

BUCLD BUSINESS MEETING PRESENTATION

October 31, 2008

OUTLINE

1. Submission and Acceptance Rates
 - acceptance rates
 - mean abstract scores
2. Participation Information
 - attendance rates
 - student participation
 - author information
3. Subfield Representation
 - monitor effect of reviewer scores
 - monitor under- and over-represented subfields
4. Questions

PART 1:

SUBMISSION AND

ACCEPTANCE RATES

ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED AND ACCEPTED

	N SUBMITTED	N ACCEPTED	% ACCEPTED
2001	298	90	30%
2002	277	90	33%
2003	314	133	42%
2004	386	133	34%
2005	389	133	34%
2006	526	153	29%
2007	466	153	33%
2008	475	153	32%

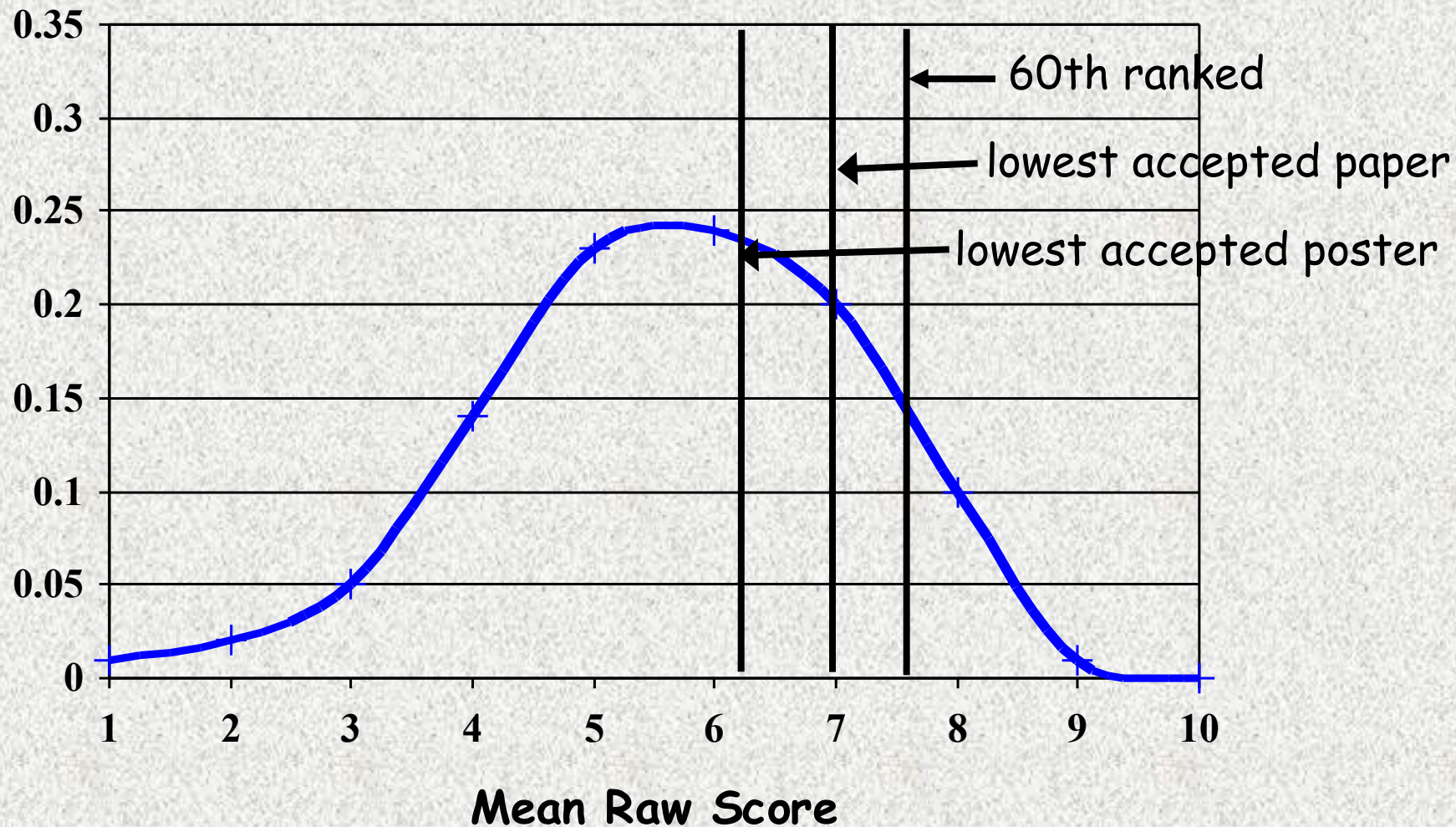
NOTE: "N accepted" does not include alternates.

