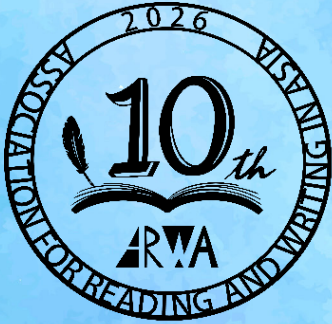


# 2026 NEWSLETTER



## Association for Reading and Writing in Asia

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# The general information about 2026 conference

The 10th Annual Conference of the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia (ARWA 2026) was held at the Grand Hi-Lai Hotel in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, from March 5 to 6, 2026. This year, we featured two keynote speeches from renowned literacy experts. In addition, there were 106 oral presentations, 88 poster presentations, and 6 symposia (comprising 20 presentations), delivered by researchers not only from Asia but also from across the globe. The different speeches and presentations enriched our understanding of literacy acquisition and development by highlighting mechanisms and factors that influence reading and writing processes across languages, scripts, learners, and contexts, as well as those that are unique to specific languages, scripts, learners, and contexts.

Special thanks go to the Taiwan Academy of Learning Disabilities and the local organizing committee for helping with much of the groundwork in Kaohsiung. We also thank the sponsors who supported this milestone anniversary conference.



# ARWA 2026 conference Highlights

## Dr. Laura Marianne Steacy

*What Helps Children Learn to Read Words: Exploring Reader and Word Factors*

Dr. Laura Steacy explores how word characteristics and individual language skills interact within “quasi-regular” spelling systems. This session reveals the diverse strategies children use to navigate predictable patterns and complex exceptions during the word-learning process.

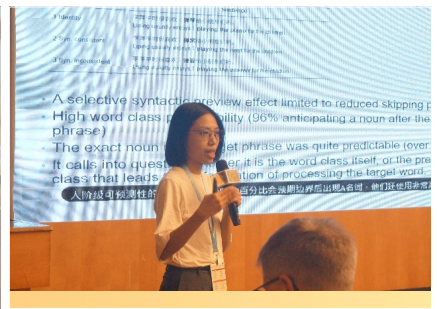
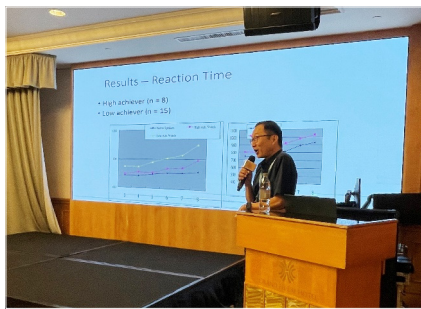


