

SRTL-11: SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

New ways of interacting with data, context and chance in statistical modelling processes

15 February 2019

Dear colleague and friend,

It is a pleasure to welcome you as a participant in the Eleventh International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy (SRTL-11) to be held in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A., July 14-20, 2019 on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The Forum is sponsored by several institutions, including the UCLA Department of Statistics.

Researchers in Statistics Education from eight countries around the world have been invited to share their work, discuss important issues, and initiate collaborative projects. This year's forum will continue the emphasis from previous years on statistical modelling to explore *new ways of interacting with data, context and chance in statistical modelling processes*. An interesting variety of approaches will be presented, and we look forward to a stimulating week.

The structure of the scientific program will be a mixture of formal and informal sessions, small group and whole group discussions, long (90 minute) and short (45 minute) presentations and the opportunity for extensive analysis of video recorded research data and sharing of research tools and initiatives.

All participants are asked to submit their completed registration and payment by **April 15, 2019** to avoid a late fee. Paper presenters are requested to submit their summary paper (details below) by **May 1, 2019**. In preparation for SRTL-11, it is very important that all participants *read the entire set of summary papers* before arriving to allow the focus during presentations to be on discussing data, analysis, and implications. These summary papers will be made available by **June 15, 2019**.

We look forward to welcoming you to a stimulating and interesting meeting at UCLA.

Warm regards,

Katie Makar
Co-chair

Dani Ben-Zvi
Co-chair

Rob Gould
Local Organizer

Linda Zanontian
Local Organizer



PUBLICATION

We envision a special issue of a journal for publication of papers presented at SRTL-11. More details (e.g., formatting, editorial guidelines, etc.) will be distributed to SRTL-11 participants once the outcome of a proposal to a journal is determined.

SPONSORS

A sincere thank you to the sponsors who have helped to make the Research Forum possible:

- UCLA Department of Statistics

SRTL-11 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By reviewing the proposed papers, the members of the Scientific Program Committee have helped to shape the scientific program of SRTL-11.

- Janet Ainley – University of Leicester, UK
- Dani Ben-Zvi – University of Haifa, Israel
- Rob Gould – University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- Sibel Kazak – Pamukkale University, Turkey
- Katie Makar – The University of Queensland, Australia
- Jennifer Noll – TERC, USA
- Maxine Pfannkuch – The University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Andee Rubin – TERC, USA

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Robert Gould Dept. of Statistics University of California, Los Angeles 8117 Math Sciences Bldg, UCLA Los Angeles, CA 90095-1554 USA	Linda Zanontian Dept. of Statistics University of California, Los Angeles 8117 Math Sciences Bldg, UCLA Los Angeles, CA 90095-1554 USA
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Local Organizing Committee roles:

Excursions, hotel accommodation, transport, registration, etc.: **Ask Linda**
 Submitting papers, conference proceedings: **Ask Rob**
 Anything else: **Ask Rob**

VENUE AND ACCOMODATION

The SRTL-11 Research Forum will be held on the campus of UCLA in Los Angeles, California. Please arrange your flight to arrive before noon on Sunday, July 14. Check-in to the rooms begins at 2pm, and the opening reception will begin at 4pm. We will organize transport from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), which is about 12 miles (19 km) away from the campus. Although it is close, at certain times of the day the travel time may be as long as one hour due to traffic (although Sundays are usually fairly traffic-free.) We will organize pick-up times and locations once we know participants' arrival times, with the last pick-up around 3pm.

If you arrive before July 14, we can offer advice for hotels. There are hotels near the airport for a variety of budgets. What they lack in charm they make up in convenience. Hotels near campus tend to be more expensive. If you choose to arrange your own transportation, a taxi costs roughly \$50 and there is also a shuttle (LAX FlyAway <https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/travel-options/flyaway>) for \$10 (credit cards only.) The shuttle takes you to the southern-most edge of campus; from there we can arrange to pick you up (it is about one mile (1.6km) uphill to the lodgings from the drop-off location).

If you choose to leave on Saturday, July 20, we recommend booking a flight after 4pm for domestic and 5pm for international. (Travel to the airport will take roughly one hour Saturday afternoon.)

We will be staying in the **student dorms** on the UCLA campus. The dorms are single-occupancy (unless you request a double) and are simple but comfortable, with wifi, air conditioning, and private *en suite* toilets and showers. Breakfasts will be in the dorms, and all other meals at the meeting site or at a restaurant. Accompanying persons will need to visit the meeting site for meals. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions (see the registration form).

Our meetings and lunch will be held in the **UCLA botanical gardens**, roughly a 15-minute walk from the dorms. The walk is hilly (particularly the return walk, which involves one long, steep hill), so comfortable shoes are necessary! We will arrange a car for those who cannot walk.

All participants are required to attend the entire Forum program. The program will begin on Sunday afternoon July 14 2019 at 4pm. Meetings will take place through Saturday July 20 at 2pm, interspersed with local excursions around west Los Angeles.



