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Learning to reason from samples: commentary from the perspectives of task design and the emergence of “big data”.

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Summary: This paper is in the form of a reflective discussion of the collection of papers in this special issue on “Statistical reasoning: learning to reason from samples” drawing on deliberations arising at the Seventh International Collaboration for Research on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking, and Literacy (SRTL7). It is an important part of the structure of the academic work of SRTL community that at the end of each conference, a small group of discussants are given the space to present their reflections and reactions with the aim of raising questions and issues which may carry forward into the future work of the community of researchers. Traditionally, they have the freedom to choose the perspectives from which they do this, and this paper has been developed in the same spirit. At SRTL7, the authors of this paper addressed issues on which they have been working for some time, namely, task design and the emergence of big data and are now able to offer a commentary from these two perspectives on what might be learnt from the papers in this special issue.

Classification: K40 K70 K80 E20

Keywords: task design; big data; samples

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