In this edition...

AERA/NCME

View our 2019 MESA at AERA/NCME Booklet

Community Accomplishments

Presentations, grants, publications, dissertation defenses, internships, and more

Events

Summary of MESA events from this semester

TIMSS and PIRLS Update

Read about TIMSS and PIRLS International Study Center happenings
View the 2019 MESA at AERA/NCME booklet before the conference

We look forward to seeing you at the Lynch School of Education and Human Development reception and MESA dinner!

A big thank you to our undergraduate assistant Kathlyn Rooney for compiling this
Community Accomplishments

**Jordan Lawson (Ph.D candidate)**

recently presented at two conferences, "The Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness" and "Society for Research in Child Development."

Details:

1) Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness 3/6 - 3/9/2019 Washington, DC **Using School Admissions Lotteries to Measure Effects of an Integrated Student Support Model on Students' Academic Achievement.** Jordan Lawson*, Laura O'Dwyer (MESA faculty), Anastasia E. Raczek (MESA alum), Mary Walsh, Eric Dearing, Claire Foley, & Caroline E. Vuilleumier (MESA student), Boston College

Brief Description: Presented findings from a study that took advantage of the random component embedded within a centralized assignment system to create a natural experiment for studying the impacts of the City Connects intervention on students’ academic achievement. The centralized assignment system leveraged for this study assigns students to schools within the Boston Public School district and uses a randomly generated lottery number to break ties in determining placement. From this, researchers created a stratified randomized control trial to examine the impact of CCNX.

2) Society for Research in Child Development 3/21 - 3/23/2019 Baltimore, MD **Addressing Endogeneity Selection Bias in a Non-Experimental Study of Academic Achievement.** Jordan Lawson, Boston College; Laura O'Dwyer (MESA faculty), Boston College; Mary Walsh, Boston College

Brief Description: Presenting on novel and underused approaches for causal inference; specifically, the researcher examines the performance and utility of two new methods for addressing endogeneity selection bias: 1.) Deferred Acceptance simulation-based propensity scores within an instrumental variable framework; and 2.) Least Squares Gaussian copula regression. Methods are highlighted via simulation and case study.

---

**Sarah Enterline (Ph.D, 2007)**

"I recently became the Director of Institutional Research at St. Mark's School - a boarding/day, secondary school and member of the elite Independent School League—Go Lions!"

Dr. Enterline's initial projects have focused on building a collaborative faculty culture, assessing social-emotional supports and student wellness, admissions and alumni market research, and building a regional and national institutional research group among other secondary schools.

---

**Katrina Borowiec (Ph.D student)**

"Earlier this year I was selected to participate in the "The NCES Data Institute: Using Federal Datasets to Support Research on Postsecondary Education." The institute includes a 6-week online course, 15-week group capstone project, and a 3-day face-to-face meeting in Washington, D.C.

At this point, I have finished the six-week online course where I had the opportunity to learn about the many sources of publicly available data on college students collected by NCES including the Beginning Postsecondary Student Survey, the High School Longitudinal Study, the Baccalaureate and Beyond Study, and the National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey. I have also started to work with a team of five other Institute participants and two mentors on a project related to college student retention."

More information on the Data Institute can be found here.
Gulsah Gurkan (Ph.D Candidate)

"I am pleased to announce that I will be working as a Psychometrician Intern at Kaplan Test Prep in New York, NY this summer. As part of this internship, I will work with Dr. Michael Chajewski on research focusing on diagnostic test assembly from an adaptive QBank item pool. This is an 8-week summer internship program and I believe I found out about it on Indeed.com. I’m very excited and looking forward to this opportunity!"

Matias Placencio Castro (Ph.D Student)

"Currently, I'm working as a Statistical Consultant for UNESCO, Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE). I'm analyzing data from the Fourth Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study ERCE 2019 (Pilot Test) in order to write result reports and to make technical and methodological recommendations for the final test. I'm analyzing the data from seven countries who decided to apply national ERCE modules that cover different aspects and dimensions that affect educational quality in Latin America (e.g. exposure to military conflicts in Colombia, Intercultural education in Bolivia, etc.)"

Todd Reeves (Ph.D, 2013)

As Assistant Professor of Educational Research and Evaluation at Northern Illinois University, Dr. Reeves is serving as evaluator for two federally-funded grant projects: 


Scholarships and Enhanced Mentoring to Support Graduation of Students in Science and Mathematics, Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM), National Science Foundation, [https://www.niu.edu/geology/funding/belong-project.shtml](https://www.niu.edu/geology/funding/belong-project.shtml) (w/ Principal Investigator Ralph Wheeler and Co-Principal Investigators Nicole LaDue and Tim Hagen)

Dr. Larry Ludlow (Professor) & Minsong Kim (Ph.D, 2016)

recently published in the Journal of Professional Capital and Community, along with Lynch Professor Martin Scanlan. "Affordances and constraints of communities of practice to promote bilingual schooling"

Link to this document: [https://doi.org/10.1108/JPCC-01-2018-0003](https://doi.org/10.1108/JPCC-01-2018-0003)

Dr. Emily Gates (Professor)

In collaboration with new higher education faculty, Drs. Andrés Castro Samayoa (PI) and Raquel Muñiz (Co-PI), Dr. Gates (Co-PI) was awarded a grant from AIR Research/Access Lex to conduct normative case studies, including administrator and student interviews, at eight differently-ranked law schools in the United States to examine the perceived value of legal education for Latinx students.

