



Greetings! After a successful conference in Port Douglas, Australia, it seems timely to update you all on SSSR business and future plans.

1) 30 years young: looking to the future

The Society for the Scientific Study of Reading – SSSR – was founded in 1993 by **Ronald P. Carver**. To celebrate our 30 years, we have refreshed our logo – see above – and will be launching a new website in October 2023. If you have any photos, images or ideas for features that you think would be suitable for the new website, please email them to scientificstudy.reading@gmail.com.

Since 1993, SSSR has grown in number and reach. We currently have **475 members** representing **42 countries**. Those who attended the Business Meeting at this year's conference will be aware of our work in reviewing our structures and systems. Many thanks to our President Elect, **Nicole Patton-Terry**, for leading this review and all who came to chat with Kylie and Paddington, our conference bears, with your ideas for how to enhance our society and support members during the next 30 years. If you missed the opportunity, please email your suggestions to scientificstudy.reading@gmail.com, and watch out for opportunities to feed into our future planning and engage with SSSR's work.



Voting members participate in elections for SSSR Vice President and Elected Officer roles, and vote on proposed changes to our structures and bylaws. If you are a voting member, be ready for some ballot papers in your inbox soon! We welcome the following **new voting members**: Li-Jen Kuo, Hope Lancaster, Jackie Relyea, and Selcuk Guven. If you are not already a voting member, please make an application [next deadline October 15 2023]. See website for details: <https://www.triplesr.org/voting-membership>

Due to the size and scale of SSSR and the work involved in new developments, we have engaged a full-time Association Manager, **Jen Hughes-Hardie**, who is working with the developers on the new website, and taking on support of membership and the annual conference from **Amy Scarborough** and **Sean Day**. Many thanks to **Amy** and **Sean** for their valuable contributions over the years.



Going forwards, we are using a **single email address**: scientificstudy.reading@gmail.com (in a shared inbox for resilience). Please send all queries to that address.

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2) 30th Annual Conference: Port Douglas, Queensland, Australia, July 2023: Summary



The Port Douglas conference saw more than 340 delegates; nearly one third were students (plus the odd uninvited croc on the beach!). The range of topics reflected the diversity of our members' research interests, with sessions on reading and emotional health, teacher knowledge and classroom practice, biological and environmental correlates of reading, scripts and cross-linguistic perspectives, word reading and spelling, reading comprehension, writing, and so much more. Discussion was reflective, insightful, constructive, and inspiring – with many leaving with ideas for new analyses and studies to present in future years. Unfortunately, **Mark Seidenberg** was not able to travel to deliver his DSCA, but will contribute a write-up of his (planned) DSCA presentation in our journal, *SSR*, in our relaunch of this tradition. We welcomed the opportunity to hear **Charles Hulme** present his DSCA address on “*What we talk about when we talk about reading difficulties*”—a reflective overview of the key theoretical and practical impacts of his research.



We enjoyed the opportunity afforded by the Queensland climate to take our breaks and socialise outdoors, and will take away many fond memories of the excellent food and company we enjoyed and will treasure those very special lanyards. Many thanks to **Genevieve McArthur, Rauno Parrila, Anne Castles** and, of course, **Kylie**, for such a warm and friendly Aussie experience. In particular, we note the unflappable team managing the registration desk—what a professional and friendly welcome to the conference: **Danielle Colenbrander, Claire Galea, Alana Jones, Katherine Ko, Andrea Salins, and Signy Wegener**.

A very successful **one-day pre-conference** was led by **Shayne Piasta** and **Danielle Colenbrander**. There were 48 PhD and early career researchers (ECRs) at the morning session on networking and scientific writing, joined in the afternoon by other delegates for a workshop on *Communicating Research to Non-scientific Audiences*. Thanks to all contributors for making this such a success. If you have ideas for future pre-conference sessions, or wish to volunteer to deliver a workshop, please email scientificstudy.reading@gmail.com with details.