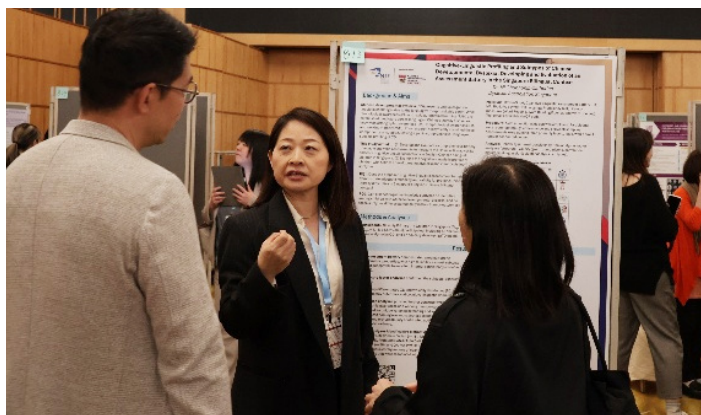
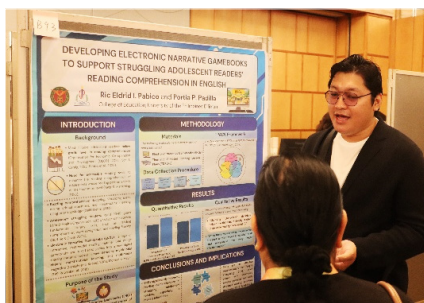
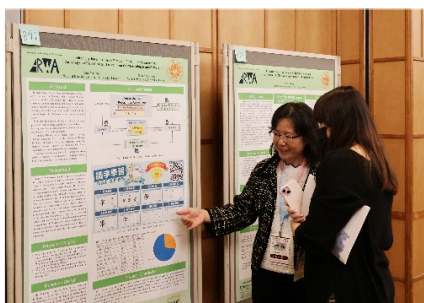
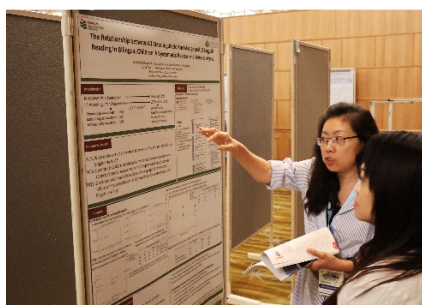
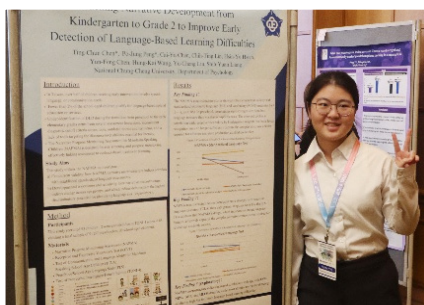
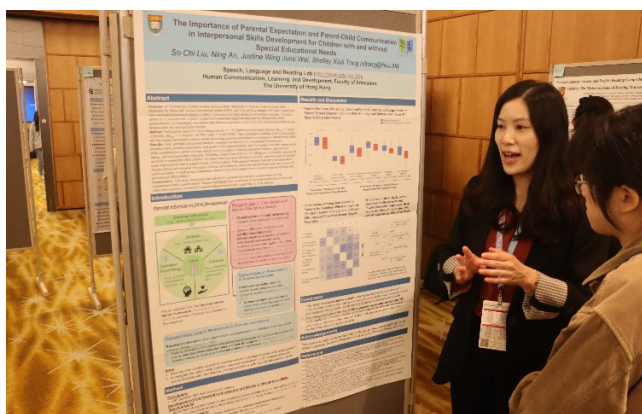
## Dr. Chia-Ying Lee

*From Brain to Classroom: Neural and Educational Perspectives on Statistical Learning in Chinese Reading*

Dr. Chia-Ying Lee bridges cognitive neuroscience and classroom practice by demonstrating how the brain utilizes statistical learning to decode the complexities of Chinese reading. The session highlights how neural evidence inspired the “Harvest Season” app, a successful intervention that translates foundational research into improved literacy for struggling readers.









# Cruise the Asia New Bay Area



# ARWA 2026 Career Awards

Congratulations to the following two participants for winning the career awards for the ARWA 2026 conference!

## ARWA Early Career Award

### **Xin Sun**

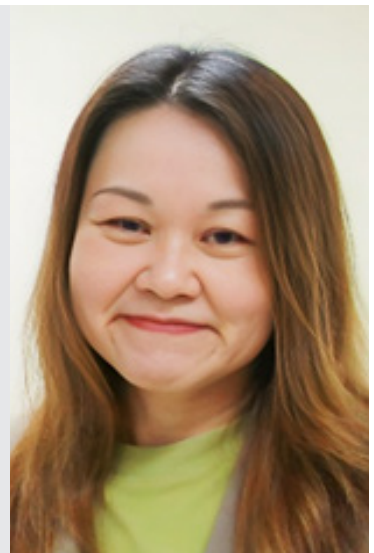
Dr. Xin Sun is an Assistant Professor at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Her research examines the behavioural and neural basis for language and reading acquisition in bilingual and monolingual children using various methods, including behavioural assessments, surveys, and fNIRS neuroimaging. Another line of her work looks at the role of culture in shaping individuals' intuitive beliefs about learning. Dr. Sun's work has been published in impactful journals, including *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *Child Development*, and *Developmental Science*.