ABSTRACT RATINGS BY MEAN RAW SCORE

Source: Mean rating for each of the abstracts

	RANGE	MEAN (SD)
2001	2.0 to 10.0	6.59 (1.55)
2002	1.2 to 9.2	6.08 (2.08)
2003	1.6 to 9.4	5.84 (1.57)
2004	1.4 to 9.4	6.26 (1.63)
2005	1.4 to 9.4	6.00 (1.56)
2006	1.2 to 9.2	6.04 (1.55)
2007	1.0 to 9.0	6.06 (1.48)
2008	1.6 to 9.2	6.02 (1.52)

DISTRIBUTION OF ABSTRACTS' MEAN RAW SCORES

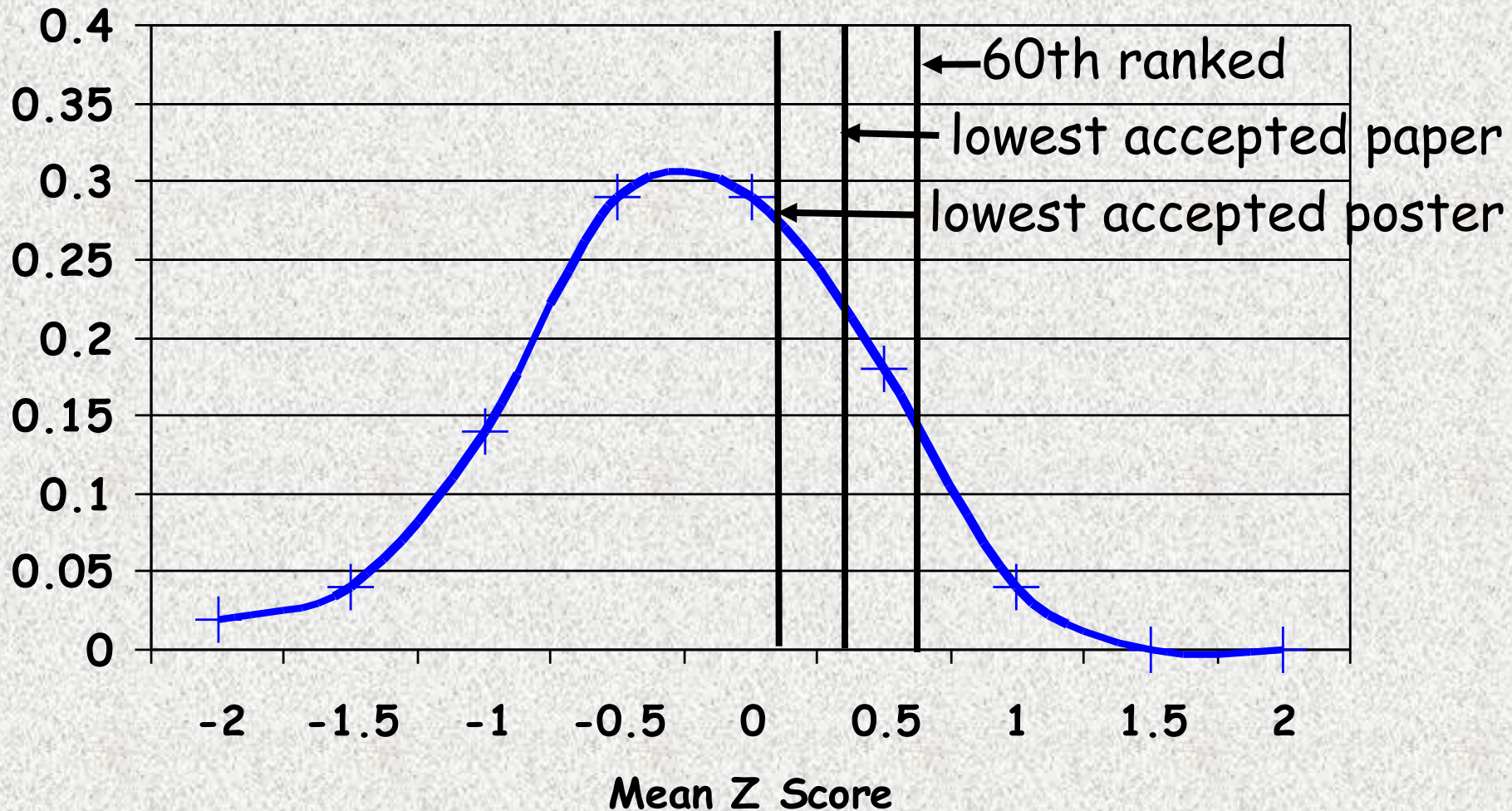


ABSTRACT RATINGS BY MEAN Z SCORE

Source: Mean rating for each of the abstracts

	RANGE	MEAN (SD)
2001	-1.72 to 1.39	0 (0.61)
2002	-1.95 to 1.25	0 (0.62)
2003	-2.01 to 1.32	0 (0.61)
2004	-1.72 to 1.24	0 (0.65)
2005	-1.58 to 1.57	0 (0.64)
2006	-2.20 to 1.36	0 (0.65)
2007	-1.70 to 1.46	0 (0.60)
2008	-2.09 to 1.42	0 (0.62)

DISTRIBUTION OF ABSTRACTS' MEAN Z-SCORES



PART 2: PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE RATES

	Students		Non-students		Total
	N	%	N	%	
2001	232	56%	183	44%	415
2002	253	55%	205	45%	458
2003	260	57%	194	43%	454
2004	295	54%	256	46%	551
2005	370	66%	193	34%	563
2006	343	57%	255	43%	598
2007	322	55%	267	45%	589
2008	293	60%	199	40%	492

NOTE: 2008 rates are for preregistration only.

Includes paying attendees, guest speakers, and volunteers.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

1. Maintained low student registration rate: less than 50% of non-student rate.
2. Added poster sessions in 2003 - more accessible for novice student presenters.
3. Added cheaper lodging options and room-share mailing list to website.
4. Continued travel awards (\$300 each in 2008) for student presenters.
5. Added free proceedings.

TRAVEL AWARDS

	N	AMOUNT
2001	2	\$800
2002	9	\$3600
2003	19	\$4750
2004	21	\$6025
2005	25	\$6200
2006	25	\$3500
2007	20	\$6000
2008	28	\$8400

PLACE OF AFFILIATION OF AUTHORS

	N AUTH.	N COUNTRIES	PERCENTAGE FROM ...		
			USA	CANADA	ABROAD*
2001	197	15	58%	12%	30%
2002	187	17	54%	14%	32%
2003	262	14	61%	7%	32%
2004	280	18	63%	8%	29%
2005	278	17	56%	11%	33%
2006	316	22	55%	9%	36%
2007	318	19	60%	12%	28%
2008	300	19	53%	9%	38%

*Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Wales

PLACE OF AFFILIATION OF US AUTHORS

	N AUTH.	N STATES	PERCENTAGE FROM ...		
			EAST	MIDDLE	WEST
2001	115	19	62%	27%	11%
2002	102	21	65%	22%	13%
2003	159	23	55%	32%	13%
2004	176	18	64%	20%	16%
2005	155	26	55%	33%	14%
2006	175	23	63%	22%	16%
2007	191	25	49%	34%	17%
2008	160	28	58%	34%	8%

East: CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT
 Middle: AL, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MO, MN, MT, ND, OH, TN, TX, WI
 West: AZ, CA, CO, HI, OR, UT, WA

ACADEMIC STATUS OF FIRST AUTHORS

FIRST	STUDENT				NON-STUDENT		
	N	BACH	MAST	DOC	POST	FAC	OTH
2005	129	2%	3%	40%	12%	40%	3%
2006	153	1%	5%	44%	12%	37%	1%
2007	155	3%	5%	52%	13%	26%	1%
2008	153	2%	2%	41%	17%	35%	3%

- Counts every author on paper, poster, or alternate (counted twice if on two presentations)
- Student first author on 47% of papers, 43% of posters.

ACADEMIC STATUS OF OTHER AUTHORS

OTHER		STUDENT			NON-STUDENT		
	N	BACH	MAST	DOC	POST	FAC	OTH
2005	165	5%	4%	19%	6%	58%	8%
2006	188	5%	5%	18%	8%	59%	5%
2007	212	6%	5%	15%	7%	66%	1%
2008	181	6%	4%	16%	9%	59%	6%

Counts every author on paper, poster, or alternate (counted twice if on two presentations)