Important Dates

February 15, 2019	Registration opens for SRTL-11 https://commerce.cashnet.com/IRFSR
April 15, 2019	Deadline for all participants to submit their registration form and submit payments.
May 10, 2019	Summary papers are due (see details below).
June 17, 2019	Final Announcement: Full Scientific and social program. Summary papers made available to participants. No refund for cancellation after this date.
July 14, 2019	SRTL-11 begins at 4pm. Check-in to rooms at 2pm.
July 20, 2019	SRTL-11 Concludes at 2pm.

Registration and Accompanying Fees

Please register at <https://commerce.cashnet.com/IRFSR>, which requires payment by credit card. A preview of the form is shown in Appendix B.

Fees

Participant: \$1,700 (includes room, meals, excursions, conference fees)

Accompanying Person: \$1,200 (includes room, meals, excursions)

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made by emailing Rob (rgould@stat.ucla.edu). Requests for Cancellation after June 1, 2019 cannot be refunded.

Excursions

We plan two long and one short excursions. On one day, we will tour Sony Studios, a historic movie studio about 7 miles from UCLA. After, there will be some free time to visit the local farmers' market and we will then have an informal restaurant meal. Another excursion will be to the beachside city of Santa Monica, where you will have the option of renting a bike (included), or walking and shopping. We will meet together again at the end of the afternoon for dinner. A brief visit to the Getty Center museum (which is about 2 miles from campus) is also planned.

Funding

A limited amount of funding toward the registration fee may be available for junior scholars or scholars from developing countries. If you require funding assistance, please contact Dani Ben-Zvi (dbenzvi@univ.haifa.ac.il).

Letters of Invitation

Participants who require an official letter of invitation for funding purposes should email their request to srtl2019@gmail.com.

Invited Participants

The tentative list of delegates at the time of publication is:

First Name	Last Name	Country	Role
Janet	Ainley	UK	Discussant, Sci. Committee
Dani	Ben-Zvi	Israel	Co-author, Sci. Committee, SRTL Co-chair
Rolf	Biehler	Germany	Presenter
Bob	delMas	USA	Discussant
Michel	Dvir	Israel	Presenter
Tim	Erickson	USA	Discussant
Anna	Fergusson	New Zealand	Presenter
Daniel	Frischemeier	Germany	Presenter
Rob	Gould	USA	Sci. Committee, Organizing Committee
Michael	Huberty	USA	Presenter
Sibel	Kazak	Turkey	Presenter, Sci. Committee
Frauke	Kreuter	Germany/USA	Keynote
Katie	Makar	Australia	Sci. Committee, SRTL Co-chair
Jan	Mokros	USA	Co-presenter
Jennifer	Noll	USA	Presenter, Sci. Committee
Anne	Patel	New Zealand	Presenter
Maxine	Pfannkuch	New Zealand	Co-author, Sci. Committee
Dave	Pratt	UK	Discussant
Andee	Rubin	USA	Presenter, Sci. Committee
Susanne	Schnell	Germany	Co-presenter
Marianne	van Dijke	The Netherlands	Presenter
Michelle	Wilkerson	USA	Presenter



Linda	Zanontian	USA	Organizing Committee
Lucia	Zapata	Colombia	Presenter
Andy	Zieffler	USA	Co-author

THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The working language of the Research Forum is English, all electronic communication will be in English, all sessions will be conducted in English, and all written materials produced will be in English. Keep in mind though that for many participants **English is not their first language**. Please speak slowly and clearly.

All participants will be able to download the papers by June 21, 2019 from the [shared Google Drive folder at https://bit.ly/SRTL_Papers](https://bit.ly/SRTL_Papers) so that they can be read before attending the Forum.

During the Forum we shall use [Google Drive at https://bit.ly/SRTL_Papers](https://bit.ly/SRTL_Papers) to share materials (presentations, videos, transcripts, meeting summaries, photos, etc.). Further details will be provided in the final announcement.

The activities of the scientific program include:

- Keynote address on opening night (60 min).
- Research presentations to the entire group. There will be long presentations (90 min) and short presentations (45 min). Each presenter, or team of presenters, will be allocated 90 or 45 minutes, which includes interactive whole group discussion and a small subset of video clips (up to 3 min.), if desired.
- Small group discussion around each cluster's thematic topic (1 hour).
- Short opening session each day for reflection on the presentations and discussions of the previous day (30 minutes).
- Optional afternoon interactive meeting/s devoted to viewing and discussing research using video data, or sharing other projects of the participants (60 min.).
- Panel presentation by discussants (90 minutes) on closing day.
- Looking backward looking forward summary session on closing day (2 hrs).

The main meeting room is equipped with overhead projection, speakers for hearing video files, and internet access.

