

# issotl

International Society for the  
Scholarship of Teaching & Learning

## Annual Report 2020–2021



# Mission

The International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Inc. serves faculty members/academics/scientific personnel, academic staff, and students who care about teaching and learning as serious intellectual work. Through building intellectual and collaborative infrastructure, the Society supports the associational life that fosters scholarly work about teaching and learning. The Society provides this support by:

- recognizing and encouraging scholarly work on teaching and learning in each discipline, within scholarly societies and across institutional types,
- promoting cross-disciplinary conversations to create connections and prompt new lines of inquiry,
- facilitating the collaboration of scholars in different countries and the flow of new findings and applications across national boundaries,
- encouraging the integration of discovery, learning, and public engagement, and
- providing leadership in higher education for the support, recognition, review, and appropriate uses of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

[www.issotl.com](http://www.issotl.com)

# Message

## *ISSOTL Co-Presidents 2020–2021*

In early 2019, we agreed to put our names forward together for the ISSOTL presidency because we believe in advancing and supporting ISSOTL as our professional organization. Of course, like many of you, we thrive on the community and friendship we have long enjoyed as a result of our membership and our participation at ISSOTL conferences. But when we volunteered to assume a position on the Board of Directors, we committed to serve as stewards of the professional society of hundreds of members.

At the time, we had envisioned our contributions in this role as focused on inclusivity and members' engagement. First, we hoped to actively bring in voices not traditionally represented in English-speaking mainstream SoTL conversations and activities. Second, we hoped to increase opportunities for ISSOTL members in between conferences through the Interest Groups, advocacy and outreach activities, and substantive communication. Both of these goals had emerged as pressing issues at the most recent ISSOTL conference in Bergen, so we hoped to be responsive and timely.

Shortly after we assumed office in July of 2019, we attended the ISSOTL19 conference with the theme of "SoTL Beyond Borders." In this first of our three-year presidential term (first as President Elect, then President, finally as Past President), we were thrilled with the possibilities inspired by the conference's conversations about SoTL and social justice, identity, and change. However, what we learned at our first full Board of Directors meeting was that ISSOTL had some more pressing needs to continue functioning effectively as a professional organization. One of the three goals coming out of the 2019 Strategic Plan was

"Strengthening Our Society": relatively few ISSOTL members were shouldering the heavy workloads of multiple roles, which "risk[ed] wearing out the people involved in SoTL work" and not "giv[ing] enough people the chance of experiencing the benefits and joys of working together with international colleagues on a common cause." In short, ISSOTL—now with a larger and more diverse membership than when it began—wouldn't survive if it didn't build a stronger and sounder infrastructure. We were therefore tasked with facilitating the restructuring of ISSOTL's standing committees, interweaving key programs that had been operating without formal support, incorporating an administrative centre into the Society's operations, and bringing everyone on board with all of these changes.

This last task may have been our most challenging. In some ways, ISSOTL began as a "mom and pop" organization (to borrow a term from the US), created and functioning well enough because of the sheer commitment and hard work of a fairly small group of very passionate "moms and pops." After 15 years, we all realized this was no longer tenable. The Board had created the frame for an integrated committee structure that supported the ISSOTL mission's fundamental activities (i.e., advocacy, convenings, publication, recognition) and implemented a "many hands' approach" that would share ownership of the Society's operations more deeply through those committees. However, as we all know, change is never easy even on a good day, much less during a pandemic. Change needs time to allow everyone to 'live into' a new reality. This is particularly difficult when the very passion and deep sense of identity and ownership that drove us to build

up ISSOTL during the past decade made it most challenging to shift to newer ground. Transforming an organization and calling for more “hands” to help the Society make a much-needed shift couldn’t have come at a worse time, but it was necessary.

It’s easy to feel sad about what we didn’t accomplish and the challenges we faced while implementing the less-than-popular steps toward a restructured ISSOTL. We now have time to reflect on the year, and we’re reminded that we had stepped up to serve as stewards of the professional organization. We hope the legacy of this work is long-term sustainability for the Society that offers community, friendship, professional support, and plenty of opportunities for hundreds of members across the globe.

