be required of all students for graduation, 61% of those taking the course agreed.¹ When asked of those taking a traditional research-based statistical-inference course, less than 25% agreed.

In 1998, he created the first catalog-approved course in argument-based Statistical Literacy.

In 2001, his Statistical Literacy Project received a \$500,000 grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation "to develop statistical literacy as an interdisciplinary curriculum in the liberal arts."²

In 2004, in *More Damned Lies and Statistics*, Joel Best noted, "a small educational movement advocating statistical literacy is emerging. Dr. Milo Schield, director of the W. M. Keck Statistical Literacy project at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, is the movement's leading voice."³

In 2015, he was nominated for a Lifetime Achievement award by the US Conference on Teaching Statistics.⁴

In 2018, the American Statistical Association awarded Milo the rank of Fellow:⁵ an honor limited to 0.3% of the members each year. Milo's citation read, "For leadership in, and service to, the field of statistics education; for outstanding contribution to increase statistical literacy among consumers and decision makers in the wider society; and for tireless efforts in promoting quantitative literacy internationally..."

Dr. Schield is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, the US Representative of the International Statistical Literacy Project, and the President of the National Numeracy Network.

Milo has given talks on statistical literacy world-wide: 19 countries on six continents.⁶ His 70+ statistical literacy papers⁷ have been cited over 800 times according to ResearchGate. He is the editor and webmaster of the website: www.StatLit.org. During 2018, his website had 343,000 visits (462,000 downloads).⁸

Milo has contributed to other disciplines. At a 2004 philosophy conference (Prato Italy) on New Directions in the Humanities, he delivered an invited paper titled "Resolving Three Key Problems in the Humanities."⁹ While working on his Space Physics PhD at Rice, he authored a paper that been cited 134 times.¹⁰

¹ www.statlit.org/pdf/2016-Schild-ASA.pdf

² www.statlit.org/pdf/2001-Augsburg-Now-Keck-Grant.pdf

³ www.StatLit.org/Best.htm

⁴ www.statlit.org/pdf/2015-USCOTS-Schild-Lifetime-Nomination-Packet.pdf

⁵ www.statlit.org/pdf/2018-Schild-ASA-Fellow.pdf

⁶ www.statlit.org/pdf/Schild-Talks-International.pdf

⁷ www.StatLit.org/Schild-pubs.htm

⁸ www.statlit.org/StatLitSite.htm

⁹ www.statlit.org/pdf/2004SchildNDIH.pdf

¹⁰ <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=vP3L0sUAAAAJ&hl=en>