

The ISSoTL Interest Group on Student Engagement
Mission Statement

The ISSoTL Interest Group on Student Engagement serves as an international, interdisciplinary network for ISSoTL members who are committed to pursuing studies on the topic of student engagement. Its mission is to create opportunities for dialogue, encourage activities that promote scholarly research on the topic, and provide support to ISSoTL members interested in student engagement. The ISSoTL Interest Group on Student Engagement exists as a network of scholars to promote and develop collaborative projects.

The mission of the ISSoTL Interest Group on Student Engagement is compatible with the goals of ISSoTL, particularly the following two organizational objectives: to “promote cross-disciplinary conversation to create synergy” and to “facilitate the collaboration of scholars in different countries and the flow of new findings and applications across national boundaries.”

To fulfill its mission, the ISSoTL Interest Group on Student Engagement shall organize and offer a variety of activities, including but not limited to:

- 1) holding meetings at ISSoTL conferences;
- 2) proposing and forming special sessions and symposia at ISSoTL conferences;
- 3) establishing electronic forums;
- 4) providing updates and postings via the ISSoTL newsletter;
- 5) identifying, developing, and creating opportunities for publishing on the topic.

The ten (10) founding members of the ISSoTL Interest Group on Student Engagement:

Chris Garrett, Oklahoma City University (USA)
Kathleen McKinney, Illinois State University (USA)
Lynn Taylor, Dalhousie University (Canada)
Elizabeth F. Barkley, Foothill College (USA)
Balbir Kaur Gurm, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Canada)
Patricia Jarvis, Illinois State University (USA)
Jim Zimmer, Mount Royal College (Canada)
Norm Vaughan, Mount Royal College (Canada)
Jody Horn, Oklahoma City University (USA)
Giuseppe Iaria, University of British Columbia (Canada)

Convener of the ISSoTL Interest Group on Student Engagement:

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ISSOTL Problem-Based Learning Special Interest Group Proposal

The members of the Problem-Based Learning SIG request official designation as a Special Interest Group within the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. We would welcome any questions and input related to the following information about our mission.

ISSOTL PBL SIG Mission Statement

The purpose of the ISSOTL Problem-Based Learning SIG is to provide a professional forum for scholarly discussion of problem-based learning in higher education. Moreover, this multidisciplinary, international group provides a network of support and collaboration for those members engaged in scholarship related to the use of PBL.

ISSOTL Goals and PBL SIG Mission Compatibility

We believe that the mission of the PBL SIG is completely consistent with the stated goals of ISSOTL. The primary goal of ISSOTL is to “foster inquiry and disseminate findings about what improves and articulates post-secondary learning and teaching.” One of the goals of our SIG is to generate discussion among members relative to the scholarly, evidence-based implementation of problem-based learning as well as to support those members who are engaged in SoTL research on the use of PBL in post-secondary classrooms. Additionally, as our interactions continue, it is our intent to encourage collaborative SoTL inquiries among members.

Clearly, our PBL SIG meets the established criteria relative to “cross-disciplinary conversation” that occurs “across national boundaries.” You will note that our membership list contains individuals from across the globe. Moreover, we represent diverse disciplines including the arts, humanities, social sciences, medicine, education, and engineering. To promote our conversations, a listserv for our SIG has already been established and active discussion has begun! Additionally, we expect to conduct face-to-face meetings at the annual ISSOTL conference.

The following ISSOTL members have expressed a commitment to the PBL SIG’s mission:

Bennett, John	University of Connecticut, USA	Engineering
Brodie, Lyn	University of Southern Queensland, AU	Engineering
Casolari, Amber	Riverside City College, USA	Economics
Deckard, Ed	North Dakota State University, USA	Plant Sciences
Gair, Jane	University of Victoria, CA	Medical Genetics
Garetto, Lawrence	Indiana University, USA	Dentistry
Hardie, Kirsten	Arts Institute at Bournemouth, UK	Graphic Design
Kruger, Mellissa	University of South Australia, AU	Social Work
Kumar, Rita	Raymond Walters College, USA	English
Loblaw, Tim	SAIT Polytechnic, CA	Instructional Technology
Lynch, Ellen	University of Cincinnati, USA	Teacher Education
Miller-Young, Janice	Mt. Royal College, CA	Engineering
O’Rourke, Karen	University of Manchester, UK	Faculty Development
Polich, Susan	Virginia Commonwealth University, USA	Faculty Development
Surdick, Renee	University of Wisconsin, USA	Education; Assessment
Taylor, Juli	University of Wisconsin, USA	Education; Assessment
Montoya Vargas, Juny	Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia	Law, Education, Medicine