Our current role embeds us within the committees, so we’re now able to experience the coordinated leadership of Co-Chairs and of many members carrying out the focused activities of each committee. We’re seeing the re-launch of ISSOTL’s signature programs (e.g., the ICWG initiative, the ISSOTL Fellows Program) with greater coordination and support across its formal structures. We’re starting to think about what small pieces of ISSOTL we might contribute to when we transition back to being regular ISSOTL members next year. We have a lot to look forward to, and count on your continued support and goodwill as we continue to advance ISSOTL and SoTL scholarship.

### Co-Presidents 2020–2021



NANCY CHICK  
Rollins College



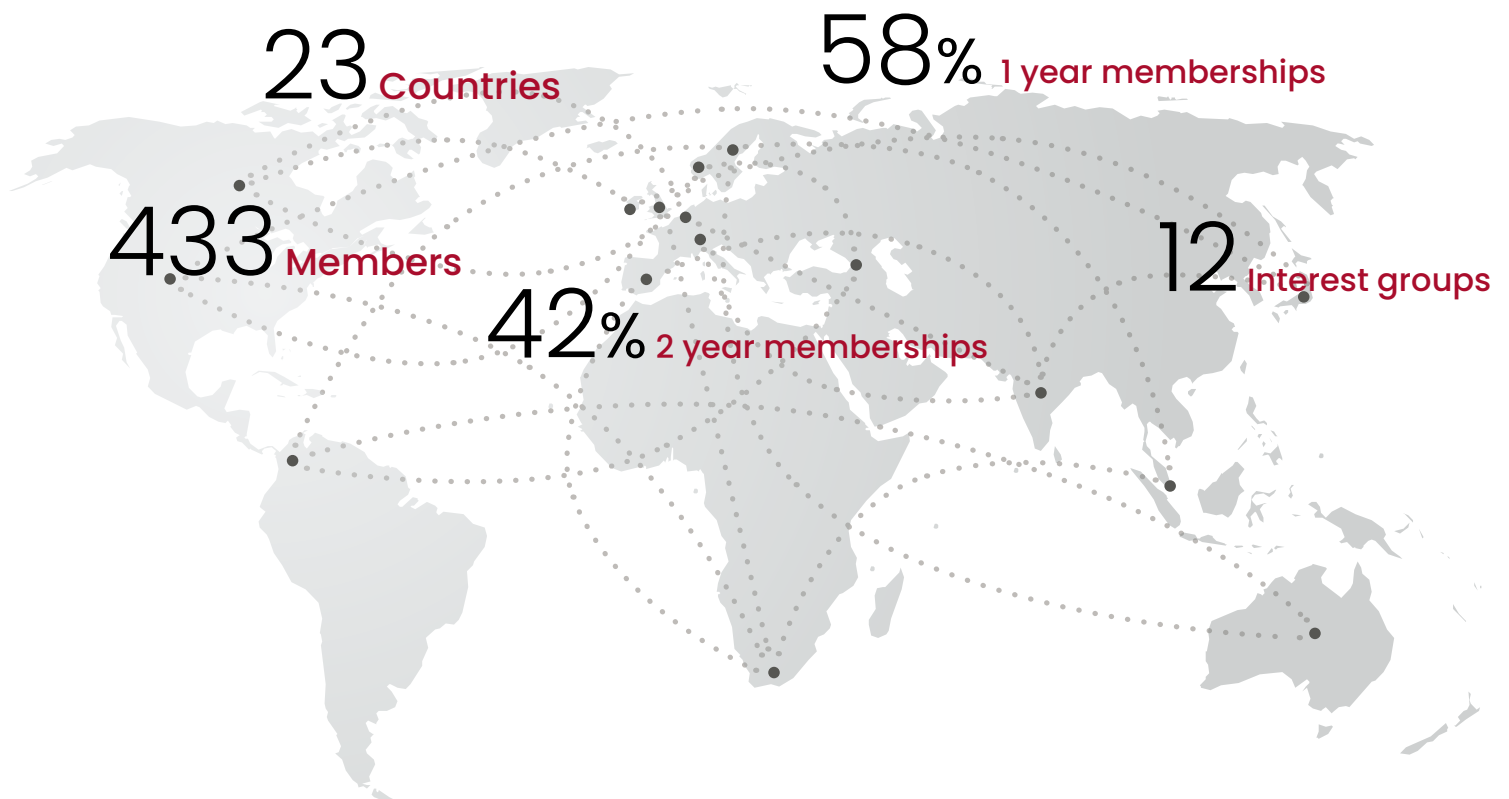
CHNG HUANG HOON  
National University of Singapore