Dr. Gates and Dr. Raquel Muñiz (Co-PIs) were awarded a research incentive grant from Boston College to develop two cases studies of a higher education program and health organization to examine how stakeholders envision "equitable system change" and the role evaluation plays in their work. Dr. Gates and MESA MEEd student, Francisca Fils-Aime, will lead the case study of ReThink Health a nationally renowned organization for its use of systems thinking and modeling to inform place-based health and wellbeing efforts.
Caroline Vuilleumier (Ph.D Candidate) successfully passed her dissertation defense on March 18th: Should I Stay or Should I Go? Exploring the Predictors of Beginning Teacher Turnover in Secondary Public School

Her abstract can be viewed here.

Avery Newton (Ph.D Candidate) successfully passed her dissertation defense on March 21st: Exploring the School- and Student-Level Predictors of Decent Work Attainment in the United States

Her abstract can be viewed here.

Dr. Larry Ludlow & Dr. Henry Braun (Professors) were chosen as Research Across Departments and Schools (RADS) recipients for their proposal, "LAMP Measurement Project."

Their research focuses on measuring LAMP, which stands for "leading a life of meaning and purpose." They plan to develop a novel instrument intended for large-scale administration with the goal of helping institutions generate evidence regarding their students’ trajectories toward purposeful lives.
Events

Professional Evaluator Lectures

This semester, Dr. Emily Gates's Program Evaluation class has been busy learning from evaluation experts within a variety of industries! MESA students and faculty have also been invited to attend these guest lectures.

View more information on the evaluators here.

MESA students discussing evaluation use in Program Evaluation II

STATA Workshop

On Friday, March 22nd MESA PhD student Matias Placencio Castro taught a 3 hour workshop on STATA for MESA students, faculty, and alumni.

Larry Kaplan (MESA student) writes, "Matias ran an excellent workshop on Stata. He prepared extensive materials for us, including syntax that spanned a wide range of statistical objectives that could be used not only in classes but it internships or full time work. He brought to the workshop his substantial work experience, making everything that was covered relevant and practical. Personally, I entered the workshop with zero experience with Stata and left feeling surprisingly comfortable with the thought of using Stata for whatever statistical work I wanted."
**Boisi Lecture**

On March 19, Dr. James Pellegrino delivered the 22nd Annual Boisi Lecture in Education and Public Policy. Dr. Pellegrino discussed how science education has been reconceptualized over the past several years, as well as implications for science assessment. Specifically, emphasis has shifted from broad coverage of many topics to deeper understanding of big-picture ideas that inform our understanding of science across different specific disciplines.

Dr. Pellegrino shared three examples from his own experience of how this shift has impacted assessment: 1) redesign of the Advanced Placement science exams, 2) development of the Next Generation Science Standards, and 3) work regarding assessment in medical school. His examples highlighted the challenges of assessing science knowledge and skills in a meaningful way. He also discussed a few general challenges that span across assessment in different disciplines, such as different timelines for policymakers and assessment researchers.

After the talk, the MESA and broader Lynch School community had the opportunity to ask questions. Questions highlighted the importance of creativity in science, as well as the challenges of providing meaningful scores for new science assessments. Thank you Dr. Henry Braun (Boisi Chair) for bringing in a distinguished professor with such unique expertise!

-submitted by Katherine Reynolds (MESA student)

---

**Proseminar**

Dr. Henry Braun has been conducting a MESA Proseminar over the course of the semester focused upon influential written works about assessment topics. Two sessions have occurred so far, with discussions centered on E.R. Lindquist’s (1951) chapter in the first edition of *Educational Measurement* and R.L. Linn’s (1989) chapter in the second edition of *Educational Measurement*. Participants in the proseminars have gained an appreciation for how far we have come, yet how far we still have to go with respect to solving assessment problems and challenges.

---

*MESA students and faculty at our second semester on-campus social gathering*

---

**Alumni Reminder**

MESA alumni can keep in touch with us by joining our [Linkedin Group](#) and subscribing to [MESA Opportunities](#), where you'll find job postings, MESA related events, webinars, resources, and more.
The TIMSS 2019 6th National Research Coordinators Meeting in Limassol, Cyprus, was held in March. Drs. Michael O. Martin, Kerry Cotter, and Ina V.S. Mullis conducted constructed-response scoring training.

The TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center held its TIMSS 2019 6th National Research Coordinators Meeting in March in Limassol, Cyprus. More than 200 representatives from 60-plus countries received training in scoring constructed-response mathematics and science items. The Deputy Director General of Cyprus’ Ministry of Education and Culture, Athina Michailidou, welcomed and addressed the attendees.

Top row: Serbia’s TIMSS coordinators prepared booklets, which will reach their students at the end of March; students in Ireland participated in the assessment. Bottom row: students in Qatar took the inaugural digital version of the assessment, eTIMSS.
Data collection for TIMSS 2019 is ongoing in Northern Hemisphere countries, which are administering the assessment in March to June. Countries have been sharing photos of data collection activities on social media, above.

Written by Shirley Goh, Assistant Director, Communications and Media Relations at TIMSS and PIRLS

For more TIMSS and PIRLS news, follow them on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Youtube!

Measurement, Evaluation, Statistics, and Assessment (MESA) Department

www.bc.edu/mesa Boston College

Newsletter created and compiled by Jillian Gomolka & Kathlyn Rooney