## ARWA Mid-Career Award

### **Choo Mui CHEONG**

Dr. Choo Mui CHEONG is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong. She has extensive experience as a Chinese language teacher in Singapore and Hong Kong, including serving as a curriculum specialist in Singapore's Ministry of Education, leading major reforms in Chinese language education. Her research focuses on multi-literacies, emphasizing how learners process source materials and develop cognitive strategies. To date, she has secured HK\$14 million in external research funding from prestigious sources, including the Hong Kong Research Grants Council and the Hong Kong Quality Education Fund. Her scholarly output includes over 50 publications, including SSCI-listed journal articles in top-tier education and linguistics journals, book chapters, and conference presentations. She serves as a co-chief editor for the *Journal of Chinese Language Education* and an associate editor for *L1-Educational Studies in Language and Literature*, and reviews for numerous international journals. Dr. Cheong has contributed significantly to Chinese language pedagogical and assessment approaches, especially in multimodal and multiple-texts reading and integrated writing, and she currently serves as a consultant for Singapore Examination and Assessment Board and Singapore Chinese Teachers' Union. Her work continues to shape language pedagogy and assessment practices across Asia.



The ARWA early career award aims to recognize a talented early-career researcher who shows outstanding research potential in an area of reading and writing research that is related to Asia. The award winner will receive a 2000HKD (about 255USD) cash prize and a certificate.

The ARWA mid-career award aims at recognizing a researcher who is currently in the middle of his/her career (approximately associate professor level or equivalent) and who has a distinguished research record in the area of literacy acquisition that is related to Asia in particular or more generally to cross-linguistic / cross-scriptal literacy acquisition. The mid-career award will be formally recognized at the annual ARWA meeting and the awardee will receive a 3000HKD (about 385USD) cash prize and a certificate.

Nominations will be elected by the ARWA Awards Committee based on scientific merit. ARWA is committed to supporting and promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion. The award recipient must be approved by the ARWA Board members based upon recommendation of the Awards Committee. The decision of the Board is final.

Nominations should be sent to the ARWA secretary (Prof. LI Su, [lis@psych.ac.cn](mailto:lis@psych.ac.cn)) by Sep 1 each year.

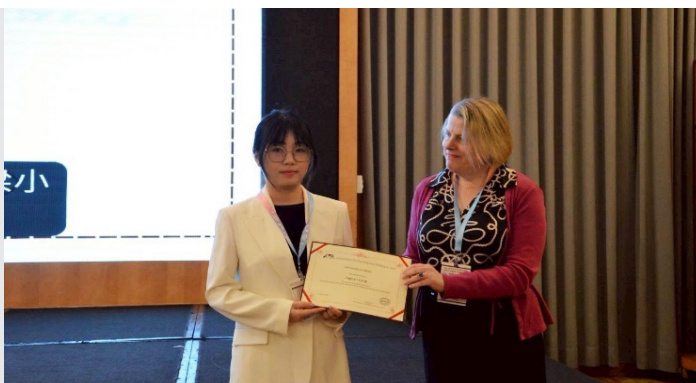
Please visit our web site for more details: <https://www.arwasia.org/career-awards>.

## ARWA 2026 Student Awards

Congratulations to the following two participants for winning the student scholarships for the ARWA 2026 conference!

### Jinghan Liang

PhD student at The Education  
University of Hong Kong, China

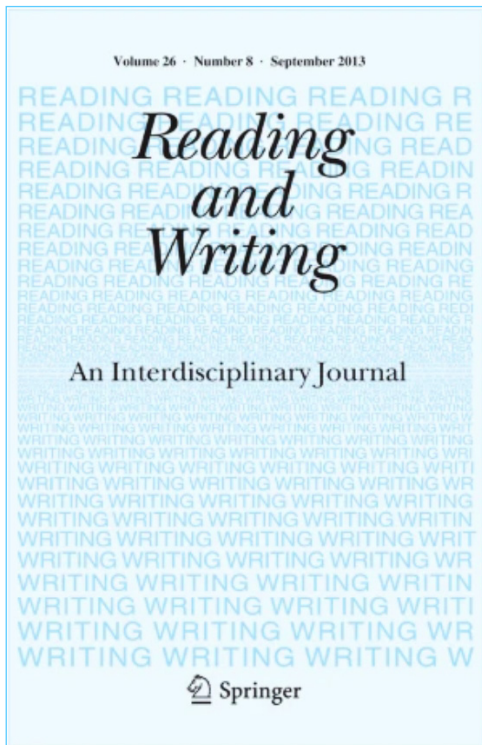


### Navapon Monkiatkul

Master student at Chulalongkorn  
University, Thailand



# Conference Special Issue in Reading and Writing



## Volume 35, Issue 4

April 2022

Special Issue: ARWA 2020

Issue Editor: Poh Wee Koh



## Volume 37, Issue 4

April 2024

Special Issue: Selected Papers from the Association of Reading and Writing in Asia Conference 2021

