

SERG/GRÉS News

Looking forward to CSSE 2021!

Dear SERG friends and members,

We hope that you are finding some peace and tranquility through these very difficult and strange times. We are deeply disappointed we will not have a chance to meet this year, but are setting our sights on the next gathering of the Science Education Research Group (SERG/GRÉS) at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) conference in Edmonton, Alberta. We are putting out a very short version of the newsletter this year to announce award winners and to touch base about the AGM. This includes messages from the SERG/GRÉS executive, information about the changes to the executive for next year, and some discussion points for members to think about before the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) a year from now in Edmonton. Once again, we hope you are all coping well enough, and that you will continue to be members of our collegial SIG going forward into 2021.

Sincerely,

Lilian Pozzer, Allison Gonsalves, Roxana Yanez-Gonzales, Mickie Noble, Jesse Bazzul, Josée Lebel, and Alexandre Soares Cavalcante

Soyez des nôtres à la SCÉÉ 2021!

Chers amis et membres du GRÉS,

Nous espérons que vous trouverez un peu de paix et de tranquillité à travers ces moments difficiles et étranges. Nous sommes profondément déçus de ne pas avoir pu s'être vus cette année, mais sommes déjà en pleine planification pour le prochain rassemblement du Groupe de Recherche sur l'Enseignement de la Science (SERG / GRÉS) à la conférence de la Société canadienne pour l'étude de l'éducation (SCÉÉ) à Edmonton en Alberta. Cette année, nous publions cette très courte version du bulletin pour annoncer les lauréats des nos prix du GRÉS et pour vous faire part de la remise de l'AGA à l'an prochain. Dans ce bulletin, vous trouverez des messages de l'exécutif du GRÉS, des renseignements par rapport aux changements prévus auprès du comité exécutif pour l'année à venir et quelques points de discussion auxquels les membres doivent réfléchir avant la prochaine assemblée générale annuelle (AGA) qui aura lieu à Edmonton l'an prochain. Nous espérons que vous vous portez bien et que vous continuerez à être membres de notre GIP collégial à l'avenir en 2021.

Cordialement,

Lilian Pozzer, Allison Gonsalves, Roxana Yanez-Gonzales, Mickie Noble, Jesse Bazzul, Josée Lebel, and Alexandre Soares Cavalcante

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SERG/GRÉS



SERG President's Message

Dear SERG/GRÉS Members

I write to you from my home, where I have been working for the past couple of months, since the University of Manitoba closed its doors, as many other institutions have done, due to COVID-19. This was also the reason why the CSSE 2020 Conference was canceled, including all SERG presentations and meetings. Even though we did not meet in person this year, I would like to report on some of the hard and brilliant work my colleagues at the SERG Executive Committee have done this year. But before I do so, I would like to thank all of you, SERG members, for your continued support. Your membership is what allows us to have our group at CSSE, and the financial support you provide through membership allows us to continue to offer SERG awards to our graduate students. I encourage you to continue to be a part of SERG and to spread the word to your science education colleagues to join us. I also want to thank you for your invaluable help reviewing proposals submitted to SERG within CSSE; without your support, we could not make the conference happen.

I would like to acknowledge and thank **Dr. Allison Gonsalves**, our current Vice-President and Program Chair, who worked diligently to put together a marvellous SERG conference program. This year we would have had 40 presentations distributed along poster and oral presentation sessions, as well as the graduate students round tables session, all neatly organized in three days of conference with no concurrent sessions. Conference attendees would also have enjoyed a keynote speech from our illustrious colleague, **Dr. Erminia Pedretti**, from OISE, University of Toronto. I am grateful for her willingness to fulfill this role and disappointed we were deprived of the opportunity to hear her speech this year. Finally, the conference would also include two pre-conference workshops, which I hope will be offered again next year.

My heartfelt gratitude also goes out to **Dr. Jesse Bazzul**, our industrious secretary, who so enthusiastically have been envisioning a new role for SERG, beyond CSSE Conference, as a more robust networking group, an idea I hope we will all have a chance to hear about and discuss during our AGM at CSSE 2021 Conference.

I am grateful to **Ms. Josée Lebel**, our current Francophone Representative, who has initiated a worthy discussion about the role of the francophone community within SERG and how we could make this a stronger and more productive relationship. I also would like to thank our Communications representative, **Dr. Alexandre Soares Cavalcanti**, and **Ms. Roxana Yanez-Gonzales**, our Graduate Students Representative, who have been invaluable members of the executive committee.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our past president, **Dr. Mickie Noble**, for all her wisdom and patience helping me figure out what I was supposed to do as SERG President. I am glad I had you close by, Mickie. Your help and support was much appreciated.