As ever, we supported our **PhD students** and **Early Career Researchers** with mentoring meetings—this year over lunch. This tradition is valued by both the senior academic hosts and the mentees. We are particularly proud of the varied ways in which SSSR and more senior members support junior scholars. In addition to our mentoring meetings during the conference, we accept submissions from all career grades, have a range of awards to recognise promising talent, support conference attendance with travel awards, and always have strong attendance at the poster sessions (where many junior scholars choose to present). Indeed, this year it was a challenge to end the poster sessions and move on to the paper presentations—such was the interest and energy in the room!



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Finally, thanks to all those who volunteered their time to review the impressive number of high-quality submissions to this year's programme; we note you all at the end of this newsletter. We're always looking for fresh eyes to help in this important part of the conference cycle. If you would like to be considered for membership of the conference programme review team, send your name, contact details, and areas of expertise to scientificstudy.reading@gmail.com. We particularly encourage those from traditionally under-represented demographic groups or topics of enquiry to ensure a diverse pool of potential reviewers.

3) Future Conferences: Save the Date!

The 31st annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (SSSR) will be held at the Scandic Falkoner Hotel in **Copenhagen, Denmark** from **Wednesday July 10** (pre-conference and opening reception) to **Saturday July 13, 2024**.

Copenhagen is Scandinavia's version of Paris (augmented by cycling lanes for nearly every street and the possibility to swim in the harbor). The hotel is only a 30-minute walk from Rådhuspladsen, which is Copenhagen's City Hall Square. The hotel is also next to a metro line going directly to the airport. With a bit of planning, you could also arrive by train or car or even bicycle, of course.



Many thanks to our super-planners, and local organizers: **Holger Juul** and **Mads Poulsen**. We all look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen in July 2024!

BTW, Denmark is home to an orthography arguably even deeper than English. Look out for the Scandinavian letters æ, ø and å!

We are close to signing a contract for Calgary, Canada, for July 2025 and are exploring a return to Europe in 2026, exploring suitable venues in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Details to follow.

We are looking ahead for future conference destinations. We can no longer work on a 2-year forwards cycle, as there are few venues suited for a meeting of our size and they get booked many years in advance. If you are interested to serve as local host for a future meeting, please email scientificstudy.reading@gmail.com with details.

4) Celebrating Success

SSSR presents a number of awards each year. Thanks to all nominators and our Awards Committee for their contributions to this important part of our work. The SSSR Board

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approved a number of changes to the support and reward package for our various awards. Details will be posted on the new website, when launched.

Travel Awards

Three travel awards were made to individuals who are both a citizen and resident of a country listed in the World Bank classification system as emerging or moving toward self-sufficiency. In 2023, there were 3 worthy recipients: **Zebedee Cheah**, Malaysia/China; **Glenda Garcia**, Philippines; and **Suchakrey (Toys) Koomplee**, Thailand.

SSSR Taylor and Francis Award

The SSSR Taylor & Francis Award is given to promising young investigators to support conference attendance. In 2023, there were four worthy recipients: **Joseph Hin Yan Lam**, **Elvira Jéldrez**, **Irene Post**, and **Leah Zimmermann**.

Early Career Outstanding Paper Award

The Early Career Outstanding Paper Award is given every two years to recognize an outstanding paper published in *Scientific Studies of Reading* by a scholar who has earned his or her doctorate within the past 7 years. In 2023, the award went to **Danielle Colenbrander** (Australian Catholic University) for her paper *Teaching children to read irregular words: A comparison of three instructional methods*.



Colenbrander, D., et al. (2022). Teaching children to read irregular words: A comparison of three instructional methods. *Scientific Studies of Reading*, 26(6), 545-564
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10888438.2022.2077653>

Rebecca L. Sandak Award

This award, recognizing a gifted young reading researcher who shows outstanding promise and dedication to the field, went to **Signy Wegener** (Australian Catholic University). Signy's PhD supervisor Anne Castles commented that, during her PhD, Signy "demonstrated outstanding independence as a scholar ... received numerous awards, including a Macquarie University Higher Degree Research Excellence Award; three awards for best PhD oral presentation at conferences; and a best publication award ... is now 3 years post the award of her PhD and has amassed 18 published journal articles ... Signy has already made a strong contribution to the discipline of reading research as an Early Career Researcher".