Tentative Schedule

Day 1: Sunday, 14 July

Time	Activity	Location
Before 2pm	Transfer from LAX to UCLA	
1pm - 3pm	Lunch for those who arrive before Reception	At check-in
2pm	Check-in	UCLA
2pm - 4pm	Free Time	UCLA
4pm - 5pm	Welcome Reception	UCLA "The Hill"
5pm - 6:30pm	Keynote Address and discussion	UCLA "The Hill"
6:30pm - 8pm	Dinner	UCLA Luskin Center (short walk from dorms)

Day 2: Monday, 15 July

Time	Activity	Location
7am – 8:30 am	Breakfast, Physical Activities	UCLA Dining Hall
8:30am – 9am	Reflection	LaKretz Garden Pavillion (LKGP)
9am – 10:30am	90 minute session 1	LKGP
10:30am – 11am	Morning Coffee	LKGP
11am – 12:30pm	90 minute session 2	LKGP
12:30pm – 2:15pm	Lunch followed by own choice of walk	LKGP; Botanical Gardens
2:15pm – 3pm	45 minute session 1	LKGP
3pm - 4pm	Small group discussions	LKGP
4pm – 4:30pm	Afternoon Coffee	LKGP
4:30pm – 5:30pm	Optional Session 1	LKGP
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Free Time	
6:30pm-8:30pm	Dinner	Luskin Center

Day 3: Tuesday, July 16

Time	Activity	Location
7am – 8:30 am	Breakfast, Physical Activities	UCLA Dining Hall
8:30am – 9am	Reflection	LKGP
9am – 9:45am	45 minute session 2	LKGP
9:45am – 10:30am	45 minute session 3	LKGP
10:30am – 11am	Morning Coffee	LKGP
11am – 12pm	Small group discussions	LKGP
12pm – 1pm	Lunch	LKGP



1pm – 6pm	Excursion	
6pm – 8:30pm	Dinner	off-campus

Day 4: Wednesday, 17 July

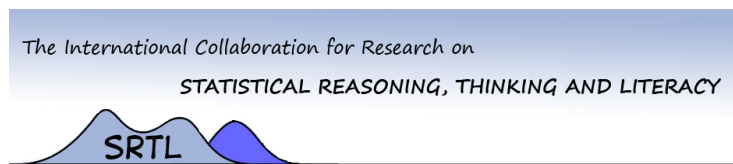
Time	Activity	Location
7am – 8:30 am	Breakfast, Physical Activities	UCLA Dining Hall
8:30am – 9am	Reflection	LKGP
9am – 10:30am	90 minute session 3	LKGP
10:30am – 11am	Morning Coffee	LKGP
11am – 11:45am	45 minute session 4	LKGP
11:45am – 12:30pm	45 minute session 5	LKGP
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	LKGP
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Small group discussions	LKGP
2:30pm – 6pm	Local activity afternoon: biking, walking	Santa Monica
6pm – 8:30pm	Dinner off-campus	Santa Monica

Day 5: Thursday, 18 July

Time	Activity	Location
7am – 8:30 am	Breakfast, Physical Activities	UCLA Dining Hall
8:30am – 9am	Reflection	LKGP
9am – 10:30am	90 minute session 4	LKGP
10:30am – 11am	Morning Coffee	LKGP
11am – 12:30pm	90 minute session 5	LKGP
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	LKGP
1:30pm – 3:00pm	90 minute Session 6	LKGP
3:30pm – 4pm	Afternoon Coffee	LKGP
4pm – 5:30	Small Group	LKGP
6pm-8pm	Dinner	Luskin Center

Day 6: Friday, 19 July

Time	Activity	Location
7am – 8:30 am	Breakfast, Physical Activities	UCLA Dining Hall
8am – 8:30am	Reflection	LKGP
8:30am – 10am	90 minute session 7	LKGP
10am – 10:30am	Morning Coffee	LKGP
10:30am – 12pm	90 minute session 8	LKGP
12pm – 13pm	Small group discussions	LKGP
13pm – 5:30pm	Excursion including Lunch	Getty Museum
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Free Time	



6pm – 8:30pm	Closing Dinner	Westwood Village
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Day 7: Saturday, 20 July

Time	Activity	Location
7am – 8:30 am	Breakfast, Physical Activities	UCLA Dining Hall
8:30am – 9am	Reflection	LKGP
9am – 10:30am	Discussants’ Panel	LKGP
10:30am – 11am	Morning Coffee	LKGP
11am – 1pm	Looking back and looking forward	LKGP
1pm – 2pm	Lunch and departures	?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

All participants (presenters, co-authors, and discussants) are requested to **each** complete the registration form available at <https://commerce.cashnet.com/IRFSR>

open from **February 20, 2019 to April 15, 2019.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTERS

Summary papers must be uploaded to the SRTL-11 Google Drive Papers Folder at https://bit.ly/SRTL_Papers (in either pdf or docx format) by May 10, 2019. Please name your paper with first author’s family name e.g., Budgett.pdf.

