

The aims of SAIER are to:

- (1) provide a forum for promotion of research and development activities at all levels of education in South Australia
- (2) provide support and advice to individuals and groups conducting educational research and development
- (3) maintain an information network for national research and development work in education
- (4) provide links between research findings and general practice, in order to assist teachers to benefit from the results of research, and
- (5) provide liaison and interact cooperatively with the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)

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The South Australian Institute for Educational Research (SAIER) proudly presents:

## The Annual John P. Keeves Lecture

**Large-scale assessments in education and their impact on policy: Are they worth it?**

Presented by

**Dr Petra Lietz**

**&**

**Ms Mollie Tobin**

Australian Council *for* Educational Research

**Tuesday 5 April, 2016**

**7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

**ACER Adelaide Office**

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or phone (08) 8206 8600

All SAIER seminars are free of charge.

**Petra Lietz** is a Principal Research Fellow at ACER, Head of the Adelaide office and Editor-in-Chief of the Australian Journal of Education. Petra has worked on national and international projects for ACER, including PISA 2012, and has also worked for the OECD and IEA. She has lectured in Australian and German universities and published articles on questionnaire design, sampling and multilevel modelling using large-scale assessment data.

**Mollie Tobin** is a Research Fellow in ACER's Australian Surveys research program. Mollie has extensive experience coordinating and contributing to research projects in international and national surveys and program and policy evaluation. She has expertise in survey development, analysis and reporting, case study fieldwork (focus group and individual interviews, observations), and the use of online platforms for data collection in large-scale surveys, such as for PISA 2012. Mollie also has experience in research focusing on the intersection of large scale assessments and policymaking. Her area of interest is in international comparative research in education.

### **Large-scale assessments in education and their impact on policy: Are they worth it?**

The 60 years that followed a study of mathematics in twelve countries conducted by the Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) in 1964 have seen a proliferation of large-scale assessments in education. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was implemented in 75 countries in 2015 with around 510,000 participating students and their schools. Similarly, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), conducted by the IEA, collected information from schools and students in 59 countries in 2015.

This seminar presents results of two systematic reviews of the impact of large-scale assessments on education policy in economically developing countries and the Asia-Pacific and asks whether the effort and money associated with these assessments are actually worth it.

SAIER holds an annual lecture in honour of **Professor John P. Keeves** - an outstanding scholar with a lifelong interest in educational measurement, analyses and the exchange of methods and content across different disciplines.

The breadth of John's interests is reflected in *The process of research in education* – a book published on the occasion of John's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2009. Articles range from the challenges associated with cross-cultural research to topics such as mental health, occupational burn-out, languages and literacy, single-sex schooling, the generation and analyses of research models, factors influencing mathematics and science performance, approaches to learning and research reflection. However, the issue that is probably still closest to John's heart is the continuous quest to improve all aspects of educational measurement and analysis as reflected by his editorship of the methodology section of the *International Encyclopaedia of Education* and the stand-alone *International Handbook of Educational Measurement*.

As a physics graduate, John taught science and mathematics for 15 years before joining the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in 1962. First as a senior researcher and later (1977-1984) as Director, John spent much time and effort on facilitating Australia's participation in large-scale international comparative studies.

In 2005, John became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of his services to educational research. Similarly, John's life membership of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) and SAIER as well as the Fellowship of the Australian College of Educators acknowledge his outstanding scholarly contributions.

This lecture series is designed to celebrate the contribution of Professor Keeves to educational research and teaching.