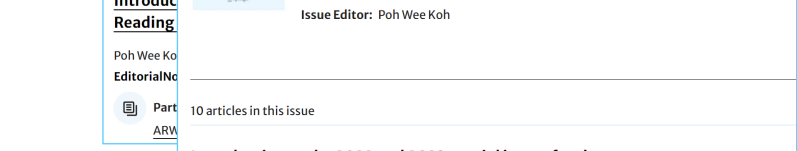


## Volume 37, Issue 7

September 2024

Special Issue: Selected papers from the Association of Reading and Writing in Asia conference 2022 and 2023

Issue Editor: Poh Wee Koh



## Introduction to the 2022 and 2023 special issues for the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia

Poh Wee Koh

EditorialNotes | 30 June 2024 | Pages: 1659 - 1662

Part of 1 collection:  
ARWA

As for previous conferences, there will be an ARWA 2026 Special Issue in the journal “Reading and Writing: An Interdisciplinary Journal”. The journal is accepting submissions to the ARWA 2026 special issue and the deadline for submission is May 15, 2026.

The link to submit to the journal is <https://www.editorialmanager.com/read/default.aspx> where you will be requested to first enter your login details (or register an account if it is your first time submitting to the journal). To submit and ensure that the manuscript goes to the special issue, please select “SI: ARWA 2026” in the dropdown list for “Article Type” on the first page after you click “submit a new manuscript”. You can then proceed to submit the manuscript as per instructions provided in the submission site. You may also wish to refer to the link <https://www.springer.com/journal/11145/submission-guidelines?IFA> for the submission guidelines before submitting.

# Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of ARWA



## Celebrating Ten Years of ARWA

As ARWA celebrates its 10th anniversary, we joyfully mark a decade of dedication, collaboration, and meaningful impact. Since its founding in 2016, ARWA has grown into a vibrant community of scholars committed to advancing literacy learning and development across diverse contexts. It has become a valued platform for researchers in Asia and beyond to connect, exchange ideas, and collaborate.

Over the past ten years, ARWA's members have contributed influential research, innovative training, and practices that continue to shape educational landscapes worldwide. The annual conference, recognition of outstanding early- and mid-career researchers, and support for emerging scholars reflect ARWA's strong commitment to academic excellence and community building. ARWA's partnership with the high-impact journal *Reading and Writing*, under the leadership of Dr. Malatesha Joshi, has further strengthened the visibility and impact of innovative literacy research, reinforcing ARWA's important role on the international stage.

Congratulations to ARWA on this wonderful milestone. May the next decade bring continued growth, collaboration, and lasting impact.

**Kevin Kien Hoa CHUNG, Ph.D., Professor**  
**President of ARWA (2024–2026)**  
**Conference Coordinator of 2017 and 2023**

It is a pleasure to write this congratulatory note to ARWA for the 10th anniversary. Establishing a new association is a challenging task, yet ARWA has not only met this challenge but has thrived remarkably. Over the past decade, ARWA has shown a continuous growth of its members and attendees at the annual meeting with over 250 attendees at this year's conference in Kaohsiung. At the same time, ARWA was able to build a solid financial foundation that allows ARWA to grow further and to face future difficulties, if they may arise. It also allows ARWA to revisit earlier ideas, such as travel awards for conference attendees from lower-middle/lower income economies, as stipulated in the handbook, but put on hold due to insufficient funding in the beginning.

The organization's first ten years coincided with unprecedented challenges, including the global COVID-19 pandemic and growing geopolitical uncertainties. Despite these obstacles, ARWA has continued to flourish, providing an invaluable platform for researchers from diverse cultures and countries to share insights and advance understanding of literacy learning across Asia.