See Guidelines for preparing papers below.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISCUSSANTS

Discussants will actively participate in all sessions and discussions. In addition they will have time to share their own reflections and comments on the Forum in a panel on the concluding day.

PRESENTATION FORMAT

The scientific program groups presentations thematically into clusters. A cluster consists of:

- 2–3 presentations (long and short), combined with
- small group discussion (60 min), and
- reflection discussion (30 min on the following day).

This structure allows each presenter to share the details of their research with the entire group, and in addition, permits the entire group to process the research findings and substantively interact with the cluster topic.

Long presentations will be 90 minutes long: 60 min for presentation and 30 minutes for discussion (not necessarily as two blocks). Presenters of long presentations are encouraged to present short excerpts of video clips (up to 3 min., if available). All handouts of transcribed

interviews/observations or other materials as needed for presentations will be in digital format. If presenters wish to have hard-copy handouts, then it is their responsibility to provide them at their session. Material will be uploaded to the SRTL-11 Google Drive Folder at https://bit.ly/SRTL_Papers. In the presentation, just a small subset of short research video will be presented, but presenters will have the opportunity to interact with video research data during two dedicated one-hour long sessions for this task (optional sessions). All presenters are requested to bring their video segments on a USB flash drive (bring several formats just in case one does not work) and upload them to the SRTL-11 Google Drive Folder at https://bit.ly/SRTL_Papers.

Short presentations will be 45 minutes long: 30 min for presentation and 15 minutes for discussion (not necessarily as two blocks). Presenters are requested to prepare their slides accordingly in a concise and clear format, and to include discussion questions. We assume there is little time for video clips, however if you wish to show one, please make sure it is about 1-3 minutes long, and provide a transcript. All materials should be uploaded to the designated Google Drive Folders at https://bit.ly/SRTL_Papers (additional instructions will be provided in the final announcement).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING SUMMARY PAPER

As with previous SRTLs, we are asking all presentation authors to present a **summary paper** that includes the front end of a normal paper – abstract (200 words), introduction, literature review, methodology, and any additional information that would help orient the group to the study context. Across the proposals, we noticed that the *theoretical perspective of statistical modelling* was not always clear. To facilitate discussion, please ensure that you clearly address in your summary paper the link between your theoretical perspective of statistical modeling and the data and arguments you are presenting. Also, most proposals would benefit from a more explicit description of how your study contributes to our understanding of statistical modelling in the field and to the SRTL-11 theme: *New ways of interacting with data, context and chance in statistical modelling processes*.

The summary paper will both inform the group of the necessary details that led up the data analysis (to avoid having to repeat this in the presentation) and to allow for more rigorous discussion at the Forum. Instructions are given below for the format of the summary paper. It is expected that these papers will be about 8 pages in length (single spaced).

Submission

Presenters are requested to upload their presentation paper in pdf or docx formats by **May 10, 2019** to SRTL-11 Google Drive Papers Folder at https://bit.ly/SRTL_Papers. Please follow the Guidelines for formatting papers. This is important to ensure that all participants have time to read the presentation papers before arriving at SRTL-11.

Summary Paper Structure

A common format is requested for all SRTL-11 summary papers, unless other arrangements

have been made. The structure should be:

- Title and authors details (names, institute, address and e-mails)
- Abstract (200 words)
- Keywords (4-5)
- Introduction addressing theme, problem, relevance and goal of the research
- Brief review of related literature and theoretical framework leading to specific research questions. Make sure to include your perspective in statistical model and modeling.
- Method – depending on the author’s theoretical approach, this may include an overview of the context, participants, details of any tasks or instruments given and how/why, data collection and data analysis
- Brief overview of the video clips or results that you plan to share at the Forum
- Potential implications for research, educational practice, and assessment
- References
- Appendices (e.g., tasks, questionnaires)
- Annotated list of video segments (if included; this may be handed out at the Forum)

We assume that this structure will fit most papers. Be reminded that the focus of your paper should be a *particular aspect* of the Forum theme – *New ways of interacting with data, context and chance in statistical modelling processes* – **please ensure that you limit the purpose, literature review, and implications for your results to this topic so as to have a focused and coherent summary paper.**

When writing your paper please give special consideration to the following points, based on lessons learned from past SRTL Forums:

- The opening sections (Introduction, Review of literature/theoretical framework) should focus on issues and literature specifically relevant to the SRTL-11 theme. Make sure your text is explicit about the purposes/goals of the study, as well as about the motivation or justification for raising your specific research questions, e.g., why is it useful to study this particular aspect? How would answering these questions contribute to existing knowledge on statistical modelling to connect data, chance and context? Consider adding a concept map to visualize your understanding of the web of relations between relevant concepts.
- Ensure that your research questions are clarified and that when citing previous research, you describe what was found and how that feeds into or is the basis for raising the question(s) you pose. Avoid stating research questions that are vague or

too broad. Clearly show how the questions are grounded in and emerge from gaps in the literature.

