

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

Jennifer J. Kaplan Division of Science and Mathematics Education Michigan State University

"Lexical Ambiguity in Statistics: The Cases of Random and Spread"

Words that are part of everyday English and used differently in a technical domain possess lexical ambiguity. The use of such words may encourage students to make incorrect associations between words they know and words that sound similar but have specific meanings in statistics that are different from the common usage definitions. This talk will present results from parts of a sequence of studies designed to understand the effects of and develop techniques for exploiting lexical ambiguities in the statistic classroom. The presentation will focus the words random and spread and will provide research results and suggestions and activities that instructors can use to exploit the lexical ambiguity associated with the words random and spread.

Thursday, February 24th, 2011 ROOM 306 Statistics Building University of Georgia Athens, GA 30602

3:00 P.M. – Refreshments, Room 230 (The Cohen Room) 3:30 P.M. – Talk, Room 306, Statistics Building