



## Society for the Scientific Study of Reading

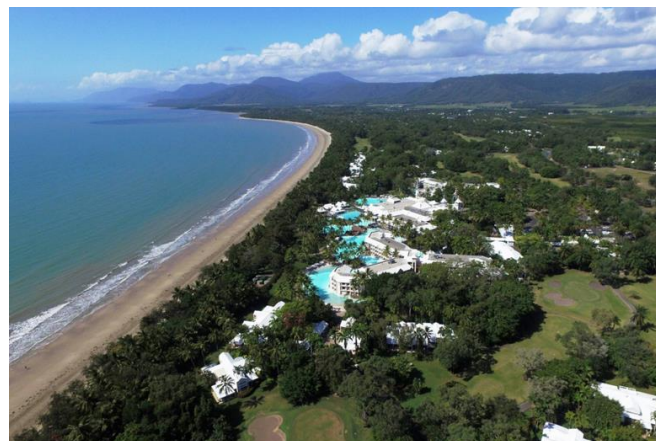
Greetings! This is the first SSSR newsletter for a few years. We've been busy behind the scenes, so it seemed a good time to write and provide an update on recent society business and our plans.

### 1) 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Port Douglas, Queensland, Australia, 19-22 July 2023

In 2023, SSSR is heading to Australia! The annual conference will be an **in-person** event at the **Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort**, in the laidback tropical town of Port Douglas,



Queensland, Australia - the gateway to two UNESCO World Heritage-listed natural wonders, the Great Barrier Reef and the expanses of the Daintree Rainforest. We look forward to welcoming you to academic, cultural, and natural-world inspiration.



The conference submission portal is live: <https://sssr2023.exordo.com>

Like last year, we have a **single** submission deadline: **9 December 2022**. We are accepting submissions for individual papers, interactive papers (posters) and symposia. Full details on the SSSR website: <https://www.triplesr.org/sssr-thirtieth-annual-conference>

There will be the usual mix of: **(a)** academic dissemination with sessions dedicated to themed individual papers, symposia, and posters; **(b)** development and mentoring opportunities for Early Career Researchers with the pre-conference and Breakfast with a Researcher; and **(c)** ample opportunities for leisurely networking and catching up over lunch, coffee breaks, and the evening social. This conference has the added **bonus** of **two** addresses from the most recent recipients of the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award: **Charles Hulme** (2018) and **Mark Seidenberg** (2020). You may also get to meet **Kylie**, our conference mascot!



Registration fees and hotel rates will be posted on the website in 2023: we are seeking to keep costs for delegates as low as possible.



Thanks to our amazing local organisers: **Genevieve McArthur**, **Anne Castles**, and **Rauno Parrila** and, of course, **Kylie**.

## 2) 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Newport Beach, California, July 2022: Summary

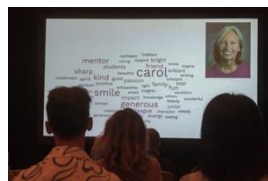


The Newport Beach conference saw more than 300 delegates: many of us meeting in person again for the first time since 2019 in Toronto, as well as many students and postdocs attending SSSR for the first time. The presentations and academic debate were reflective, insightful, constructive, and inspiring; we enjoyed the opportunity afforded by the Californian climate to take our breaks and socialise outdoors; and we take home happy memories of the playlist, food, and setting for the beach party, where we danced with sand between our toes. Many thanks to **Penelope Collins** and **Young-Suk Kim** for being such thoughtful and conscientious local hosts.



There was an exceptionally interactive one-day pre-conference for over 50 attendees, organised by **Susan Chambre** and **Fiona Kyle** who led a session on career development, followed by a workshop on data management led by **Jessica Logan**, and afternoon workshops on *Using creative media to support the translation of reading research*, led by the team at **FCRR**. The feedback speaks volumes – thanks for making this such a success.

This conference, originally scheduled for July 2020, enabled us to come together to pay tribute to **Carol Connor**, our former President Elect, who sadly passed away earlier that year. A symposium on *Literacy and literacy instruction for students who are deaf and hard of hearing*, was followed by *Remembering Carol*, where colleagues, collaborators, students, mentees, SSSR members, and Carol's family shared memories and illustrated her substantial impact on researchers in our field, and SSSR.



This was a very special conference and a great success. One regular attendee told me '*Probably the best SSSR ever*'. Thanks to all delegates, and the all-important behind the scenes team (**Amy Scarborough**, **Sean Day**, and the **student helpers**), for helping to make it happen!