- The Method section needs to be structured. Try to organize it according to standard subtopics, for example: a) Participants, b) Instruments and/or Tasks, c) Procedure, d) Data collection and e) Data analysis. That said, in certain qualitative or complex studies, you might need to elaborate further on the Approach, Context and/or Setting (to describe considerations that led to a specific task or study design, the design of the learning environment within which the study takes place, etc.).
- The overview of results section should include a *brief* description of the data you intend to present at SRTL-11.
- Potential/intended implications regarding: *research* (e.g., needed changes to models, theories, research methodologies, or future studies, etc.), *educational practice* (teaching methods, technologies and materials, teacher professional development, task and learning trajectory design, etc.), and if relevant also *assessment* and/or *evaluation*.

Format/Template Guidelines

The paper should use the *APA 6* instructions

(<https://libguides.library.usyd.edu.au/c.php?g=508212&p=3476096>) on page size (A4) and margins (1" or 2.54 cm margins specifically), font type (Times New Roman) and font size (12 pt), but keep table and figures in the text as a service to the reader and use single spacing.



Appendix A: Registration Form

To register, please visit <https://commerce.cashnet.com/IRFSR>. You will be asked to complete these questions:

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Registration type (Regular, Regular + Accompanying Person):

Cell Phone: (optional)

Dietary Restrictions (gluten, vegan, vegetarian, etc.):

Name of accompanying guest:

Dietary restrictions of guest (gluten, vegan, vegetarian, etc.):

How will you arrive/depart (car, plane, train):

Flight date, company and number (arrival/departure):

Do you require transportation to and from the airport and the conference?

Do you require transportation between the dorms and the meeting hall, about a 15-minute walk, some hills:

T-shirt Size (Mens or Womens, Small, Medium, Large, Xlarge, XX Large.)

Appendix B: Travel in and Around Los Angeles

Los Angeles is bigger than you think. The city itself includes "only" 4 million people. But inside and around the city limits are 87 other independent cities (some, like Beverly Hills, completely surrounded by Los Angeles). If you include these other cities, then the area has about 12.8 million residents, making it the third largest metropolitan area in the world (behind Tokyo and New York). It is ethnically very diverse, with no single ethnic group holding a majority. The largest group is White, closely followed by Hispanic/Latino, followed by Asian, "Other", and African American. It is also diverse geographically. Within the city limits, the lowest elevation is 0 feet above sea level, and the highest is Mt. Lukens (5000 feet or 1547m). Also, the city is physically large, extending 44 miles longitudinally (71km) and 29 miles (47.8km) latitudinally.

Climate

Average high temperature at the UCLA campus is about 77 degrees F, and average low is about 61. Highest recorded July temperature is 103 F. Rain is rare and causes a near panicky euphoria in local residents. (Average precipitation is about 0.) Humidity levels tend to be relatively low. As we all know, things are heating up, and the last two July's have been somewhat warmer than the 77 degree average might lead you to believe.

Keep in mind that temperature vary considerably throughout the Los Angeles area. Downtown (10 miles from campus) the average high is 82. In Pasadena (15 miles) the average high is 89. Santa Monica (3 miles away, and the location of an excursion), 71. Palm Springs (about 100 miles) the average high is 108.

While you will almost always be comfortable in shorts and short-sleeve shirt, you might want a pair of long pants and a sweater or sweatshirt for the evenings, particularly when we are on excursions near the beach.

Tipping

The U.S. is a tipping culture. Tip a taxi driver approximately 10-20% of the total cost. If eating in a restaurant in which you sit at a table and a server takes your order and brings food, tip 15%-20%. Tips at places where you stand in line are not expected (even if there is a jar that says "tips".)

Sales Tax

Prices quoted rarely include the sales tax. Sales taxes are levied by cities and states, and in Los Angeles sales taxes add up to approximately 10%.

Hotels For Before or After SRTL

Los Angeles is a large, diverse city, and the mood of your visit can be adjusted by moving to a different neighborhood. L.A. is hard to see without a car: it is very spread out and has only a minimal public transportation system. For this reason, it is good to look for hotels in areas with plenty of sites and activities within walking distance or a short taxi ride away.

UCLA is relatively close to LAX. If you are willing to pay roughly \$60 USD for a taxi, you can be at UCLA in about 20 -30 minutes, depending on the traffic.

Near LAX

If arriving early, it is convenient to stay near LAX. There are hotels in all price ranges, and many, if not all, have free shuttles from the airport. However, this area lacks charm (to put it mildly), and if you go outside of your hotel you will be greeted with a view of concrete as far as the eye can see. This is not an issue if you simply want a place to stay, but be aware that there is nothing of interest within walking distance of most airport hotels. If you stay at an airport hotel, we may ask that you return to a central meeting point at the airport when it is time for transportation to the conference site.

One exception to this is the Custom Hotel, <https://www.customhotel.com>, a small “boutique hotel” that is relatively low-budget and in a residential neighborhood. The beach is a short car ride away.

