

HIGHLIGHTS



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WERA Focal Meeting, Hong Kong, 30 Nov – 2 Dec 2017



The World Education Research Association (WERA) Focal meeting is around the corner. The Focal Meeting will take place from 30 November – 2 December 2017 at The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), Hong Kong. The WERA Council meeting will take place on the 3rd of December 2017.

The WERA 2017 Focal Meeting is an integral part of the Hong Kong Educational Research Association (HKERA) International Conference 2017 and consists of a program of paper as well as symposia sessions on topics of world-wide scope that contribute to the conference of a WERA member association.

WERA would like to thank all participants who made use of the opportunity to submit papers and symposia for the conference. WERA symposia and paper sessions intend to complement and extend those presented at the HKERA conference under the HKERA Call for Submissions. In general, the WERA Focal Meeting seeks to feature research that includes more than one country or is comparative, cross-cultural, international, or transnational in conceptualization, scope, or design.

We encourage you to participate in the WERA Focal Meeting in Hong Kong. **Regular registration has been extended to the 15th of October 2017. Included in the registration fee is WERA Individual Membership for 2018.** Please visit the following website to register: https://www.eduhk.hk/wera_hkera2017/index.php Please note that additional rates apply for late registrations. To download the tentative conference programme rundown, visit: https://www.eduhk.hk/wera_hkera2017/index.php

We look forward to seeing you at the WERA Focal Meeting in Hong Kong.

WERA Keynotes, WERA Focal Meeting, Hong Kong, 30 Nov – 2 Dec 2017

The following WERA officers and representative will be delivering keynote speeches at the WERA Focal Meeting and HKERA International Conference:

Dr Felice J. Levine (President of WERA)

Title: ‘Why Open Science in Education Research—Building a Consensus Together’



This keynote will frame issues related to open science and open knowledge in education research that are part of a worldwide conversation. The presentation will provide an overview of principles underlying the building of cumulative knowledge and transparency in scholarly inquiry.

It will highlight how the scientific, social, and political contexts over the past decade have led to a renewed consideration of these issues. It also will emphasize the significant role and value of data sharing and open access in publishing, as well as address opportunities, constraints, and concerns. The implications of building a consensus on these issues and the benefits for the global North and South will be explored.

Prof Yin Cheong Cheng (Past President of WERA) & Winnie So (WERA Representative, Hong Kong Education Research Association)

Title: ‘Education Reform Phenomenon’

This keynote speech will be a joint presentation with two parts:

Part 1: Education Reform Phenomenon: Global Trends and Local Lessons (Yin Cheong Cheng)



In response to the emerging challenges in the 21st century, there have been numerous education reforms worldwide in the last two decades. From the case of Hong Kong, this speech aims to address the key features and trends of education reform phenomenon commonly happening in different

parts of the world.

It will help international educators, policy-makers, researchers and change agents to understand the complicated dynamics and issues involved in the formulation and implementation of systemic reform, including (1) conflicts and diversities among stakeholders, (2) constraints with limited resources for reform initiatives, (3) knowledge poverty and ignorance in practice of reforms at different levels, (4) conflicts and time competitions among a wide range of parallel changes, and (5) paradigmatic gaps in planning and implementing reforms. Without addressing these issues, many education reforms with good intentions finally failed in “reform syndromes” and “bottle necks” in the last decades.

This speech will draw global implications from the local lessons for future research and policy development on education reforms.

Part 2: Education Reform Phenomenon: The Case of STEM education (Winnie Wing Mui So)



To maintain one’s competitiveness edge in a global sense, we have observed a wide spread drive in various economies on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education at different levels of education. The emphasis on STEM education originates in the US back in the

middle of last century, since then tremendous input of resources and efforts have been put into STEM education for its development and implementation. The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region highlighted Hong Kong’s commitment to STEM education in his three successive Policy Address in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Echoing this high-level commitment were the reports on STEM education published by the Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government and the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong. Given these, there is still a wide spectrum of views as to the “What” and “How” of STEM education among stakeholders. While hero cases of STEM education and learning resources have sprung up in the past few years, we yet have to see sufficient research evidence to shed lights on the ways to scale up the initiative.

This speech will attempt to reflect on the global and local lessons on STEM education.