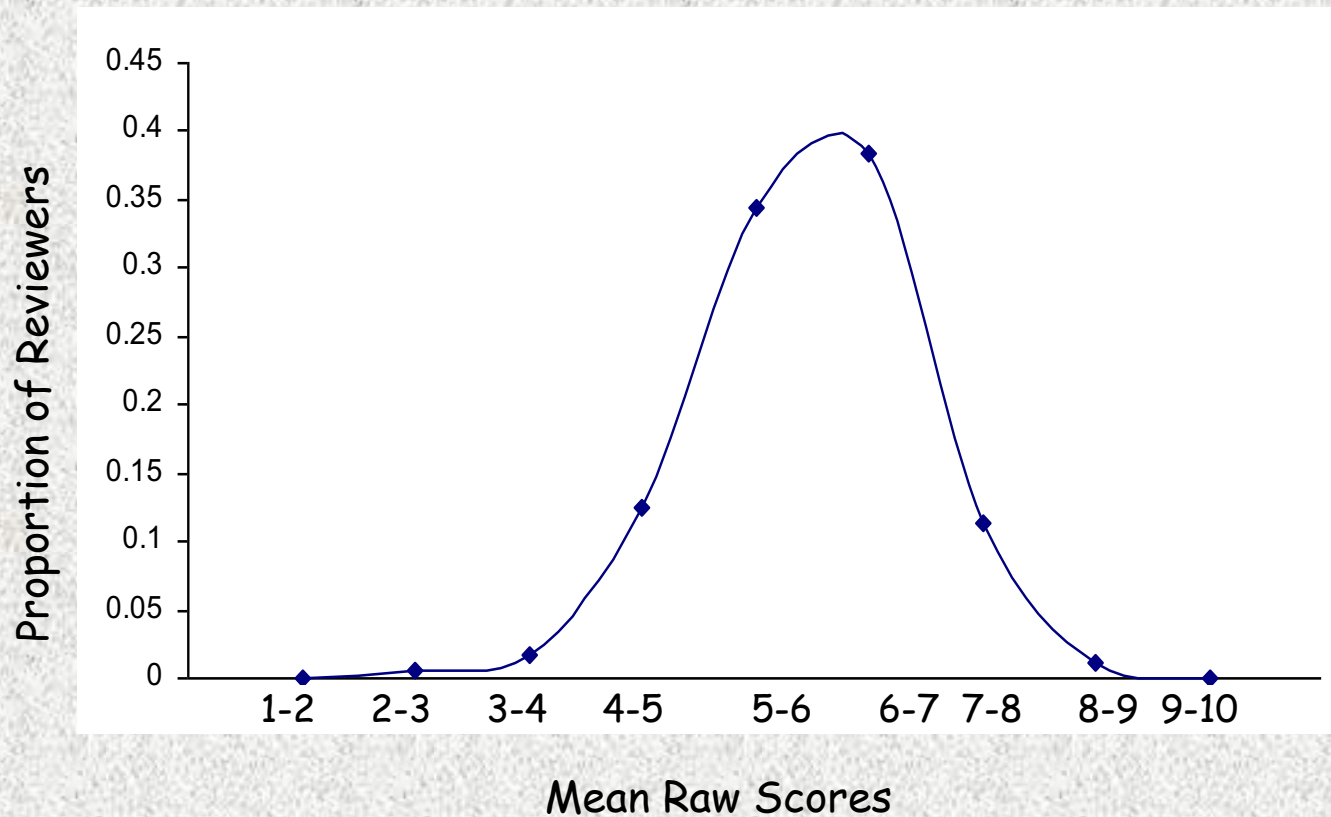
PART 3: SUBFIELD REPRESENTATION

HOW ARE RAW SCORE RATINGS DISTRIBUTED BY REVIEWER?

Source: Mean rating for each of the reviewers

	RANGE	MEAN (SD)
2002	3.23 to 9.00	6.06 (1.11)
2003	3.50 to 7.96	5.94 (0.83)
2004	2.77 to 8.41	6.34 (0.99)
2005	3.80 to 8.21	6.02 (0.82)
2006	3.40 to 8.25	6.03 (0.89)
2007	3.55 to 8.85	6.09 (0.88)
2008	3.00 to 8.56	6.0 (0.94)

DISTRIBUTION OF REVIEWERS' MEAN RAW SCORES (2008)



PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION BY LEARNING CONDITION

Adoptees Learning a New
Language

Attrition

Autism

Simultaneous Bilingualism/
Trilingualism

Brain Injury

Cochlear Implant

Downs Syndrome

Dyslexia

Fragile X

General Language Delay

Deaf / Hard of Hearing

Heritage Language Learner

Majority Language Learner

No Human Subjects

Preterm Children

Specific Language Impairment

Typical First Language
Development

Typical Adult Second
Language Development

Typical Child Second Language
Development

Visual Impairment

Williams Syndrome

STATISTICS FOR TOP 5 LEARNING CONDITIONS

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	N SUB	% ACC	N SUB	% ACC	N SUB	% ACC	N SUB	% ACC	N SUB	% ACC
L1	188	41%	221	41%	285	32%	270	38%	275	38%
L2	61	28%	81	21%	87	23%	93	23%	94	24%
Bil.	53	25%	36	33%	65	25%	42	38%	39	20%
SLI	23	17%	15	27%	20	35%	19	16%	20	25%
AUT	2	50%	3	0%	5	60%	4	25%	14	29%
All	386	34%	389	34%	526	29%	466	33%	432	31%

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION BY CONTENT AREA?

Morphosyntax:	Morphology, syntax
Sound System:	Phonetics, phonology, speech perception, speech segmentation
Meaning:	Semantics, pragmatics, lexicon, lexical semantics
Interaction:	Child-directed speech, literacy & reading, narrative, discourse, sociolinguistics
Cognition:	Sentence processing, statistical learning, language-cognition interface, gesture, word learning, computational models

CAVEAT FOR CONTENT CLASSIFICATION

- Many abstracts can be classified as more than one content area.
- Previously content classification was done by BUCLD. As of 2008, it is done by authors.
- Breakdown not directly comparable to previous years.