If you are willing to pay the taxi fare and have a larger budget, you might consider staying closer to the conference site:

Near UCLA

For the most part, the best strategy is to use whatever procedures you usually use to find hotels (Expedia, Kayak, etc.), but please feel free to run them past us; we can give you advice on the neighborhood, location to other things, etc.

With that said, there are a few hotels in near the UCLA campus that visitors have stayed before with positive comments. Hotels near UCLA tend to be expensive. All are within walking distance of the campus.

The prices I quote are based on listed prices in February. They are likely to be higher in July.

- **Luskin Center**: an on-campus hotel with rates around \$210/night. If space is available, we can make a reservation for you and this might save 5%.
- **Hotel Angeleno**: nice hotel with wonderful view from the restaurant. The hotel is surrounded by busy roads and highways which make walking hard. (Rooms are

quiet, though.) About a 20-minute hilly walk to UCLA campus. Free shuttle to campus. We often put guest speakers here. About \$160/night.

www.hotelangeleno.com.

- **Hilgard House:** comfortable, no frills, nice. We often put guest speakers here. Very close to campus. Roughly \$220/night. www.hilgardhousehotel.com
- **W Los Angeles -West Beverly Hills.** Nice, trendy. Essentially across the street from campus. Roughly \$260/night. There are several W hotels in Los Angeles. So make sure you have the right one.
- **Kimpton Hotel Palomar Los Angeles Beverly Hills:** trendy, upscale. An easy 15 minute walk to campus. On a busy street, but plenty to see/do within walking distance. About \$190/night.
- **Good Nite Inn West Los Angeles-Century City.** Very simple, on a busy street. They've recently remodeled and revamped, and I'm not sure how things have changed. About \$150/night. NOT within walking distance (about 3 miles away.)

Car Rentals

Several car rental companies serve LAX. The companies are off-site, which means that you will need to take a short (5 minute) shuttle ride from the airport to the company. You must book your rental through the company's website before your arrival or they might not have cars available.

Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National, Thrifty

Entertainment and Site Seeing

If you're interested in planning some time in or around Los Angeles before or after SRTL, we'd be happy to answer any questions. L.A. is a city of neighborhoods, and so even if you've done the "greatest hits" on previous visits, you might enjoy staying in particular neighborhoods.

Greatest Hits

Disneyland: about 50 miles from UCLA. Generally open from 8am - midnight. Tickets can be purchased on site or advance on their website. There are two parks. Disneyland is the classic park, and California Adventure a newer park. Ticket prices vary by date and by park and range from roughly \$115-\$200. Multi-day passes are also available. If there is interest in attending the day after SRTL ends, let Rob know and we might see if we can arrange a group admission rate or a special tour.

Universal Studios: About 15 miles from UCLA. Technically speaking this is a movie studio, but what you pay for is entrance to an amusement park themed around Universal movies (including Harry Potter). Tickets are about \$120.

Hollywood Bowl: If you are a music lover, this is one of the great Los Angeles experiences. Pack a picnic, bring a bottle of wine, and enjoy while you listen to music under the stars. (You can buy everything you need on-site, but expect to pay more.) Concerts typically begin at 8pm, and the grounds open for picnics two hours before the concert. Tuesday and Thursdays are classical nights with the L.A. Philharmonic, and the cheapest seats are \$1 (the price climbs rather steeply from there). Jazz, Rock and other genres are considerably more expensive. The venue seats about 15,000 people, but even so, popular acts sell out, and so if you are interested, then you should buy tickets as soon as possible. (Luckily, we classical music lovers can be a bit more relaxed since classical rarely sells out, unless it is Beethoven and a relatively popular performance, such as Lang Lang or The Two Cellos or something of that ilk.)

<https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/events/performances/>

Los Angeles County Museum of Art and La Brea Tar Pits (this may be under construction during your visit; exact dates of construction have yet to be announced.) The museum is great, but don't overlook the tar pits. Often, in summer afternoons, you can watch paleontologists digging up fossils in the excavation pits.

Getty Museum Center and Getty Museum Villa. The Center is 2 miles from campus and has a large, world-class art collection and beautiful grounds. The Villa is along Pacific Coast Highway, about 10 miles to the north of UCLA, and houses Roman and Grecian antiquities in a recreation of a Pompeii villa. Both are free, but the Villa requires parking reservations, even if you are coming by bus or taxi. (Basically, they limit the number of admissions to prevent crowding).

Local Neighborhoods

Beverly Hills

Not cheap, but that's why you go. Hotels walking distance to shopping are pricey, but then so is the shopping. There are some periphery hotels that are less expensive. My sense is that BH is a nice place to spend 2-3 hours at most. There are some very nice restaurants in many price ranges though.