WERA Workshop, 30th November 2017:

'Successful Academic Publishing: A global perspective'

A WERA workshop, with a focus on capacity development, is scheduled to take place on the 30th November 2017 from 10:30-13:30.

Presenters:

Dr. Patricia A. Alexander
Jean Mullan Professor of Literacy and Distinguished Scholar-Teacher
Director of the Disciplined Reading and Learning Research Laboratory
University of Maryland, USA
Senior Editor, *Contemporary Educational Psychology*

Dr. Liesel Ebersöhn
Director of the Centre for the Study of Resilience
University of Pretoria
Pretoria, South Africa
Secretary General: WERA

Dr. Sari A Lindblom-Ylänne
Vice-Rector at the University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland
Past President of WERA
Past President of European Association for Research for Learning and Instruction

Dr. Pak-Tee Ng
Associate Dean of Leadership Learning and Head of Policy and Leadership Studies Academic Group at National Institute of Education, Singapore
Executive Editor of *Educational Research for Policy and Practice*

Rationale:

Internationally, the ability of early career faculty and graduate students to demonstrate productivity through their scholarly publications remains a hallmark of academic success. Nonetheless, scholarly writing and publication are challenges for many young faculty and graduate students who are still new to the process and, thus, in need of mentoring and support in this area. Professional associations like the World Educational Research Association (WERA) can be of great help to these emerging scholars by providing them with the tools required to publish in quality academic outlets, such as journals, edited volumes, or conference proceedings.

Specifically, a session that clarifies the process of developing a research program, organizing a manuscript, collaborating with others, and publishing research findings would serve as an essential professional development experience. Thus, it is the purpose of this three-hour session to offer mentoring and support to emerging scholars who wish to learn more about academic writing and what is required to be successful in getting published.

Organization and Goals:

This three-hour course is organized in three parts. Part I will be an overview of the publishing process, covering a range of topics from establishing research and writing habits and collaborating with others to learning how to maintain momentum. Part II will be a presentation by three international scholars known for their accomplishments in academic publishing and for their mentoring of others in this area. Each of the scholars will offer guidance on a specific aspect of publishing including "How to Achieve Quality in Qualitative and Quantitative Research;" "Finding the Right Publication Outlet;" and "How to Achieve and Sustain Productivity." Finally, Part III will be an extended question and answer period where all presenters will address attendees' issues and concerns.

WERA Workshop, 1st December 2017:

'The Role of Opportunity to Learn in Cross-National Studies'

This WERA is scheduled to take place on the 1st December 2017 10:00-13:00.

Presenters:

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

Dr. Pablo Zoido
Education Lead Specialist
Inter-American Development Bank
Washington, D.C., 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

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.

WERA Invited Symposium, 1st December 2017

‘The Science of Measurement: Using testing standards to increase research validity’

This WERA Invited Symposium is scheduled to take place on the 1st December 2017 from 13:00-14:00.

Chair:

Felice J. Levine, American Educational Research Association

Symposium participants:

Joan Herman, UCLA/CRESST (Presenter)
 Motlalepule Ruth Mampane, University of Pretoria, (Discussant)
 Theo Wubbell, Utrecht University, (Discussant)
 Wing Mui Winnie So, Education University of Hong Kong, (Discussant)

Abstract:

Across the world there is interest in innovation, reform, and educational change to help more students achieve the capabilities they need to be successful in life and work in the 21st century. Yet, how do we know if these efforts are working if we do not have sound assessments for measuring their effects?

How will our research support better theory, practice and/or policy if our measures are flawed? There has been substantial attention in recent years to increasing the rigor of scientific design and sophisticated data analysis methodologies, but less to assuring the quality of research and policy measures, a potentially fatal flaw in the validity of research findings.

This symposium reviews research on the quality of research and policy measures and presents the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* as a key resource for strengthening practice. Validity and fairness standards are highlighted. Symposium discussants present their perspectives on the quality of measures within their purview and thoughts about the need and strategies for standards-based practice.

WERA World Congress, Cape Town, August 2018

‘Reenvisioning Worldwide Education Research’



We are excited to announce the first alone-standing WERA World Congress, to be held at The Westin Grand, Cape Town, South Africa, from 3-5 August 2018.