Outstanding Reviewer of SSR Award

This award recognizes the invaluable contribution of volunteer reviewers who have provided quality, exemplary, thoughtful, and timely reviews of manuscripts submitted to our journal *Scientific Studies of Reading*. This year, the award goes to **John R. Kirby** and **Jinger Pan**. Many thanks to our outstanding reviewers and all SSR reviewers for ensuring the quality and success of the journal.



SSSR Carol Connor Mid-Career Award



This year saw the presentation of our new mid-career award in recognition of **Carol Connor's** contributions to the field of scientific studies of reading. This award recognises an individual with a distinguished research record over a substantial period, who makes significant contributions to the advancement of the science of reading by, for example, enhancing the public understanding and esteem of reading research, or fostering links with other disciplines, or stimulating good independent work by young researchers.

The first recipient of this award was **Shayne Piasta**. Shayne's mentors comment that "Dr. Piasta is a remarkable candidate for this prestigious award due to the national notoriety and large-scale impacts of her scholarship to the science of reading, specifically in understanding early literacy skills and the role of teachers in supporting these skills ... Dr. Piasta's research has impacted the field through both substantive and methodological contributions that, in turn, have shaped early literacy policy and practices".

5) *Scientific Studies of Reading (SSR) Journal Report*

Our journal continues to excel under the leadership of **Young-Suk Kim**, supported by 4 Associate Editors: **Marcia Barnes, Nadine Gaab, Michael Kieffer, and Jessie Ricketts**. The quality of submissions remains extremely high with a 20% acceptance rate, the Impact Factor remains strong at 3.70 (5-year IF = 4.90), and the average time to decision = 54 days. We encourage you all to continue to submit your high-quality articles and ideas for special issues. There are two special issues scheduled for 2025: **Science of Teaching Reading** (Guest editors: Young-Suk Kim & Catherine Snow) and **Gene-environment Interplay in Reading (Dis)ability Development** (Guest editors: Sara Mascheretti & Ginette Dionne).



6) Financial Matters

SSSR is in good financial health managed by our hard-working and ever-smiling Treasurer, **Brandy Gatlin-Nash**, and we have engaged a new accounting firm to support us. For those with a love of numbers, please reach out if you wish to help Brandy who is seeking members for the relaunched Financial Advisory Committee: scientificstudy.reading@gmail.com.



We remain mindful of the impact of the current economic climate on members and aim to make only a **small increase to membership fees** in 2024. There have been substantial hikes in conference costs in recent years. The conference registration fee for 2024 will be set to cover the costs so that we can balance the books—we do not seek to make a profit. To help delegates, particularly students, who have modest travel

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funds, we plan to set up an ‘accommodation matching’ site for those wishing to room-share, and we are looking into a range of accommodation options for different budgets for the 2025 meeting in Calgary. If you have other suggestions on how to help, then contact us at scientificstudy.reading@gmail.com.

7) Final Thanks

Finally, thanks first to all other members of SSSR who have supported me and our work during this past year. These include **Becky Chen**, **Nicole Patton-Terry**, and **Rob Savage** (the alphabetical order maps neatly onto sequence of roles: current Vice President, President Elect, and Past President!), **Jan Frijters** (SSSR Secretary) who keeps order on our documentation, Treasurer **Brandy Gatlin**, and our committee chairs and members. Behind the scenes we now have **Jen Hughes-Hardie**, our new Association Manager, supporting conference planning, the new website and much more. And a final thanks to all of you amazing, inspiring, creative, and resilient researchers of reading who continue to support and develop SSSR.

I hope to see many of you in Copenhagen, Denmark, 10 – 13 July 2024.

Kate Cain
President SSSR, 2022-2024

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Help Shape the Future of SSSR

Mission and Vision: Where are we going and how do we get there?

Mentoring: What should we do to support junior scholars?

Diversity: How can we expand membership from emerging economies?

Representation: Should officers be elected or appointed?