STATISTICS FOR CONTENT AREAS

	2008	
	Submitted	% accept
Morphosyntax	132	31%*
Sound System	85	34%
Meaning	76	32%
Interaction	49	20%*
Cognition	133	37%
All	475	32%

* includes 2 abstracts which were not on development

Breakdown of Cognition Category (2008)

Main Content Area	Number of Submissions	% Accept
Infant Speech Processing	27	48%
Statistical Learning	18	50%
Word Learning (Conceptual Cues)	17	29%
Speech Perception	16	12%
Processing	10	60%
Word Learning (Attentional Cues)	10	10%

PART 4: DISCUSSION

ACCEPTANCE LIMITS

Now: 1 first author, 2 total authorships

Future: Same or increase total authorships?

Method

- Data from related conferences
- BUCLD post-conference evaluation questionnaire
- 2006 AND 2007 Questionnaires

Linguistics

EuroSLA 17	1 first author, 2 total
GALA 2007	1 first author, 2 total
GASLA 2007	1 first author, 2 total
GLOW in Asia	1 first author, 2 total
IASCL 2008	1 first author, others no limit
SLRF	1 first author, 2 total
LSA	1 first author, 2 total

Psychology/Cognitive Science

SRCD	2 -3 presenting author (membership) No limit for other author positions
ICIS	2 first author No other limits.
Acoustical Society (Speech Communication)	1 principal author (and 1 co-author) for papers
CogSci	No limit for papers (1 for published abstracts)
SRCLD	No limit in any position
CUNY Sent. Processing	No limit in any position

OTHER ISSUES

1. Increase in registration fees due to catering costs
2. Other conferences - is this an issue?
3. Any other information you'd like to see reported?

FOR FURTHER COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Submit comments using the BUCLD on-line evaluation questionnaire - you will receive it within 2 weeks.

Talk to, call, or e-mail one of the associated faculty:

Shanley Allen	shanley@bu.edu	(617)358-0354
Cathy O'Connor	mco@bu.edu	(617)353-3318
Leher Singh	leher@bu.edu	(617)353 7491

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUING SUPPORT
FOR THE
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
CONFERENCE ON
LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT!

APPENDIX

"MATCHMAKER": ABSTRACT-REVIEWER MATCH PROGRAM

- authors self-assign codes for abstracts based on main and secondary content, learning condition, and language
- reviewers self-assign same codes for areas of expertise
- codes are entered into a weighted formula to match abstracts to reviewers (e.g. main content counts for a lot, language counts for relatively little)
- program provides an ordered list of all reviewers that match any code on a given abstract
- program selects five optimal matches for each abstract, such that no reviewer gets more than 25 abstracts
- human uses this output to finalize all matches
- codes and weightings honed each year to improve matching

REVIEW PROCESS

1. We send each abstract to 5 reviewers.
2. Reviewers rate each abstract independently on a scale of 1-10 (double-blind procedure), and optionally submit comments for the authors.
3. We calculate two scores for each abstract:
 - a. Mean raw score
 - b. Mean z score
4. We rank each abstract by raw score and z score, and calculate a composite rank.
5. We select 87 abstracts to be presented as papers, 12 as alternates, and 46 as posters.

ASSIGNMENT OF ABSTRACTS TO REVIEWERS

Reviewers are individually assigned to abstracts by the faculty advisors, with the following conditions:

1. Ensure that the reviewer is sufficiently familiar with the content of the abstract.
2. Ensure that the reviewer is not unfriendly to the theoretical perspective of the abstract.
3. Don't assign abstracts to reviewers who are colleagues, students, advisors, close friends, or enemies of the authors (insofar as we know this).
4. Each reviewer gets a minimum of 10 abstracts, most get between 15 and 20.