# 2020–2021 Year at a Glance

- Implemented restructuring of ISSOTL’s standing committees
- Hosted ISSOTL Connect 2021 to provide community experience and venue for emerging scholars to present after ISSOTL20 conference was canceled due to the pandemic
- Reviewed and renewed the ISSOTL Fellows Program
- Developed historical account and archive of the International Collaborative Writing Groups (ICWG) Initiative
- Prepared for the re-launch of the ICWG–Public track of the broader ICWG Initiative in 2022
- *Teaching & Learning Inquiry* published issues 8.2 and 9.1
- Launched an updated “Get Involved” page to better feature the organization’s initiatives and pathways for participation
- Developed Orientation Manuals for the Board of Directors and the standing committees
- Onboarded an Executive Director and Administrative Centre to support ISSOTL operations

## Membership Highlights

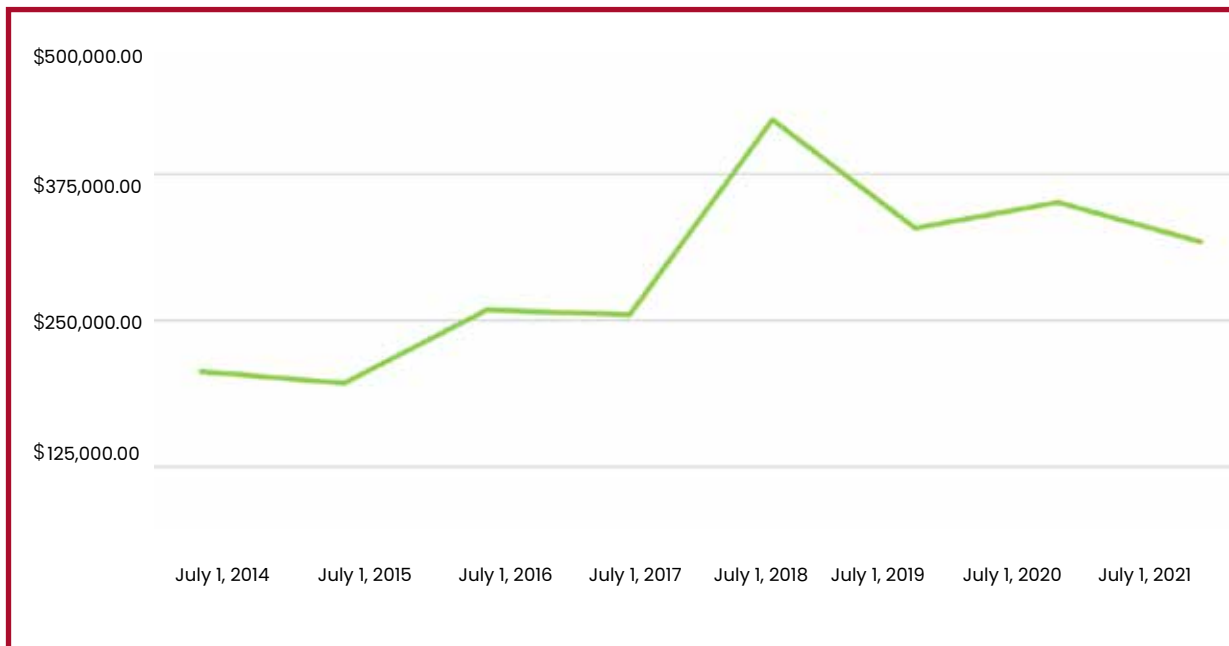


# Financial Overview

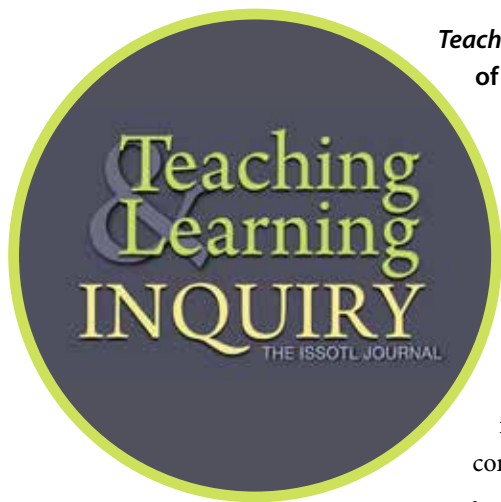
The fiscal year 2020–2021 was interrupted by the COVID pandemic. This impacted ISSOTL finances with the cancellation of the ISSOTL20 conference.

EXPENSE CATEGORY	AMOUNT
• Board and Committee Support	43,323.85 USD
• <i>Teaching &amp; Learning Inquiry</i>	10,524.38 USD
• Website and Software	8,690.29 USD
• Accounting and Legal	5,865.75 USD
• Business Management	
- Credit Card Fees	1,439.73 USD
- Insurance	800.00 USD
- Bank Fees and Interest	417.50 USD
- Business Fees and Licenses	300.00 USD
• Miscellaneous	79.89 USD

The following chart shows the financial position of the organization over time.



# Our Journal



*Teaching & Learning Inquiry (TLI)* is the flagship journal of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL).

*TLI* represents one of the world's most active organizations in the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) with a global readership of the field's leading thinkers and those pursuing SoTL at every level. *TLI* has earned a strong reputation for scholarly excellence; for valuing diverse approaches to understanding teaching, learning, and SoTL; and for encouraging creative as well as conventional ways to share that understanding.