Key Contact Persons

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Application for Designation as an ISSOTL Internal Interest Group

(Submitted November 2008 by Kathleen McKinney)

ISSOTL Sociology Interest Group

Mission of ISSOTL Sociology Interest Group:

In line with the mission of ISSOTL, the mission and objectives of the ISSOTL sociology interest group are to foster inquiry, encourage collaborations, share resources, disseminate findings, and make applications about what improves post-secondary learning and teaching in the discipline of sociology and closely related fields. More specific goals include the following:

- Find and exchange resources for SoTL inquiry in sociology and closely related fields.
- Form SoTL project collaborations including those that cross institutional and national borders.
- Propose and organize a session related to SoTL and sociology at the meetings of ISSOTL.
- Help non-sociologists see the usefulness of the sociological imagination for understanding learning and teaching.
- Work to enhance the status of SoTL in sociology including making connections between ISSOTL and various sociological professional organizations around the globe.
- Co-author articles for the ISSOTL newsletter, *The International Commons*.

Fit Between Interest Group and ISSOTL Missions:

There is explicit overlap and direct connections between the interest group mission as noted above and the ISSOTL mission on the ISSOTL website. This overlap includes the goals to "foster inquiry and disseminate findings about what improves and articulates post-secondary learning and teaching." In addition, there is direct overlap between our goals above and those of ISSOTL (see bulleted list at <http://www.issotl.org/>). Finally, there are reciprocal benefits to the interest group and to ISSOTL from this partnership. For ISSOTL, these benefits include recruiting new members and additional conference presentations and attendees to/for ISSOTL, offering sessions at the meetings, and helping non-sociologists see the relevance of sociology concepts and theories to teaching and learning. For sociology/sociologists, these benefits include increasing the legitimacy of SoTL in the discipline, supporting international connections in the field of SoTL in sociology, and seeing better interdisciplinary work/connections in SoTL that could benefit SoTL in sociology.

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Sociology ISSOTL Interest Group Members:

(Please note, some of the members are 2008 and plan to also be 2009 members; others will be 2009 members. The website is not yet allowing people to join for 2009 but it is rather late to join for 2008. At any rate, we have more than the minimum 10 ISSOTL members for 2008 and will for 2009.)

Cheryl Albers, Buffalo State University (2008, 2009)
Maxine Atkinson, North Carolina State University (2008, 2009)
Maria I. Bryant, College of Southern Maryland (2009)
William Camp, Luzerne County Community College (2009)
Robin Crawford, Kennesaw State University (2008, 2009)
Vaneeta D'Andrea, University of the Arts London (2008, 2009)
Elizabeth Grauerholz, University of Central Florida (2009)
Amy Holzang, Cerritos College (2008, 2009)

Jody Horn, Oklahoma City University (2008, 2009)
Carol Hostetter, Indiana University (2008, 2009)
Carol Jenkins, Glendale Community College (2009)
Karen Krause, Saginaw Valley State University (2009)
Karyn Loscocco, University of Albany (2009)
Kathleen McKinney, Illinois State University (2008, 2009) (contact person)
Melinda Messineo, Ball State University (2009)
Caroline Persell, New York University (2008, 2009)
Bernice Pescosolido, Indiana University (2008, 2009)
Diane Pike, Augsburg College (2009)
Brian Powell, Indiana University (2008, 2009)
Mary Romero, Arizona State University (2008, 2009)
Anthony Rosie, Sheffield Hallam (UK) (2008, 2009)
Katherine Rowell, Sinclair Community College (2009)
Margaret Weigers Vitullo, American Sociological Association (2008, 2009)
Susan Warner, Cedarville University (2008, 2009)
Mary Wright, University of Michigan (2008, 2009)

Humanities Interest Group Application

The ISSOTL Interest Group for the Humanities is an international network of teachers and scholars in the various disciplines of the humanities (literature, philosophy, religion, communication, history*, et al). Our mission is to explore through inquiry, conversation, and collaboration the position and potential of the humanities in SoTL/ISSOTL and SoTL in the humanities. We will facilitate activities that make SoTL (and ISSOTL) more inviting for humanities teacher-scholars who come with habits of mind, ways of knowing, and approaches to research that may be different from the social science approaches of much SoTL work. The ultimate goal of the ISSOTL Humanities IG is to share in the work of improving teaching and learning in the humanities.

