
The Economics of Teacher Quality

A one-day conference to be held on Monday 5 February 2007

Venue: Australian National University



8.30-8.50am Coffee & registration

8.50-9.00am Andrew Leigh, Australian National University

Chair's Welcome

9.00-10.00am Eric Hanushek, Stanford University

The Market for Teacher Quality (with Steven Rivkin)

10.00-10.30am Morning tea

10.30-11.30am Ken Rowe, Australian Council for Educational Research

Conceptualising and Evaluating Teacher Quality: Substantive and Methodological Issues (with Lawrence Ingvarson)

11.30-12.30pm Chris Ryan, Australian National University

How and Why has Teacher Quality Changed in Australia? (with Andrew Leigh)

12.30-1.30pm Lunch

1.30-2.30pm Gigi Foster, University of South Australia

Teacher Influence on Student Performance and Selection in Broad-Spectrum Tertiary Education

2.30-3.30pm Hamilton Lankford, University at Albany

Teacher Attrition, Teacher Effectiveness and Student Achievement (with Don Boyd, Pam Grossman, Susanna Loeb and Jim Wyckoff)

3.30-4.00pm Afternoon tea

4.00-5.00pm Jonah Rockoff, Columbia University

Predicting Effective Teaching: Evidence from New York City

5.00pm- Drinks

Conference sessions will cover the latest research in teacher quality, including measurement of teacher quality, trends in teacher quality, teacher turnover and retention, and merit pay. Each session will include time for general discussion. This event is particularly well-suited to policymakers and experts working on teacher quality in Australia. The conference is presented by the Economics Program, and by the Productive Australia, Comparative Public Policy and Government, and Public and Private Reasoning Themes of the Research School of Social Sciences. Funding assistance from the ANU College of Business and Economics, the Australian and New Zealand Graduate School of Government, and the Australian Research Council is gratefully acknowledged. The conference will be held on the ANU campus (details will be emailed to registered participants).



About the Speakers

Dr Gigi Foster is a senior lecturer at the University of South Australia's School of Commerce, having received her BA from Yale University and her PhD in Economics from the University of Maryland. Her primary research interests centre on the effects of human sorting patterns and social context on outcomes, particularly in tertiary education. She is also interested in the association of students' individual learning styles with their academic performance, and in the consequences of modern teaching institutions for the distribution of educational outcomes. Dr Foster's research has been supported by the University of South Australia, the University of Maryland, and the Spencer Foundation, and has been published in several leading international journals.

Professor Eric Hanushek is the Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. His on-going research spans a number of the most important areas of education policy including the impacts of high stakes accountability and of class size reduction and the importance of teacher quality. His books include *Courting Failure*, *Handbook on the Economics of Education*, *The Economics of Schooling and School Quality*, *Making Schools Work*, *Improving America's Schools*, *Educational Performance of the Poor*, and *Education and Race*. In addition, he has published numerous articles in professional journals.

Hamp Lankford is Professor of Economics, Public Administration and Policy at the University at Albany, State University of New York. Currently, he is working with colleagues to examine attributes of teacher preparation and induction programs that are effective in increasing the retention of teachers and the performance of students. He has written on a variety of educational policy issues, including school choice, the allocation of school expenditures, special education funding, teacher retention and factors affecting the sorting of teachers across schools.

Jonah Rockoff is Assistant Professor of Economics and Finance at the Columbia Graduate School of Business. He has been at Columbia since 2004, following completion of his Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard University. He is also a Faculty Research Fellow in the Education and Public Economics programs at the National Bureau of Economic Research. His primary interests centre on local public finance and the economics of education. He has done research on the determinants of property taxation and expenditure in local public school districts, the impact of teachers and teacher certification on student achievement, and measuring the educational quality of charter schools. He received his B.A. in Economics from Amherst College.

Dr Ken Rowe is the Research Director of the Learning Processes and Contexts research program at the Australian Council for Educational Research. His substantive and methodological research interests include: 'authentic' educational and psychological assessment; multilevel, 'value-added' performance indicators and benchmarking; teacher and school effectiveness; and differential gender effects of schooling in the context of teaching and learning – especially in literacy and numeracy. From 1981 to the present, he has authored/co-authored 37 books/chapters in books, 55 monographs, 75 papers in peer-reviewed journals, 86 contract research/evaluation reports, 3 computer software application packages, and presented more than 250 conference papers and invited keynote addresses.

Dr Chris Ryan is the head of the Social Policy Evaluation, Analysis and Research Centre in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. Prior to joining the ANU in 2002, he was employed in Commonwealth government agencies, primarily in the employment, education and training and primary industries portfolios for thirteen and a half years. In 2002, he was awarded an Australian Post-Doctoral Fellowship by the Australian Research Council to undertake research between 2003 and 2005 on the role of literacy and numeracy in explaining the education, training and labour market outcomes of young Australians. Chris Ryan has extensive experience in designing, undertaking and managing research projects, developing policy and providing advice to Government Ministers and senior government and university leaders.