Translation: Should we do more to engage non-academic users of research?

Inclusivity: Should we retain voting membership?

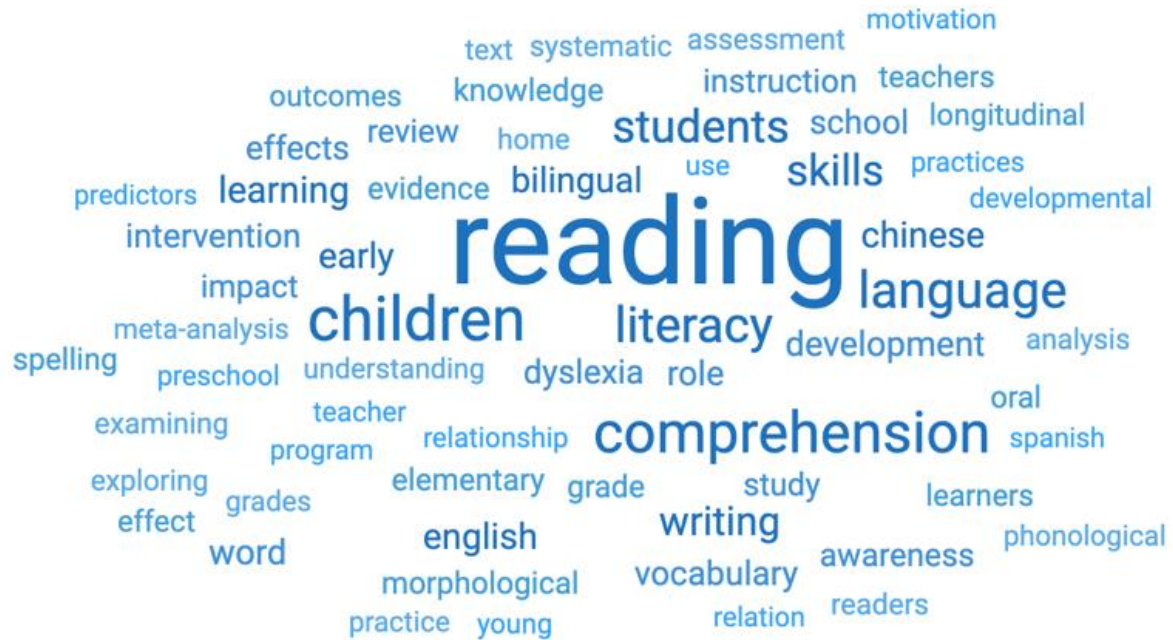
Contribute: How can you get involved?

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Conference 2023 Themes



Thanks to the 2023 Conference Programme Reviewers

Steven Amendum, Katherine Binder, Susan Brady, Lee Branum-Martin, Kathleen Brown, Bonnie Chow, Penelope Collins, Nicole Conrad, Sylvia Defior, Linnea Ehri, Florina Erbeli, Lindsay Harris, Tomohiro Inoue, Malt Joshi, Holger Juul, Janina Kahn-Horwitz, Nenagh Kemp, James Kim, John Kirby, Li-Jen Kuo, Arne Lervåg, Phil Liu, Linda Lombardino, Maureen Lovett, Frank Manis, Kristina Moll, Frederick Morrison, Kate Nation, Tom Nicholson, Nicole Patton-Terry, Beth M. Phillips, Shayne Piasta, Mads Poulsen, Daisy Powell, Athanassios Protopapas, Cynthia Puranik, William Rupley, Susie Russak, Barbara Schirmer, Lori Skibbe, Louise Spear-Swerling, Rhona Stainthorp, Laura Steacy, Sebastian Suggate, Jenny Thomson, Elizabeth Tighe, Yuuko Uchikoshi, Kornelis (Kees) van den Bos, Wim Van-den-Broeck, Julie Van Dyke, Sharon Vaughn, Ludo Verhoeven, Lesly Wade-Woolley, Min Wang, Max Wilson, Julie Wolter, Yu-Ka Wong, Taeko Wydell, and Li Yin.