As the incoming President of ARWA, I am committed to further consolidating the association at the organizational level and preparing it for future challenges. While ARWA's statutes and regulations have served it well during its formative years, I believe the time is right to revisit and refine them to better reflect the association's current operations and to accommodate the multinational and multicultural nature inherent in an international association.

Recognizing ARWA's unique position in promoting the study of the rich variety of scripts and literacy practices throughout Asia, a central aim of my presidency will be to expand ARWA's presence, particularly in Southeast Asia. I am especially gratified to see an increasing number of participants from countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines at this year's conference.

Looking ahead, I am excited and honored to lead ARWA over the coming three years, guiding it along a path of organizational consolidation and the continued, steady growth of its membership. I look forward to working together with all members to ensure ARWA's enduring success and impact. Once again, congratulations to all who have contributed to making ARWA the vibrant and influential community it is today.

**Urs Maurer Ph.D.**  
**Incoming president of ARWA**  
**Conference Coordinator of 2022**

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia (ARWA) on its 10th anniversary. I deeply respect the journey of the past decade, during which researchers from diverse fields such as psychology, education, and neuroscience have come together and engaged in dialogue.

Before ARWA was established, I, along with Prof. Li-Yu Hung and Prof. Kevin Chung, and later Prof. June Jeung-Ryeul Cho, organized the East Asia joint Symposium on Reading and Spelling (EARAS) in Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Japan for four years. The aim was to provide young researchers and students with academic education and experience in English. Later, Prof. Catherine McBride took the lead, and it became the ARWA academic society. I offer my heartfelt applause again to the organizers who worked so hard to hold conferences in various Asian cities and build networks, and to all the members who have accumulated research results. I am confident that it will continue to develop and lead reading and writing research in Asia and around the world.

**Akira UNO Ph.D., Professor**  
**Honorary Founder of ARWA**  
**Conference Coordinator of 2018**

Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of Association of Reading and Writing in Asia (ARWA). During a small span of 10 years, ARWA has made considerable progress in terms of membership, conference attendance, and the topics discussed in conferences and publications. Considering ARWA covers half of the world's population and virtually every written language system, I see wide application and research possibilities in the association. Hope the association grows more in coming years and I wish all the best to ARWA.

**Malt Joshi Ph.D., Professor  
Leader of ARWA Special Issue in Reading and Writing  
Conference Coordinator of 2019**

It is with tremendous joy that I offer a message of congratulations to ARWA. ARWA was created as the result of many efforts on the part of many wonderful colleagues across many locations. It was a labor of love. We collectively recognized that we need a place to exchange ideas about what it means to read as a bilingual or multilingual, as well as to read in diverse languages and scripts. Asia is the best place to explore this critical issue because of the diversity of scripts contained across Asia. We are so proud of our many junior and senior colleagues, as well as the amazing students and other lab representatives, who have joined ARWA to make it the innovative, exciting, joyous conference that it is today. The variety of locations and the collaborative spirit of sharing research have made this my favorite conference to attend. These last 10 years have not been easy. There were a few times when we worried about the health of ARWA. Various events sometimes conspired to make our meetings logistically and financially difficult. Among these was COVID, which forced us to share online rather than in person. We are beyond grateful that we have grown in size and representation and continue to attract the best researchers from around Asia and the world. Our curiosity, tenacity, and desire to mentor the next generation of literacy scholars is evident at every discussion, symposium, and poster session. Thank you so very much for supporting and contributing to ARWA. Happy, happy 10-year anniversary to all!

**Catherin McBride Ph.D., Professor  
Founder of ARWA  
First President of ARWA (2016-2021)  
Conference Coordinator of 2020**

Congratulations to ARWA 10th anniversary!

It is a great pleasure to celebrate the 10th anniversary of ARWA here in Taiwan. In many cultures, the number ten symbolizes the completion of a significant cycle and the beginning of a new chapter in development. For a relatively young international organization like ARWA, this decade-long journey has been a remarkable achievement that deserves global recognition.

Having hosted the 5th ARWA anniversary in Taiwan back in 2021—though virtually—I remain deeply grateful to the board members. Their collective dedication ensured that ARWA continued despite the challenges posed by the three-year pandemic. After then, we have seen a significant expansion in researchers and presentations focusing on Asian languages. Given Asia's immense diversity in scripts, language policies, and educational landscapes, the study of literacy here is uniquely challenging. My hope is that ARWA will continue to serve as a vital platform for promoting scientific methodologies across all Asian regions, uniting our efforts to advance literacy throughout the continent.