To fulfill its mission, this Interest Group will facilitate a variety of activities, such as the following:

- use an electronic forum to facilitate communication and establish an online presence
 - We're already active at <http://issotlhumanities.pbwiki.com/>, but it's a private site right now. We'll make it public once we're official.
- organize member submissions to *The International Commons* to explore the role and value of the humanities in SoTL,
 - For example, see Nancy Chick's January 2009 article "In Search of Humanities in (IS)SOTL" (http://www.issotl.org/International_Commons_4_1.pdf, page 11).
- provide support for members who attend the ISSOTL conferences by holding special meetings and organizing panels or symposia highlighting the humanities in SoTL,
 - For example, we are proposing a Humanities Panel for the 2009 conference (Stephen Schulman, Tony Ciccone, Sherry Linkon, and Nancy Chick) and would like to say that it's sponsored by the ISSOTL Humanities Interest Group, if we're approved by the May 15 deadline.
- provide support for members who don't attend the ISSOTL conferences by providing summaries of relevant conference events,
- initiate an international conversation about the humanities in different regions of the world,
- identify resources for researching and publishing SoTL in the humanities and its specific disciplines,
- build bridges between ISSOTL and different humanities professional organizations.

The Humanities IG's goals and activities listed above fit well within ISSOTL's overarching goal to "foster inquiry and disseminate findings about what improves and articulates post-secondary learning and teaching." This IG's plans also reflect ISSOTL's specific strategies, such as the following: "Recognize and encourage scholarly work on teaching and learning in each discipline, within other scholarly societies, and across educational levels," "Promote cross-disciplinary conversation to create synergy and prompt new lines of inquiry," "Facilitate the collaboration of scholars in different countries and the flow of new findings and applications across national boundaries," and "Advocate for support, review, recognition, and appropriate uses of the scholarship of teaching and learning."

The founding members of the ISSOTL Interest Group for the Humanities are the following**:

1. Nancy Chick, English, University of Wisconsin-Barron County (USA)
2. Pat Michaelson, English, University of Texas at Dallas (USA)
3. Stephen Schulman, Philosophy, Elon University (USA)
4. Paul W. Ranieri, English, Ball State University (USA)
5. Monica F. Jacobe, English, Catholic University of America (USA)
6. Irwin Mallin, Communication, Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne (USA)
7. Lesley Smith, Integrative Studies/New Media Composition (History & English), George Mason University (USA)
8. Tony Ciccone, French, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (USA)
9. Peter Felten, History, Elon University (USA)
10. David Concepcion, Philosophy, Ball State University (USA)
11. Jan Parker, Open University (UK)
12. Megan Isaac, English, Elon University (USA)

13. Sherry Linkon, English, Youngstown State University (USA)

* Even though there is already a History-SOTL External Affiliate to ISSOTL, we've included history in our group for several reasons. First, the History-SOTL group is an External Affiliate; their members do not have to be ISSOTL members, and their activities don't necessarily occur within ISSOTL, whereas the Humanities Interest Group will be populated solely by ISSOTL members, and all of our activities will always be explicitly connected with ISSOTL. Next, history is a cornerstone of the humanities, and this IG is broadly inclusive of all humanities disciplines without focusing on just one. Excluding historians and giving them only the External Affiliate option seems illogical, at best.

** We recognize that the IG needs to reflect the international nature of ISSOTL. We've tried inviting members from other countries through the newsletter and ISSOTL-Discuss listserv, but we've gotten little response thus far. Our plan is to seek out specific people at the 2009 conference by looking in the participants list; without such a public list before the conference, we have thus far been limited in our success. We are committed, however, to becoming a more fully international group, and we suspect that our activities in the coming year will make us more visible and thus more inviting to members and potential members not yet noticing our calls in ISSOTL emails and the newsletter.

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