

THE ROLE OF OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN IN CROSS-NATIONAL STUDIES

A WERA Workshop

December 1, 2017

10:00-13:00

Abstract:

Cross-national statistical analyses in education often lack measures of Opportunity to Learn (OTL) and as a result produce biased estimates of the effects they are studying. This is a serious problem whether done at the cross-country level or within country. This workshop looks at the history of OTL and how it is currently being measured in TIMSS and PISA. Analyses showing the potential biasing effect related to the absence of OTL will be presented.

Organization and Goals:

This three-hour course is organized in three parts. Part I will be an overview of the history of OTL in international studies. Part II will be a presentation by three international scholars known for their accomplishments in international research both related to TIMSS and PISA. Each of the scholars will present results related to OTL in PISA and TIMSS as well as discuss the relationship of OTL to performance in 16 countries who participated in both TIMSS and PISA. Finally, Part II will be an extended discussion of the two roles that OTL plays in international research—as predictor and control variables.

Presenters

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