Around the world, education research across contexts of learning confronts strikingly similar issues and aims to be relevant to policy and practice. Over the last decade, scholars and students alike are increasingly drawn to connecting their work to research in other countries, cultures, and contexts. There is a growing interest in building cumulative knowledge and critiquing the strengths of findings and inferences through the lens of multiple perspectives enriched by studies in the global North and South. Despite these transformations, single-site or within-country studies continue to dominate education and learning science even when the research is situated within a broader literature or when comparisons are drawn.

The 2018 WERA World Congress invites papers, symposia, and posters from submitters enticed by the opportunity to advance knowledge and foster a reenvisioning of education research with a worldwide perspective at its core. This first-ever WERA Congress in particular seeks to attract significant international, transnational, and comparative scholarship and to encourage presentations that critically examine methodologies, measures, and modes of inquiry to support such work.

The scope of the Congress is wide in its reach to include studies under this overarching theme across the life span from early learning to workforce and adult education and that take place in formal and informal contexts of education and learning. The emphasis of the Congress is on papers, posters, and symposia with a lens that is worldwide in perspective. Otherwise there is no restriction on the education research topics appropriate for consideration, although priority will be given to submissions that focus on research and findings addressed to significant trends, issues, and challenges worldwide.

The Call for Submissions for the WERA World Congress in Cape Town will be announced soon. We hope that you will be able to participate in this exciting event.

WERA Invited Keynote and Symposia Presentations

The [WERA Keynote and Symposia Planning Committee](#) organizes keynote and symposia presentations at conferences of member associations.

The following WERA Invited Symposium recently took place at the annual European Conference on Educational Research (ECER) in Copenhagen, Denmark:

WERA Invited Symposium at ECER, Copenhagen, 22-25 August 2017

The European Conference on Educational Research (ECER) was held from 22 to 25 August in Copenhagen, Denmark. The theme of the 2017 conference was *“Reforming Education and the Imperative of Constant Change: Ambivalent roles of policy and educational research”*.

The WERA-invited symposium, which took place on August 23rd, was titled *‘World-wide perspectives on methodologies in school-based education research’*.

This Round Table provided conceptual and contextual evidence on methodologies used in school-based education research. The symposium received positive feedback from the participants and WERA is encouraged to organize more such events at future ECER meetings. The dynamic session elicited fruitful discussions, providing WERA the opportunity to share the global research it promotes. WERA would like to thank the speakers for their excellent contributions, as well as Theo Wubbels (President: European Educational Research Association) and his team for their support.

For more detailed information on the symposium, please visit <http://www.eera-ecer.de/ecer-2017-copenhagen/programme-central-events/eera-sessions/world-education-research-association-invited-symposium-world-wide-perspectives-on-methodologies-in-school-based-education-research/>



From left to right: Prof Ronél Ferreira (University of Pretoria), Dr George Head (University of Glasgow), Dr Ingrid Gogolin (Chair, Universität Hamburg), Dr Mylene Leroux (Université du Québec Outaouais) and Dr Rocío García-Carrión (University of Deusto).

WERA meeting with EERA Emerging Researchers at ECER, Copenhagen, August 2017

On Tuesday August 22, 2017 at the European Conference on Educational Research (ECER) in Copenhagen, Denmark, the members of the World Education Research Association (WERA) Executive Committee and Council convened of early career scholars and graduate students to become engaged in WERA and to have WERA serve as a “home” to facilitate their professional development, engagement, and networking in education research worldwide.

At the meeting, Prof. Mustafa Yunus Eryaman, WERA Vice President, gave a 20-min presentation about WERA and its [Doctoral and Early Career Network \(DEC\)](#). After the presentation, together with Prof. Theo Wubbels, the president of European Educational Research Association (EERA), Prof. George Head, the senior mentor of EERA Emerging Researchers Group (ERG), and Saneeya Qureshi, the ERG Link Convenor, Prof Eryaman answered the questions of the members of the ERG group.



WERA Doctoral and Early Career Scholars (DEC) and EERA Emerging Researchers Group (ERG) discussing collaboration.



Members of the WERA Executive Committee and Council with EERA Emerging Researchers Group (ERG) during their meeting at the European Conference on Educational Research (ECER) in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Connect with the World Education Research Association (WERA):

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