## 3) Celebrating Success

### Travel Awards

Two travel awards were made to individuals who are both a citizen and a resident of a country listed in the World Bank classification system as emerging or moving toward self-sufficiency: **Sabrina A. M. Townsend** (Brazil) and **Sandra Romero Carreón** (Mexico).



### Rebecca L. Sandak Award

This award, recognizing a gifted young reading researcher who shows outstanding promise and dedication to the field, went to: **Alida Hudson** (The Ohio State University).



### Outstanding Reviewer of SSR Award



A new award to recognize 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 awarded to: **Linnea Ehri** and **Lee Branum-Martin**.

### Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences FABBS Early Career Award

This award is presented to early career scientists of FABBS member societies during the first 10 years post-PhD and recognizes scientists who have made major contributions to the sciences of mind, brain, and behavior. Member societies are invited to submit nominations on a rotating basis and, out of 7 applicants this year, the winner was SSSR nominee: **Elsje van Bergen** (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands).



### SSSR Carol Connor Mid-Career Award

We are delighted to announce a new award to be made in 2023 (and thereafter) in recognition of **Carol Connor's** contributions to the field of scientific studies of reading. The



recipient must be currently active in research, with a distinguished research record over a substantial period. Other factors to be considered include breadth of research achievement, and contribution to the advancement of the science of reading, for example by enhancing the public understanding and esteem of reading research, or fostering links

with other disciplines, or stimulating good independent work by young researchers. Full details to be announced in due course.

## 4) SSR Journal Report



Our journal continues to excel under the leadership of **Young-Suk Kim**, supported by 4 Associate Editors: **Michael Kieffer**, **Marcia Barnes**, **Nadine Gaab**, and **Jessie Ricketts**. Quality of submissions remains extremely high and the Impact Factor remains strong at 4.200. We encourage you to submit your high quality articles and ideas for special issues. As from 2020, the DSCA winner will publish a summary of their award address in the journal.

## 5) Financial Matters

The Society is in good financial health. However, we are all experiencing the effects of increased prices across many sectors. Mindful of the impact of the current economic climate on many of our members, we will aim to make only a **small increase** to **membership fees** in 2023. There have been substantial hikes in conference costs in the past few years. We kept the 2022 conference rate at the rate advertised for the 2020 postponed event, and we seek to make **small** and **affordable increases** to the **conference registration rate** for **2023**. The hotel room rates are **great value** between AUD265-280 per room per



night, and it is possible to request a room with an additional bed for the third guest (with a charge of AUD50). Full details and a booking link will go on the SSSR website in 2023.

## 6) Review of our Mission and How to Achieve It

In 2023, the **Society for the Scientific Study of Reading** will be 30 years young. It is time to take stock. The Executive Board is working with all appointed and elected officers and committee members to review our business operations, structures and committees, and processes and bylaws. A communications and dissemination strategy will be developed as part of this work. We are also engaged in long term planning for our annual conference. We are reviewing locations of in-person meetings to maximise opportunity for attendance from members across the globe on a cyclical schedule, and will locate the conference in Europe in July 2024. We will also explore the practicality and cost of hybrid or virtual meetings in future years.

To drive these developments, a set of ad-hoc committees (led by **Kate Cain, Becky Chen, Jan Frijters, Nicole Patton-Terry**) is developing proposals to take to the 2023 Executive Board Meeting and then on to the July 2023 Business Meeting. Between now and then, we will be sending out surveys to consult with members. I wish to **thank all current serving officers**, many of whom have stayed on to undertake this additional task (during the pandemic years we paused on elections and co-opting).



To support this work, the Executive Board agreed to fund a **dedicated Association Manager** post to support the review and implement change over the next 24 months. We have also agreed to fund a **new website** that will provide an enhanced communications platform and added benefits for members of SSSR. A **survey** to solicit **your input** on website form and function will be going out shortly. Check your inbox (or spam folder).

The new website should go live late 2023. For now, check the current site [<https://www.triplesr.org/>] and SSSR twitter account for conference updates and more.



#SSSRReading

We see this work and spend as strategic investments to enhance the impact of SSSR for the next 30 years. Our aim is to enhance the theoretical contributions of our research on the scientific study of reading, and its global and practical significance and impact.

## 7) Final Thanks

Finally, thanks first to all other members of SSSR who have supported me and our society 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 is imposing some structure on our documentation, and former and current Treasurers **Penelope Collins** and **Brandy Gatlin**. And final thanks to all of you amazing, inspiring, creative, and resilient researchers of reading who continue to support and develop our society.

I hope to see many of you in Port Douglas, Australia, in 2023.

Kate Cain

President SSSR, 2022-2024