*TLI* features original research and commentary on SoTL, including insightful research, theory, and other scholarly works that document or facilitate investigations of teaching and learning in higher education.

*TLI* values quality and variety in its vision of SoTL. The journal showcases the breadth of the interdisciplinary field of SoTL in its explicit methodological pluralism, call for traditional and new genres, and international authorship from across career stages. *TLI* welcomes submissions from all disciplines, research traditions, and perspectives related to teaching, learning, and SoTL.

**Starting in January 2022, *TLI* will move to a rolling publication model. Articles will be published as they complete the editing and production process.**

140,572

downloads since 2016

2,708

citations

#### OPEN ACCESS & INDEXED

ISSN 2167-4787 *TLI* is a member of Crossref and is indexed by Google Scholar, DOAJ, EBSCO Education Source, EBSCO Discovery Service, ERIC, MLA International Bibliography, ProQuest, and Scopus.

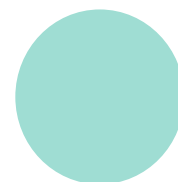
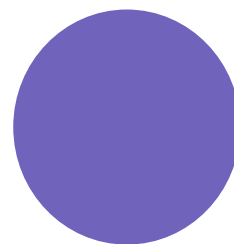
#### CO-EDITORS

Katarina Mårtensson (SE)  
Kelly Schrum (USA)

#### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Ketevan Kupatadze (USA)  
Susannah McGowan (USA)

<http://tljournal.com/>



222

articles published by

502

authors from

204

institutions in

19

countries



# ISSOTL Fellows Program



Launched in 2019, the ISSOTL Fellows Program provide a collaborative leadership opportunity for ISSOTL members interested in mentorship and outreach aimed at enriching and expanding the ISSOTL community. ISSOTL Fellows join colleagues from across the globe to form a cohort of SoTL ambassadors and advocates. Together, the Fellows contribute to the breadth and depth of ISSOTL's support for SoTL in two ways. First, they mentor emerging SoTL scholars in ISSOTL to help them develop a SoTL portfolio, form an international network, and/or explore the potential of SoTL within their career trajectories. They also reach out to grow the ISSOTL community, especially from new geographical and disciplinary areas, institutions, and populations.

