

Research News

Conferences and seminars

International RASCH Conference 2010

In June Tom Bramley attended the International Rasch Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, and presented a paper on: *Locating objects on a latent trait using Rasch analysis of experts' judgments*.

International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA)

The 36th IAEA Annual Conference took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 22nd–27th August 2010. The theme of the conference was 'Assessment for future generations'. Colleagues from Cambridge Assessment presented the following papers:

Rebecca Hopkin, Martin Johnson, Hannah Shiell, John F. Bell and Nicholas Raikes: *Marking advanced extended essays on screen and on paper: is overall marking accuracy reliable across marking modes?*

Victoria Crisp and Stuart Shaw: *How hard can it be? Issues and challenges in the development of a validation method for traditional written examinations*.

Louis Yim: *A comparison between the effect of using pseudo-candidates' scripts and real-candidates' scripts in a rank-ordering comparability methodology at syllabus level*.

Beth Black: *Investigating seeding items used for monitoring on-line marking: factors affecting marker agreement with the gold standard marks*.

Stuart Shaw and Irenka Suto: *A tricky task for teachers: Assessing pre-university students' research reports*.

European Conference on Educational Research (ECER)

In August Irenka Suto attended the ECER conference in Helsinki, Finland. Over 2000 delegates attended the conference, which took place over three days and comprised 27 different networks. The theme was 'Education and cultural change'. Irenka presented two papers:

Irenka Suto, Beth Black and Tom Bramley: *The Interrelations of Features of Questions, Mark Schemes and Examinee Responses and their Impact upon Marker Agreement*.

Stuart Shaw and Irenka Suto: *A tricky task for teachers: Assessing pre-university students' research reports*.

EARLI/Northumbria Assessment Conference 2010

Rebecca Hopkin attended the Fifth Biennial Northumbria/EARLI SIG Assessment Conference in Northumberland in September. Within the general theme of 'Assessment for Learners', the conference programme covered the following areas:

- Formative and summative assessment to improve learning
- Assessment: consequences and contexts for learners
- Learner achievements and assessment

British Educational Research Association (BERA)

The BERA Annual Conference was held from 1st–4th September at the University of Warwick. Colleagues from the Research Division and CIE presented the following papers:

Carmen Vidal Rodeiro and Rita Nádas: *The effects of the new modular GCSE examinations on students' outcomes, motivation and workload*.

Joanne Emery, Elizabeth Sykes, Tim Oates, John F. Bell and Carmen Vidal Rodeiro: *A review of the birth date effect on educational attainment in England*.

Tim Gill: *An analysis of examination uptake and performance of schools in the academies programme*.

Beth Black and Milja Curcin: *Group dynamics in determining 'gold standard' marks for seeding items and subsequent marker agreement*.

Stuart Shaw and Martin Johnson: *Towards an understanding of the impact of annotations on returned examination scripts*.

Hannah Shiell and Irenka Suto: *Influences on moderation and standards maintenance in school-based summative assessment: how do professional concerns differ from the evidence?* (Poster)

IQB IV European Congress of Methodology

In July John Bell attended the IQB IV European Congress of Methodology in Potsdam, Germany and presented a poster: *The empty file drawer: An explanation of the small study effect*.

Association for Educational Assessment (AEA) – Europe

The theme for the 11th AEA-Europe Conference, which took place in Oslo, Norway in November, was 'Managing assessment processes: policies and research'. Colleagues from Cambridge Assessment presented the following papers:

Tim Oates: *If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Using reform of qualifications to effect structural change in vocational training arrangements*.

Sylvia Green and Victoria Crisp: *A new model of assessment for 14 to 19 year olds: What do students and their teachers think of Diploma assessments?*

Milja Curcin, Beth Black and Tom Bramley: *Towards a suitable method for standard-maintaining in multiple-choice tests: capturing expert judgement of test difficulty through rank-ordering*.

John F. Bell: *A comparison between modular and linear examinations in secondary education: the impact of maturational effects and regular feedback on performance and motivation*.

Martin Johnson: *Marking advanced extended essays on screen and on paper: Is overall marking accuracy reliable across marking modes?*

Stuart Shaw: *Issues around how best to provide evidence for assessment validity*.

Stuart Shaw and Victoria Crisp: *How valid are A levels? Findings from a multi-method validation study of an international A level in geography*.

Louis Yim and Mark Dowling: *A benchmarking exercise between examination boards using a rank-ordering methodology at syllabus level*.

Stuart Shaw and Victoria Crisp: *Identifying a set of methods for validating traditional examinations: A difficult task requiring multiple methods*. (Poster)

Publications

Sylvia Green was invited to be guest editor of a Special Issue of *Research Papers in Education* on contemporary issues in assessment. Irenka Suto was the deputy guest editor. *Research Papers in Education: Policy and Practice*, **25**, 3 was published in September.

The following articles have been published since Issue 10 of *Research Matters*:

Bramley, T. & Gill, T. (2010). Evaluating the rank-ordering method for standard maintaining. *Research Papers in Education: Policy and Practice*, **25**, 3, 293–317.

Johnson, M. and Burdett, N. (2010). Intention, interpretation and implementation: some paradoxes of Assessment for Learning across educational contexts. *Research in Comparative and International Education*, **5**, 2, 122–131.

Johnson, M. and Burdett, N. (2010). School-based assessment in international practice. *Problems of Modern Education*, **4** (Russian journal) http://www.pmedu.ru/res/2010_4_6.pdf