

# Research News

## Conferences and seminars

### Professor James Flynn seminar

IQ scores have been going up since they were first recorded but does that mean people are becoming more intelligent? This question was debated by Professor James Flynn at a seminar in December hosted by the Psychometrics Centre at Trinity College, Cambridge. Professor Flynn's presentation was followed by a discussion led by Neil Mackintosh, Fellow of King's College and Professor of Experimental Psychology, Cambridge, and John White, Professor of the Philosophy of Education, University of London.

### UK Rasch Users' Group

In February members of the Assessment Research and Development Division attended a one day conference in Cambridge of the UK Rasch Users' Group hosted by the Cambridge Assessment Network. Neil Jones of ESOL presented a paper on 'Continuous calibration: an operational model for testing with multiple versions and sessions'.

### British Psychological Research Conference

Beth Black attended the British Psychological Research Conference in York in March. The programme featured keynotes and symposia involving internationally recognised scholars and specialist workshops to develop research skills.

### 6th International Conference on Multilevel Analysis

In May Carmen Vidal Rodeiro attended the 6th International Conference on Multilevel Analysis and presented a paper on 'The use of prior or concurrent measures of educational attainment when studying comparability of examinations using multilevel models'.

### Cambridge Assessment Conference

The third Cambridge Assessment Conference will take place on 15 October, 2007 at Robinson College, Cambridge. The theme of this year's conference will be the use of e-assessment and the likely impact that it will have on education. The keynote speaker will be Andrew Pollard of the ESRC Teaching and Learning Programme. The fee is £180 per delegate. For further information please email [thenetwork@cambridgeassessment.org.uk](mailto:thenetwork@cambridgeassessment.org.uk) or phone +44 (0) 1223 552830.

## Publication

An article by Martin Johnson, 'A review of vocational research in the UK 2002–2006', was published in the December issue of *The International Journal of Training Research* (Vol. 4, No. 2).

## The Psychometrics Centre

The Psychometrics Centre has appointed Professor Robert J. Sternberg and Professor James R. Flynn as Distinguished Associates. These prestigious professors will advise the Centre on specific research and applied activities, as well as on its overall strategic direction.

Robert J. Sternberg, who was the keynote speaker at last year's Cambridge Assessment Conference in October 2006, is Professor of Psychology and Director of the PACE (Psychology of Abilities, Competencies and Expertise) Centre at Tufts University (Massachusetts). His work at the PACE Centre is dedicated to the advancement of theory, research, practice and policy advancing the notion of intelligence as modifiable and capable of development throughout the life span.

James R. Flynn is Professor Emeritus at the University of Otago (New Zealand) and recipient of the University's Gold Medal for Distinguished Career Research. As a psychologist, he is best known for the 'Flynn effect', the discovery of massive IQ gains from one generation to another.

## Cambridge Assessment Network

### Certificate in the Principles and Practice of Assessment

This innovative course, offered in conjunction with the University of Cambridge, Institute of Continuing Education, provides a flexible approach to learning and is intended for all those in education and training interested in assessment issues, including teachers, examiners, exams officers, parents and employers. The course consists of three taught modules and a fourth module based on a personal study project. Each module is offered through weekly face-to-face tuition and online learning. A typical module lasts 10 weeks and the course:

- provides a grounding in the principles and practice of assessment;
- recognises participants' competence and work-place experience in relation to assessment, where applicable;
- offers opportunities for further personal and professional development, and career enhancement.

Each module is worth 15 credits and participants may choose to do any or all of the four modules. Successful completion of all four modules (60 credits) leads to the award of the Certificate of Continuing Education (Principles and Practice of Assessment) from the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education. The course runs in Cambridge and Coventry. New modules begin in January and the fee is £400 per module. For further information please contact Dr Liz Morfoot (Certificate Programme Manager) on 01954 240280, email: [certificate@cont-ed.cam.ac.uk](mailto:certificate@cont-ed.cam.ac.uk)