## 2021 Update

Based on the twin circumstances of the pandemic and ISSOTL's new structure, the Board of Directors used this year to review the initiative and the support provided by ISSOTL, in part by actively engaging the two previous cohorts. As a result, the ISSOTL Fellows Program web page now highlights clear program descriptions and processes, and stronger support and coordination from within ISSOTL's infrastructure are planned for the coming year.

The 2019 and 2020 ISSOTL Fellows were featured during the ISSOTL Connect 2021 event.

# 2021-2022 Board Members

- Sarah Bunnell (President)
- Nancy Chick (Past Co-President)
- Chng Huang Hoon (Past Co-President)
- S. Raj Chaudhury (President Elect)
- Karena Waller (Asia Pacific Vice President)
- Michelle J. Eady (Asia Pacific Vice President)
- Andrea Webb (Canada Vice President)
- Melanie Hamilton (Canada Vice President)
- Claire Hamshire (Europe Vice President)
- Rie Troelsen (Europe Vice President)
- Hillary Steiner (United States Vice President)
- Nancy Krusen (United States Vice President)
- Joe Bradley (Student Vice President)
- Nicole Galante (Student Vice President)
- John Egan (Treasurer)
- Mary Ann Danielson (Secretary)



# Looking Forward

## 2021–2022 Key Initiatives

Below are several areas of focus for the year ahead:



SARAH L. BUNNELL

President 2021–2022  
Amherst College

**1. ISSOTL 2021: Reflecting on the Strategic Plan.** The annual ISSOTL 2021 conference, to be hosted virtually in Perth, Australia, is fast approaching! The planning work is being led by our dedicated local hosts (Andrea Dodo-Balu, Rebecca Stuart-Coombe, Alyce-Maree Walpole) and indefatigable Convenings Committee (co-chaired by Andrea Webb, Nancy Chick, and Chng Huang Hoon). We look forward to a wonderful and creative virtual conference and to connecting with you all in October!

During the conference, ISSOTL Board members will be strategically dividing our time and presence across sessions as listening ears and attentive eyes. What are the key themes that are emerging across sessions? Whose voices are included and whose voices are not included? What are the gaps and what are the opportunities? We will then report back to the Board and engage in an informal, thematic analysis, with a particular focus on what these collective observations tell us in relation to our goals for diversity and inclusion as well as expanding and supporting our members (see ISSOTL's Strategic Plan: Vision for 2034).

**2. Refining the Facilitation of the Fellows Program.** During the past year and a half of the pandemic, we have had to pause the face-to-face aspects of the Society. One group that was particularly impacted by this pause were the Fellows, as they did not experience the benefits of both celebration and collaboration that the conference provides. This year, we are working to develop positions of co-facilitators to support the community-building and convenings of the Fellows as they work together on shared initiatives and projects.

**3. Preparing for the Launch of the ICWG–Public Track in 2022.** The traditional International Collaborative Writing Group (ICWG) work has been a key initiative of ISSOTL for the past decade. We now look forward to offering an additional ICWG opportunity in 2022, in which individuals across regions and positions work together on a collaborative project with the aim of advancing a shared piece of public-facing SOTL. This work will engage exciting questions including, “Who is the audience for this work? Who are the stakeholders? What are the assumptions that should be unpacked? What is the best genre in which to represent our work?” and others. More information will be coming soon.