**Li-Yu HUNG Ph.D., Professor  
President of ARWA (2021-2024)  
Conference Coordinator of 2021**

On this significant milestone, with warmest regards and deep gratitude, I extend my congratulations to all of you.

Over the past decade, ARWA has grown into a vibrant and respected academic community. We have fostered intellectual exchange, encouraged young scholars, and contributed meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge in our field. This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and passion of our founding members, the hard work of successive Board Members and active participation of every member. Thank you!

As we look back on ten years of progress, let us also look forward with enthusiasm and work together to address the emerging challenges and opportunities!

**Su Li Ph.D., Professor  
Secretary of ARWA  
Conference Coordinator of 2020**

Warmest congratulations on ARWA's 10th Anniversary!

Having recently had the privilege of organizing the 2026 conference, my teammates and I are filled with immense gratitude for this incredible community. Gathering together this year was a beautiful reminder of the passion and dedication that drove our association forward.

It has been inspiring to watch ARWA flourish over the past ten years, bringing together researchers and educators in the fields of reading and writing to share knowledge, support one another, and create lasting connections. Thank you for the wonderful memories we have built together. Here is to celebrate our past achievements and to an even brighter future for ARWA!

**Li-Chih Wang, Ph.D.  
Conference Coordinator of 2026**

# The Eleventh Annual Conference: Advance Notice

## ARWA 2027 to be held in Sendai, Japan



Last held in Tsukuba, Japan in 2017, the annual conference of ARWA will be back to Sendai, Japan on March 6-7, 2027!

**Experience Sendai:** Take advantage of Sendai's excellent connections. Fly directly from major Asian cities or via Osaka, or enjoy a scenic 1.5-hour ride on the Shinkansen from Tokyo. Known as the "City of Trees," Sendai offers rich cultural experiences and modern facilities – an ideal backdrop for productive scholarship and cultural exchange.



**Collaborate and Learn:** Present your latest findings on topics such as literacy acquisition, reading impairments, multilingual literacy, or computational text analysis in Asian and related languages. Engage with leading scholars and practitioners from across Asia and beyond, and gain valuable insights and feedback to advance your work.

**Interdisciplinary Community:** ARWA brings together linguists, psychologists, educators, speech therapists, and who are passionate about literacy in Asian languages like Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Thai, and more. Form new collaborations and expand your professional network in a friendly, interdisciplinary atmosphere.

**Exciting Program:** Expect inspiring keynote talks by renowned experts, interactive poster sessions, hands-on workshops, and panel discussions on the latest theories and methods in literacy research. Whether you work on developmental dyslexia in Japanese or literacy coaching in multilingual schools, you'll find sessions relevant to your interests.

**Be a part of ARWA's mission to foster literacy research in Asia!** Submit your abstract and register to meet fellow researchers, share your work, and contribute to the future of reading and writing research. Watch for upcoming announcements on submission deadlines and registration details. We look forward to welcoming you to ARWA 2027 in Sendai!

# Host an ARWA Annual Conference

Founded in 2016, ARWA exists to advance education by promoting the scientific study of reading and writing, as well as to understand related areas such as language and literacy.

A major way in which ARWA fulfils these objectives is by holding and/or organizing conferences. In particular, the Society sets great store by its annual conference. Since the first conference in 2017, attendance has grown and the influence of the Annual Conference is evident. ARWA now is seeking interested members to host the 12th (2028) and the 13th conference (2029). Your participation will greatly enhance the visibility of the Society and your research organizations!

For detailed information on how to host an Annual Conference, please contact [arwaenquiry@gmail.com](mailto:arwaenquiry@gmail.com).

*Become a part of us now !*

Fees of yearly membership:

US\$ 100 Regular member

US\$ 50 Student member

We are happy to announce that 50% off special pricing is available for lower-to-middle income economies, as defined by the World Bank.

Please register at our website: [www.arwasia.org](http://www.arwasia.org) and help us spread the word to your colleagues!