West Hollywood

The center of rock-and-roll glamour on the north (Sunset Strip) and famous gay night-scene (with a historic role in LGBTQ civil rights) to the south (Santa Monica Blvd). Lots of good restaurants and pricey residential neighborhoods throughout.

Santa Monica

We'll see one portion of this beachside city during our excursion, but this is a nice area to spend time in. There are less-touristy areas worth a visit as well. This is a good place to stay if you want to visit the Getty Villa or spend time at the beach.

Pasadena

Count on the temperature in Pasadena being 10-15 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than at UCLA. Pasadena is one of the older cities in the Los Angeles area, and is host to the annual New Year's Day Rose Parade. There is a fun shopping/dining area (Old Town and, about 2 miles east of Old Town, Laker Street), beautiful early 20th century craftsman homes (the Gamble House is a famous example, and available for tours with advanced reservations), and two world-class museums: The Norton Simon and the Huntington Library. The Huntington in particular is one of the area's often overlooked gems. It's not really a library, but the former estate of a 19th century railroad baron who developed much of southern California. The gardens are extensive and beautiful, containing many rare plants and divided into sections: a cactus and succulent section, palm trees, jungle, chinese garden, japanese garden, rose garden, etc. A visit to the gardens alone can easily take 2-3 hours. The library itself is a research library, but has two rooms of rare books on display for the public. Finally, the original residence is now a museum specializing in English art. The most famous paintings are "Pinkie" and "Blue Boy" by Gainsborough.

The Norton Simon Museum has many paintings by artists throughout the world, with a strong showing of Picasso, van Gogh and Matisse

<https://www.huntington.org/>

www.nortonsimon.org

Venice Beach

A mixture of trust-fund bohemians, drug-addled hippies, free spirits, and homeless. The canals provide a pleasant walk. A stroll along the boardwalk takes you past many bizarre street entertaining, Muscle Beach, and other oddities (but watch your wallet and purse). Abbot Kinney Street has very high end shopping and dining.

Downtown Los Angeles

Downtown has greatly changed, and can provide a very entertaining afternoon or two. Things are much quieter on the weekends, particularly Sunday, but there is always something worth seeing. Some highlights: Walt Disney Concert Hall (Frank Gehry design), Bradbury Building (stunning interior, quite famous in architectural circles and used in many, many movies including Blade Runner), Grand Central Market (informal and gourmet dining), Angels' Flight (the world's shortest railroad, or so they say), Union Station (another architectural delight), Olvera Street (center of the original Spanish settlement or, if not the center, at least all that's left), Little Tokyo (food and Japanese-inspired stores), "Arts District" (shopping, dining, art galleries), and China Town (much fallen since its glory days in the 1950s, but still worth a few minutes walking around.

However, if it's good authentic Chinese food you want, then the San Gabriel Valley, about 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, will provide.)

Hollywood

Hollywood is a vaguely defined neighborhood within Los Angeles. Ironically, there are few movie theaters here. Most visitors are disappointed: it is extremely touristy and somewhat seedy and rundown. There are some stylish hotels and nightclubs if that's your taste.

Odds and Ends

It's often fun to see a movie at one of these theaters:

- TCL "Chinese" Theater on Hollywood Boulevard: classic movie theater from the 1920's. Movie stars, when they reached a level of success, were invited to leave their footprints and handprints in the concrete in the courtyard (and still do). Drawbacks: many tourists, and in the heart of downtown Hollywood (which is actually quite seedy and somewhat tacky).
- El Capitan Theater on Hollywood Blvd: Another classic movie theater from the same era as the "Chinese" and equally grand. Just a block away from the "Chinese". Shows only Disney movies, and includes an opening live-action show.
- Cinespia Movie Screenings at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery. Outdoor screenings of classic movies in a cemetery in which many celebrities from the "golden age" of Hollywood are buried. Come early, bring a picnic, sit on the lawn. The schedule is usually announced in April and screenings are usually Friday and Saturday nights. www.cinespia.org.
- Hollywood Arclight Cinerama Dome. On Sunset Blvd in the heart of Hollywood. Another "classic" theater from the 1950's. The entire Arclight complex, which includes other modern theaters, is quite classy and has state-of-the-art systems. The audiences here tend to be very knowledgeable about films, and will stay through the closing credits to see if their name is there. I have myself spotted several celebrities in the audience from time to time. There is a decent cafe and bar on the premises.
- Old Town Music Hall. Theater from the 1920's that shows classic silent movies with pipe organ ("The Might Wurlitzer") accompaniment.

Hiking: There are many excellent day-hikes around Los Angeles, some a short drive from UCLA. Most are quite steep but quickly get you away from civilization and offer wonderful views. Trails are not considered safe by yourself in early morning/evening due to mountain lions and rattlesnakes, but two or more people are enough to scare away the lions, and some basic cautions will keep you clear from (relatively rare) rattlesnakes. See <https://www.lamag.com/culturefiles/50-essential-hiking-trails-los-angeles/>



Griffith Observatory <http://griffithobservatory.org/> is a museum and observatory with wonderful views and nice science exhibits. Made famous from the James Dean movie *Rebel Without a Cause*. (Incidentally, Dean was a UCLA student.)

