

# Research News

## Conferences and seminars

### Society for Research in Higher Education (SHRE)

In December 2011, Irenka Suto attended the SHRE annual conference in Cardiff, Wales. The theme of the conference was 'Positive futures for higher education: connections, communities and criticality'. The keynote speakers were Professor Hugh Lauder, Professor of Education and Political Economy at the University of Bath, and Professor Maria Helena Nazaré, President of the European Universities Association.

### NPD/PLASC Users Group

Rebecca Grayson and Tim Gill attended the NPD/PLASC Users Group conference in Bristol in March and presented a paper on 'The use of the NPD and PLASC in examinations research'.

### Sixth annual Rasch User Group meeting

In March Tom Bramley attended the sixth UK Rasch User Group meeting in Leeds. The Group provides a forum for Rasch enthusiasts working in different fields to get together to share ideas and present research. The purpose of the Group is to offer advice, support and encouragement to anyone interested in the Rasch model.

### National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME)

The NCME annual meeting took place in Vancouver, Canada, in April and was attended by Tom Bramley.

### UCAS admissions conference

In April Irenka Suto presented a paper at the UCAS Admissions Conference in Birmingham entitled: 'What is the role of the A level in ensuring a successful transition from level 3 study to university education?'. The conference featured a range of high profile speakers who focussed on the challenges, changes and wider issues affecting admissions to higher education.

### British Psychological Society Annual Conference (BPS)

Sanjana Mehta attended the BPS annual conference in April and presented a paper on 'Is Psychology A level fit for purpose? Views from Higher Education'. The themes of the conference for 2012 were:

- The psychology of participation in sports and exercise
- The psychology of violence and conflict
- Language and communication
- Psychology for the public and private sectors

## Publications

The following articles have been published since Issue 13 of *Research Matters*:

Hopkin, R., Johnson, M., Shiell, H. & Bell, J. F. (2012). Extended essay marking on screen: is examiner marking accuracy influenced by marking mode? *Educational Research and Evaluation*, **18**, 2, 107-124.

Johnson, M., Hopkin, R. & Shiell, H. (2011). Extended essay marking: Does the transition from paper to screen influence examiners' cognitive workload? *International Journal of E-assessment*, **1**, 1, 1-25.

Vidal Rodeiro, C.L., Emery, J.L. & Bell, J.F. (2011). Emotional intelligence and academic attainment of British secondary school children: a cross-sectional survey. *Educational Studies*. Published online: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03055698.2011.643115>