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Conference, we did not offer travel bursaries this year, but we did honour our graduate students with two SERG Awards. Please, join me in congratulating this year's SERG Award winners: **Dr. Qingna Jin**, who is the recipient of the 2020 Best Dissertation Award from SERG; Dr. Jin completed her doctoral studies at the University of Alberta, with the supervision of Dr. Mijung Kim. The recipient of the 2020 Best Paper Award is **Mx. Rishi (Shruti) Krishnamoorthy**. Congratulations to both of them!

Please take note of the upcoming SERG Executive Committee membership **online vote**, which will allow us to establish the new Executive Committee members for 2020-2021. More information about nominations and voting is available below in this newsletter.

Finally, I wish to bid you farewell as SERG President, and thank you all for this wonderful opportunity to be a part of SERG Executive. It has been an honour to work closely to all of you.

Stay safe and connected.
Lilian Pozzer

SERG Annual General Meeting / Assemblée Générale Annuelle du GRÉS

In view of the CSSE 2020 Conference being canceled, SERG executive decided to postpone the SERG 2020 AGM agenda items to the 2021 AGM. However, we do plan to hold **an online vote** for the new executive membership.

Customarily, SERG members vote for the new executive membership at the AGM held during the CSSE Conference, and the new executive is in effect immediately after the Conference. Inasmuch as this year we will hold an online vote instead, the current executive members agreed to continue in their respective positions until after the online vote is complete. At this moment, we are encouraging SERG members to submit nominations for the various positions available. Below, we have listed the positions with a brief description of the tasks associated to them, as well as the current nominees. Please, submit any nomination **by June 22nd 2020** to Lilian.Pozzer@umanitoba.ca

President: The President of SERG is tasked with organizing and chairing executive meetings, communicating with CSSE in matters related to finances and memberships, announcing and awarding the various SERG Awards at CSSE Conference, and opening the SERG Conference sessions at CSSE. Usually, the president has served in other executive positions within SERG. It is customary for the Vice-President to become President after a year of service within SERG. Dr. Allison Gonsalves, who currently serves as SERG Vice-President, has agreed to be nominated for the position of President for 2020-2021.

Vice-President: The Vice-President of SERG serves also as Conference Program Chair, and as such is tasked with organizing all SERG related aspects of the conference. The Vice-President is in constant contact with CSSE Conference organizers to recruit proposal reviewers, accept proposal submissions, distribute proposals to reviewers, send acceptance/rejection messages to proposal authors, organize all accepted presentations into sessions, and chair the sessions during CSSE. This is a monumental work that requires one to work collaboratively and diligently within strict deadlines. Whether experience as a conference organizer is an asset, previous SERG executive members are usually nominated for this position. In this tradition, Dr. Michael-Anne (Mickie) Noble, past president of SERG, has agreed to be nominated for the position of Vice-President and Program Chair for 2020-2021.

Secretary: The Secretary is tasked with communications in the SERG listserv, including announcements from SERG Executive and members at large. The secretary also keeps notes during Executive meetings and prepares the minutes of meetings. Twice a year, the secretary puts together the SERG Newsletters, which are sent to members via listserv in the Fall and in the Spring. Dr. Jesse Bazzul, the current SERG Secretary, has agreed to be nominated as Secretary for another year.

Communications Representative: This position includes tasks related to SERG's presence on social media, as well as SERG website. The current Communications Representative, Dr. Alexandre Soares Cavalcante, has agreed to be nominated to serve in this position for another year.

Graduate Students Representatives: We encourage graduate students to consider nominating themselves for this positions. Usually, we have two graduate students sharing responsibilities as SERG Graduate Students Representatives. The main task of GSRs is to be the voice of graduate students at the SERG Executive. They are also tasked with organizing social events for graduate students during the conference. The current GSRs, Dr. Alexandre Soares Cavalcante and Ms. Roxana Yanez-Gonzales, have kindly agreed to continue to collaborate with the new GSRs, to mentor them during the 2020-2021 term.

Francophone Representatives: The main task of the Francophone Representatives is to provide a voice for francophone members in SERG Executive. This position also entails translating materials from English to French for distribution to SERG members (e.g., newsletters, communications on social media and via listserv). Following the brilliant lead of our current FR, Ms. Josée Lebel, this position is becoming even more important within SERG to encompass the work of bringing the francophone community of science educators together and re-envisioning their participation within SERG, especially, but not limited to during CSSE Conference. Ms. Josée Lebel has agreed to be nominated for another year in this position, and we encourage other francophone SERG members to nominate themselves for this position as well, as we would like to have at least two FRs in the 2021 SERG Executive Committee.

Please, consider nominating yourself or others to these positions. Send nominations, with full name, credentials, affiliation and email address to Lilian Pozzer at Lilian.Pozzer@umanitoba.ca by **June 22nd 2020**.

SERG/GRÉS Award Winners

A warm congratulations to the following award winners!

Dissertation/Thesis Award:

Winner: Dr. Qingna Jin, (from U of Alberta, supervised by Dr. Mijung Kim).