**4. Creating Transparent Documentation of ISSOTL Process and History.** Our 20th anniversary as a Society is fast approaching! As we pursue the diversity and inclusion goals we articulated in our strategic plan, a key anti-racist practice we have identified is that of transparency: Clear documentation of ISSOTL history as well as current processes, criteria, and decision-making. Past work in this area has focused on conference processes (e.g., articulating the conference pedagogy, clarifying reviewer criteria), *Teaching & Learning Inquiry* reviewer and author guidelines, and ISSOTL Board processes (e.g., developing an Orientation Handbook for the Board of Directors and ISSOTL's standing committees, updating and formalizing documentation around two key ISSOTL initiatives, such as the ISSOTL International Collaborative Writing Groups [ICWGs] and the ISSOTL Fellows Program, on the ISSOTL website). In the year ahead, we will continue to refine and document additional work of the Board, especially focused on the four main standing committees (Advocacy, Convenings, Publications, and Recognition), so they can continue their important work over the years to come.

Across all of the work ahead is a deep desire for us to be in community with each other, in ways that we value, as we engage in the work of teaching and learning. I look forward to this work together.

—SARAH BUNNELL  
ISSOTL President 2021–2022

## Administrative Centre

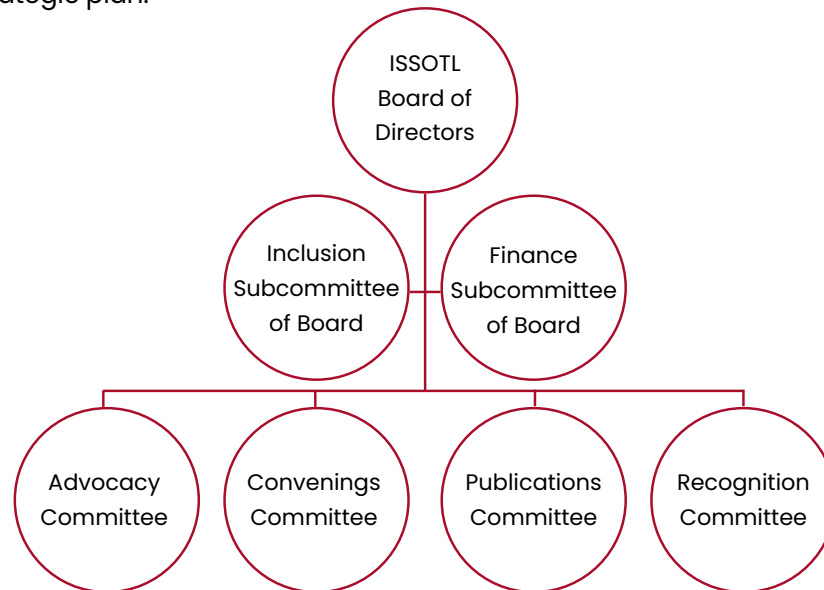
In August 2020, AOR Solutions, an association management company located in Prince Edward Island, Canada, was hired to provide professional administrative support for ISSOTL. AOR Solutions brings passion, experience, and a strategic approach to supporting non-profit organizations. The AOR team provides support for membership management, website maintenance, financial administration, communications and support for the ISSOTL Board. Team members are:

- Michelle MacDonald, Executive Director ([executivedirector@issotl.com](mailto:executivedirector@issotl.com))
- Jay Adamsson, Finance and Information Technology ([finances@issotl.com](mailto:finances@issotl.com))
- Natalie Speth, Communications ([communication@issotl.com](mailto:communication@issotl.com))
- Melvin van Doorn, Finance and Membership ([accounting@issotl.com](mailto:accounting@issotl.com))

*Other AOR Team members also provide programming, graphic design, web development, and administrative support as required.*

# ISSOTL Committees

ISSOTL has four standing committees. This committee structure helps implement the Society's mission and strategic plan.



## ► Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee promotes an active membership that's engaged in relevant advocacy within and beyond the Society, implementing the mission's charge to "support, review and recognize appropriate uses of SoTL" by:

- promoting relevant communication and interaction with and among Society members,
- promoting relevant communication and interaction beyond membership to extend the reach and influence of the Society,
- providing high-level coordination to guide new cohorts of the public SoTL track of the International Collaborative Writing Groups and the ISSOTL Fellows Program (on-the-ground leadership and coordination for these initiatives comes from within the cohort), and
- forging relationships with SoTL groups in other world regions.

