

2017 Series 4 (Number 4)

Managing What We Measure: New Ideas for Changing Results

Date & Time: Wednesday 22 February 2017, 13:00 – 14:00 (Light lunch begins at 12:30)

Venue: E33-G021, Tin Ka Ping Lecture Hall, Faculty of Education

Language: English

Audience: UM Staff / Postgraduate Students

Online Registration: <https://goo.gl/4ixPv0>

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** A Complementary light lunch will be provided.*



Abstract

This presentation introduces measurement methods integrating qualitative and quantitative concerns. Three issues are of particular interest. First is the enhanced meaningfulness obtained when numbers stand for a substantive unit amount that remains invariant (within the range of uncertainty) across the entire range of measurement. Statistical models are less relevant and useful for this purpose than scientific models are; that distinction is described at length. Second, where treating counts or percentages of correct answers as measures blindly assumes a nonexistent homogeneity, calibrating instruments as standards of comparison makes individual and group variations visible in an actionable way, allowing for customized attention for students, classrooms, schools, etc. Third, when measures in a common unit are distributed throughout the social ecology of an education system, new potentials for streamlined communication and team-based innovation become possible. Taken together, these three issues create opportunities for new goals and new outcomes not available from within existing assumptions about what measurement is and how it works.



Speaker

William P. Fisher, Jr., Ph.D. received his doctorate from the University of Chicago, supported by a Spencer Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship. He is currently Research Associate in the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley, and a freelance consultant. His current work includes guiding the psychometrics for the California Community Colleges Common Assessment Initiative. He co-hosted a conference on measurement across the sciences held at UC Berkeley 3-5 August 2016.

