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

Dr. William Schmidt  
University Distinguished Professor  
Director, Center for the Study of Curriculum Policy  
Michigan State University, USA

Dr. Frederick Leung  
Kintoy Professor in Mathematics Education  
Chair Professor  
Chairman of Faculty Board, Faculty of Education  
Division of Mathematics and Science Education  
University of Hong Kong  
Hong Kong, China