Title of doctoral dissertation: *Exploring Students' Metacognition in the Context of Argumentation (Mc-A) in an Elementary Science Classroom.*

Best Paper Award:

Winner: Mx. Rishi (Shruti) Krishnamoorthy.

Title of proposal: What is a Microbe? Challenging Standardized Approaches to School Science

Bios/Messages from SERG/GRÉS Executive Nominees for 2020/2021

Allison Gonsalves, Nominee for President, allison.gonsalves@mcgill.ca

Over the past year, I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as the 2020 Science Education Research Group conference chair. This year, SERG was to have had strong presence at CSSE, with 40 presentations in the form of multiple paper sessions, symposiums, workshops, round tables and posters. We also had two pre-conference sessions planned, and we hope we will be able to offer a similar experience at CSSE next year. I would also like to thank all the authors who submitted proposals to SERG, it was going to be an excellent week of sharing ideas and supporting research in science education. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to each of the wonderful volunteers who diligently and thoroughly reviewed the numerous proposals we received for this year's conference. As conference chair I had an insider's perspective to the workings of the SERG conference, and I came away from the experience with the feeling that the Science Education Research Group is a strong community who are eager to support each other's scholarship. I do look forward to the time when we will again be able to share this work with each other in person. I am honoured to accept the nomination to act as President for the 2020-2021 SERG executive, and would be pleased to take on the position if elected. I am sorry to have not seen SERG members this year, and I'm very much looking forward to CSSE 2021 in Edmonton!



Jesse Bazzul, Nominee for Secretary, Jesse.Bazzul@uregina.ca

It has been a very good experience working with SERG/GRÉS for the past year, and I would be happy to continue in my role as secretary as I take up a new position in Ireland for the next academic year. It seems that life is changing in drastic ways due to the pandemic, and so going forward if anyone has new ideas for SERG/GRÉS they are encouraged to send them to the leadership or bring them to the next AGM in Edmonton (fingers crossed).



Roxana Yanez Gonzalez, Outgoing Graduate Student Representative, ryane009@uottawa.ca

After working as a social studies teacher at the German School in Quito, I moved to Ottawa and got involved in the field of Early Childhood Education as an educator and college instructor. I am currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Ottawa under the inspiring supervision of Dr. Christine Tippett. My research interests include STEM and Education for Sustainability in the early years. I look forward to the coming academic year with SERG as a Grad Representative!



Michael-Anne Noble, Nominee for Vice-President, Mickie.Noble@RoyalRoads.ca

Dr. Michael-Anne (Mickie) Noble is an Associate Professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability at Royal Roads University with over 25 years of experience teaching undergraduate science. I enjoy teaching both the lab and lecture portions of my courses. My current research interests include problem-based learning in online environments, undergraduate science curriculum design, sense of place and science education, as well as children's representations of scientists. I also run a K-5 elementary school outreach program that allows elementary school students to come to RRU for the day to experience both lab and field science, and allows my BSc students to experience working with children. According to the teachers, the program is "corrupting" their students one class at a time by convincing them that science is actually fun! I have greatly enjoyed being part of SERG and look forward to continuing to work with and meet more members of the Canadian Science Education Community.



Josée Lebel, Nominee for Francophone Representative, jlebel@uottawa.ca

Josée is currently a PhD student at the University of Ottawa, studying dialogue in the secondary science classroom, in French minority contexts. SERG is actively trying to find ways to attract francophone researchers to get involved in our SIG to provide a wider representation of science education research across Canada. What proportion of our current members are fluently bilingual or have a working knowledge of French? How can we ensure a substantial turnout to make attending the CSSE worthwhile for francophone presenters? What models currently exist to foster inclusion of francophone researchers in other Canada-wide conferences? I look forward to discussing these and other issues with my Francophone Rep team colleague this year.



Alexandre Cavalcante, Nominee for Communications Representative alexandre.cavalcante@utoronto.ca

I have had the pleasure and privilege to serve the SERG/GRÉS community for the past year as the communications and graduate student representative while finishing my doctoral studies at McGill University. This year, as I begin a new chapter in my career as an assistant professor at OISE/University of Toronto, I would be happy to continue serving the community as the communications representative and finding new ways to get in touch and develop a sense of belonging among science and STEM educators. We have updated our website, and welcome any suggestions to strengthen its ability to reach to SERG/GRÉS members and amplify the impact of their research. Furthermore, I believe we could make better use of our communications tools to integrate and support practitioners to the works developed by SERG/GRÉS members. Have any ideas? Please feel free to get in touch with me!



Call for SERG/GRÉS Graduate Student Representative!

Please consider serving as the graduate student representative for SERG/GRÉS beginning this fall 2020! Supervisors, please encourage your graduate students to consider serving in this important role! Interested graduate students should email Lilian.Pozzer@umanitoba.ca

Please check your SERG membership details for this year! If they do not include SERG as a Special Interest Group, please contact Barb Ford at mmb_services@csse.ca so that she can make the necessary changes.