### **Key Activities in 2020-21**

- Content development for ISSOTL Twitter account
- Work to engage SoTL organizations around the world
- Work to better define the description and roles of the ISSOTL Fellows
- Work to define a new path forward for the International Collaborative Writing Group Initiative
- Creating posts for the ISSOTL blog with the Publications Committee and ISSOTL Fellows

In February 2021, Colin Jevons completed his term as VP Asia-Pacific and Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee; we are grateful for his service to ISSOTL. Michelle Eady was appointed to the ISSOTL Board as VP Asia-Pacific and was joined by Earle Abrahamson as the incoming Co-Chairs of Advocacy.

## ► Convenings Committee

The Convenings Committee represents the Society's mission and values in the selection and programming of the annual conference and other events by:

- prioritizing an appropriate mix of locations that reflects both the distribution of members and the international scope of the Society,
- ensuring that the annual conference includes signature ISSOTL components, and
- seeking synergies with events sponsored by other regional groups (e.g., SoTL in the South, EuroSoTL, Asia SoTL, China SoTL, SoTL Canada, Latin SoTL).

### **Key Activities in 2020–21**

- Hosted online event ISSOTL Connect, 2021 in February after cancellation of ISSOTL20
- Planning with Perth team for ISSOTL21
- Selection of host and location for ISSOTL22
- Developing guidelines for the compensation of invited speakers and keynotes

In June 2021, Michelle Yeo completed her term as Past President & Co-Chair of Convenings; we are grateful for her service to ISSOTL. At that time, Nancy Chick (Past Co-President) and Chng Huang Hoon (Past Co-President) joined as the incoming Co-Chairs of Convenings along with Andrea Webb who continues as Co-Chair.

### **ISSOTL Connect Report**

When the 2021 conference was postponed, a working group of the Convenings Committee took up a Board proposal to organize a free virtual event to bring together ISSOTL members and potential members and to provide a presentation venue for early scholars (i.e., graduate students, early career faculty) who might suffer from the cancellation of the annual conference. The event was a success: there were 576 registered attendees, 37 pre-recorded presentations viewed a total of 1976 times, 6 live sessions attended by 324 participants total, and lots of gratitude from everyone who participated.

#### **Attendees by ISSOTL Regions**

- Asia Pacific: 168 attendees
- North America: 340 attendees
- Europe: 68 attendees

#### **Attendees by ISSOTL Membership**

- 144 registrants were ISSOTL members
- 432 registrants were non-members

#### **Attendees via Zoom per day (Synchronous Sessions)**

- Wednesday, February 24: 215 participants
- Thursday, February 25: 41 participants
- Friday, February 26: 68 participants

*The video presentations have had a total of over 2000 views.*

## ► Publications Committee

The Publications Committee facilitates the sharing of scholarly work on teaching and learning and supports the Society's publication platforms by:

- facilitating contributions to and curating the ISSOTL blog,
- supporting the operations of *Teaching & Learning Inquiry*,
- providing high-level coordination to guide new cohorts of the academic scholarship track of the International Collaborative Writing Groups (on-the-ground leadership and coordination comes from within the cohort), and
- strategizing other relevant ways of going public.

### **Key Activities in 2020-21**

- Successfully searched for and appointed a new co-editor of *Teaching & Learning Inquiry*, Kelly Schrum (George Mason University);
- Successfully searched for and appointed two new associate editors of *Teaching & Learning Inquiry*, Ketevan Kupatadze (Elon University) and Susannah McGowan (Georgetown University),
- Successfully searched for and hired a copy editor for *Teaching & Learning Inquiry* for the 2021 volume;
- Curated posts for the ISSOTL blog in partnership with Advocacy Committee and the ISSOTL Fellows.
- Submitted recommendations for next steps for the ICWGs, with attention to the ICWG-Academic track; and
- Developed the Nancy Chick Article of the Year Award, honoring one of *Teaching & Learning Inquiry*'s founding editors, to be awarded for the first time in 2022 (recognizing an article published in 2021).