Museum of Jurassic Technology. One of the oddest places in Los Angeles. Is it a museum? Is it an art project? Is it a carnival amusement? Are the exhibits real? Do the people working there believe they are real? AFTER your visit you should read Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder: Pronged Ants, Horned Humans, Mice on Toast, and Other Marvels of Jurassic Technology, by Lawrence Weschler. Reading it before your visit may spoil some of the disorientation you feel after your first visit. The chief curator of the Museum won a MacArthur "Genius" grant for his efforts, but that bit of knowledge makes everything even more confusing.

Trips Further afield

If you are in the mood for an overnight local trip, here are some ideas:

Palm Springs: about a 2 hour drive from UCLA. It will be very, very hot (expect at least 100 F and probably 110-115).

Santa Barbara: about 90 minutes drive from UCLA. You can also take the train, but must catch it downtown Los Angeles. The train trip is about 2 hours. Lovely, California-Spanish beachside city. Great food and wine, lovely beaches, beautiful mountains. Wineries with tasting rooms are another 45 minutes or so to the north of Santa Barbara in Los Olivos, Buelton, and surrounding farming cities.

San Luis Obispo, Los Osos, Moro Bay, Cambria, Paso Robles: more wine tasting, about a 3 hour drive north of UCLA. Beautiful, sparse coast line with many protected natural preserves. The coast (Moro Bay, Los Osos) can be quite cool even in July (mid-50s), while inland (Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo) it can be over 100 degrees. San Luis Obispo is a college town and, like Santa Barbara, a Spanish mission town with the mission still intact. Cambria hosts Hearst Castle, William Randolph Hearst's fantasy home that partially inspired Orson Well's *Citizen Kane*. Requires reservations.

San Francisco: about a 5 hour drive on the hot, boring route, or an 8-hour drive on the coastal route (or a 15 hour drive on the extremely scenic Pacific Coast Highway Route). About a 60 minute flight from LAX and other local airports. Flights roughly every 90 minutes for most airlines.

Reading

- The Library Book, Susan Orlean. History of the Los Angeles library, including the mystery surrounding a catastrophic fire in the 1980's, and from their, launching on a history of Los Angeles and the role of libraries around the world.
- The Big Sleep, Raymond Chandler. Classic detective novel.



- The Black Dahlia, James Elroy. Real-life crime.
- Cadillac Desert, Marc Reisner. The Story of water in the western U.S. and therefore the modern history of Los Angeles.
- City of Quartz, Mike Davis. Cultural and social history of Los Angeles.
- Counter Intelligence: Where to Eat in the Real Los Angeles. Jonathan Gold. L.A. is a foodie town, and this is the bible.
- LAitudes: An Angeleno's Atlas, ed. Patricia Wakida. About maps and data! Some of the chapters written by UCLA graduates of the data/visual arts program.
- Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies, Renner Banham. Classic and essential overview of architectural and social trends and patterns in Los Angeles.
- West of Eden, Jean Stein. A gossipy, first-person spoken history of the glamorous side of Los Angeles, as transcribed by the daughter of Hollywood aristocracy. (Her father, Jules Stein, founded the largest and most successful talent agency, and so she personally knew many stars and artists.)
- The Rest is Noise, Alex Ross. Strictly speaking, a history of 20th century music. But a big part of that history was the migration of musicians and composers from Europe to the West Coast and Los Angeles before and during the Second World War. For this reason, there's quite a bit about Los Angeles cultural history.

Watching

- Blade Runner. It's set in Los Angeles. Did you know that? (And, of course, its sequel Blade Runner 2049.)
- L.A. Story, with Steve Martin.
- L.A. Confidential.
- Chinatown.
- Sunset Boulevard (the fictional location is just around the corner from the dorms we'll be staying at!)
- Mulholland Drive. It made no sense to me at all, but friends of mine "In the industry" swear that this is the most realistic portrayal of the darker sides of Hollywood that they've seen.
- Swingers.
- Repo Man. A cult classic.
- The Player.
- Los Angeles Plays Itself. This is actually a documentary about movies in which Los Angeles is prominently featured. Along the way you learn lots of L.A. history.
- Who Framed Roger Rabbit? Set in a fantasy Los Angeles in which cartoon characters are real and live a segregated life in "Toon Town". But this is used to tell the history of racial tension in Los Angeles, and the popular story of how the beloved "Red Car" street cars were destroyed to make way for the automobile.



- The Loved One. A movie based on the Evelyn Waugh novel about a corrupt cemetery in Los Angeles.
- The Wizard of Oz. Not set in Los Angeles (but in Kansas and, well, Oz). But filmed at the studios we will be touring.
- La-la Land. A musical.
- Rebel Without A Cause
- White Men Can't Jump