RATING SCALE

1 = must reject

3 = low priority

5 = medium priority

7 = high priority

10 = must accept

RATING GUIDELINES

1. Question/issue clearly stated?
2. Significance of work clearly stated?
3. Method/analysis well-designed and appropriate?
4. Conceptual framework coherent? Theoretical analysis well-argued?
5. Strong promise of work being completed?
6. Conclusions justified relative to data/analyses?
7. Abstract clear and well-organized?
8. Topic of scientific, methodological, theoretical importance?
9. Paper relevant to current issues in the field?
10. Paper of interest to BUCLD attendees?

RAW SCORE

Definition: Score out of 10 from a reviewer.

Assumption: Every reviewer's use of a particular score category is equivalent.

Problem: May be misleading if a reviewer is particularly lenient or stringent in their ratings.

Z SCORE

Definition: ___ Standard score indicating how far, and in what direction, a given raw score deviates from the mean of all the raw scores assigned by a given reviewer.

Assumption: Every reviewer's use of a particular score category may NOT be equivalent. Some reviewers may be more demanding or lenient than others, or may use a restricted range.

Problem: May be misleading if a reviewer receives a set of unusually excellent or unusually terrible papers. (The z score effectively forces the ratings from a given reviewer to fit a bell curve.)

SAMPLE ABSTRACT RANKING DATABASE

ABS#	RAW SCORES			Z-SCORES		COMPOSITE
	Actual	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Rank
A	7,8,10,10,10	9	8	1.043	9	7
B	7,9,9,10,10	9	8	0.801	22	16
C	8,8,8,10,10	8.8	10	1.023	10	8
D	7,8,9,10,10	8.8	10	0.679	39	24
E	5,8,10,10,10	8.6	12	1.251	1	4
F	8,8,8,9,10	8.6	12	1.190	3	6
G	7,8,9,9,10	8.6	12	0.883	15	14
H	7,7,9,10,10	8.6	12	0.705	36	23
I	7,8,9,9,10	8.6	12	0.961	12	10
J	7,7,8,10,10	8.4	17	0.857	17	17
K	5,8,9,9,10	8.2	18	0.774	27	21
L	5,8,9,9,10	8.2	18	0.397	77	45
M	6,8,8,9,10	8.2	18	1.186	5	9
N	6,8,8,9,10	8.2	18	0.760	28	22

PAPER SELECTION PROCESS

From the set of abstracts designated as "paper only" or "either paper or poster":

1. We select the top 60 abstracts from the raw score list, and the top 60 abstracts from the z score list. This totals 75-80 abstracts (there is a lot of overlap between the two sets).
2. We create a pool of the next 40 abstracts based on composite rank.
3. We select 10-15 abstracts from the pool to complete the program of 87 papers, based as much as possible on composite rank, with the goal of forming coherent sessions.

ALTERNATE SELECTION PROCESS

From the set of abstracts designated as "paper only" or "either paper or poster":

1. We select 12 alternate abstracts from the remaining abstracts in the pool, based as much as possible on composite rank, with the goal of getting a good distribution of content areas.

POSTER SELECTION PROCESS

From the set of abstracts designated as "poster only" or "either paper or poster":

1. We eliminate all abstracts already selected as papers.
2. We select the top 46 remaining abstracts based on composite rank.

KEYNOTE, PLENARY, AND LUNCH SYMPOSIUM SELECTION PROCESS

1. Solicit suggestions on annual BUCLD questionnaire.
2. Solicit suggestions from many people in the field.
3. Balance content areas, theoretical focus, and learning conditions.
4. No repeat keynote and plenary speakers.

TRAVEL AWARD SELECTION PROCESS

Current practice is to give travel awards ranging of \$300 to all students who apply, with amount of award dependent on the following factors:

1. Abstract rating.
2. Transportation cost (assume food and lodging costs are same for all).
3. First author (vs. second or later).
4. Sole author (vs. with co-authors).
5. First-time presenter (vs. second time or more).
6. Doctoral student (vs. Masters or Bachelors).