

Research News

Karen Barden Research Division

Conferences and seminars

Tenth Annual UK Rasch User Group meeting

Tom Bramley, Research Division, attended the tenth UK Rasch User Group meeting at Durham University in March. The Group provides a forum for those applying the Rasch model in different fields to get together to share ideas and present research. Tom presented a paper entitled *Rasch – a look under the carpet*.

Educational Collaborative for International Schools (ECIS) Leadership Conference

The ECIS Leadership Conference took place in Rome, Italy in April under the theme *Designing on Purpose*. Stuart Shaw, Cambridge International Examinations, presented a paper based on work co-authored with his colleagues Helen Imam and Sarah Hughes on *How can your school understand and communicate your bilingual programme?*

International Education Conference (IEC)

Organised by The Clute Institute, the conference was held in Venice, Italy in June. It provided a forum to share proven and innovative methods in teaching at all levels of education and covered a range of topics from accreditation to teaching methods. Jackie Greatorex, Research Division, presented a paper on *Analysing the cognitive demands of reading, writing and listening tests*.

7th Nordic Conference on Cultural and Activity Research

The 7th Nordic Conference took place in Helsingør, Denmark at the University of Copenhagen in June. It was organised in association with the International Society for Cultural-historical Activity Research (ISCAR) and provided a cross-disciplinary forum for researchers and practitioners to share interests in cultural and activity theoretical approaches. Martin Johnson, Research Division, presented a paper entitled *Researching effective feedback in a professional learning context*.

European Conference on Educational Research (ECER)

Held at University College Dublin, Ireland, in August, the ECER Conference provided an opportunity to debate the theme *Leading Education: The Distinct Contributions of Educational Research and Researchers*. Sylvia Vitello presented a paper on *Employers' views on assessment design in vocational qualifications: a preliminary study*. The paper was co-authored with Jackie Greatorex and Jo Ireland, Research Division, and Prerna Carroll, formerly of the Research Division.

European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) – SIG 1: Assessment & Evaluation

In August, Jackie Greatorex and Filio Constantinou, Research Division, attended the EARLI SIG 1 Conference in Munich, Germany. The main

theme was *Building bridges between assessment and evaluation*. Jackie presented a paper on *Extending educational taxonomies from general to applied education: can they be used to write and review assessment criteria?* The paper was co-authored with Irenka Suto, Research Division. Filio presented a paper co-authored with Research Division colleagues Victoria Crisp and Martin Johnson entitled *Writing questions for examination papers: a creative process?*

Publications

The following articles have been published since Issue 21 of *Research Matters*:

- Darlington, E. and Bowyer, J. (2016). The Mathematics Needs of Higher Education. *Mathematics Today*, 52(1), 9.
- Dunn, K. and Darlington, E. (2016). GCSE Geography teachers' experiences of differentiation in the classroom. *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education*. Advance online publication available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10382046.2016.1207990>
- Dunn, K. and Darlington, E. (2016). Making resources available to visually impaired students. *Teaching Geography*, 41(1), 34–36.
- Johnson, M. (2016). Feedback effectiveness in professional learning contexts. *Review of Education*, 4(2), 195–229. Available online at: [doi /10.1002/rev3.3061](https://doi.org/10.1002/rev3.3061)
- Johnson, M. (2016). Reading between the lines: exploring methods for analysing professional examiner feedback discourse. *International Journal of Research & Method in Education*. Advance online publication available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1743727X.2016.1166484#abstract>
- Newton, P.E and Shaw, S.D. (2016). Agreements and disagreements over validity. *Assessment in Education: Principles, Policy & Practice*, 23(2), 316–318. Available online at: [doi:10.1080/0969594X.2016.1158151](https://doi.org/10.1080/0969594X.2016.1158151)

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