*The Co-Chairs of Publications are Claire Hampshire (VP Europe) and Jessie L. Moore.*

## ► Recognition Committee

The Recognition Committee supports and promotes Society membership and its forms of recognition by:

- overseeing membership benefits,
- motivating the ISSOTL Interest Groups,
- recruiting from ISSOTL membership a pool of reviewers for relevant Society activities, and
- overseeing and coordinating the processes for Board elections and adjudication of Society awards and other distinctions.

### **Key Activities in 2020-21**

- Renewed ISSOTL Interest Groups to confirm leadership and update website
- Provided oversight of ISSOTL nominations and elections process for the ISSOTL Board
- Work to review the ISSOTL Fellows nominations process
- Developed a recruitment process for reviewers to create a reviewer pool for all of ISSOTL's reviewing needs, including the ISSOTL21 submission review process

*The Co-Chairs of Recognition are Rie Troelsen (VP Europe) and Louise Lutze-Mann.*

# Get Involved

The “Get Involved” page featured on the ISSOTL website was updated in 2021 with the intention to better address and direct the interests of our members. The redesign has streamlined the content and allows the audience to access information on the journal, conference, interest groups, recognition, committees, and connecting with the organization.

## The Conference

- Listen, learn, share your scholarship and connect with others at the annual conference.
- Engage with a cohort of scholars with similar interests through the International Collaborative Writing Groups (ICWG).
- Have a vision for a future ISSOTL conference? Apply to host the conference.

## The Journal

- Make your scholarship public, and get feedback from other experts in the field, by submitting an article to *Teaching & Learning Inquiry (TLI)*.
- Mentor others, and help advance their scholarship, by becoming a peer reviewer for *TLI*.
- Consider writing a Dialogue piece responding to a previous article in *TLI* or a *TLI* Review about a conference, book, article, or other resources including web resources.
- Have a larger topic you wish to explore with other scholars? Propose a Special Section to *TLI*.

## ISSOTL Committees

- ISSOTL committee service is a great way to learn about Society initiatives and programs, contribute to the initiatives that excite you, and enhance your leadership or mentorship skills.
- We have four standing committees. Learn about their work and to get involved by checking the ISSOTL website.

## Recognition

- Celebrate the contribution of ISSOTL scholars who have provided substantial service to the Society through the Distinguished Service Award.
- Interested in working with an international cohort of fellows to mentor others, outreach, and explore shared projects? Apply to be an ISSOTL Fellow.

## The Board

- The ISSOTL Board meets monthly to support the work of the committees, plan the conference and other convenings, and vision larger Society initiatives.
- Join us to build your community and contribute to this work? Consider standing for an available Board position during ISSOTL’s annual elections.

## Keep the Conversation Going

- Reach out to other ISSOTL members through the Membership Directory.
- Stay up-to-date and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube.
- Join in community conversation with #ISSOTL and with our conference hashtags #ISSOTLXX (i.e. #ISSOTL19, #ISSOTL21).
- Contribute and comment on blog posts about ideas, initiatives, and insights.
- Build your local community of SoTL practitioners by posting job ads on our website.

## ISSOTL Interest Groups

- ISSOTL Interest Groups connect international scholars around a shared interest in a particular topic or area of inquiry.
- Build your SoTL community by joining a pre-existing Interest Group (IG).
- Explore exciting new SoTL questions with colleagues by proposing a new IG.

### *Current Interest Groups*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Advancing Undergraduate Research                                 | • Student Engagement & Co-Inquiry                                    |
| • Arts & Humanities  | • ISSOTL in History  |
| • Decoding the Disciplines   | • Problem-Based Learning   |
| • General Education  | • Scholarship of Leading   |
| • Information Literacy   | • Sociology  |
| • National Teaching Fellows & Institutional Teaching Award Winners | • Pedagogy and Research for Online and Blended Teaching and Learning |

[www.issotl.com](http://www.issotl.com)