



OXFORD UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Public Understanding of Assessment – Seminar Series 2011/12ⁱ

Seminar 2 - Wednesday 18th January 2012

Perceptions of the Dependability of Assessment

Speakers: Baroness Onora O'Neill and Dr Suzanne Chamberlain

Discussant and Chair: Professor Peter Tymms

Following the success of Seminar 1, *Public and Media Perceptions of Assessment*, Seminar 2 probes the notion of dependability of assessment outcomes. Baroness Onora O'Neill (professor of Philosophy, Cambridge and crossbench member, House of Lords) will argue that focusing on perceptions of dependability may not be the best way to approach the complex issues involved, whilst Dr Suzanne Chamberlain (Cambridge Assessment) will use the results of a series of studies to consider whether attempts to communicate about the reliability of tests to the public is 'an impossible and thankless task'. Following the presentations, the audience will be invited to engage with the issues raised and the discussant, Professor Peter Tymms (University of Durham), will present a summary of the key issues and draw the event to a close.

The seminars will take place at 5.00 pm in Seminar Room A, University of Oxford Department of Education, 15 Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6PY. The tea at 4.30 pm and the drinks reception at 6.30 pm will take place in the Common Room. Limited parking is available behind the Bruner Building at no. 30 Norham Gardens.

To register your interest, please contact Joanne Hazell at joanne.hazell@education.ox.ac.uk.



Baroness Onora O'Neill writes on ethics and political philosophy. She was Principal of Newnham College Cambridge from 1992-2006, is a former President of the British Academy and sits in the House of Lords as a crossbencher.



Dr Suzanne Chamberlain is a Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Education Research and Policy at AQA (Assessment & Qualifications Alliance), which is the largest provider of GCSE and A-level qualifications in the UK. Suzanne's recent research projects have focused on assessment stakeholders' perceptions of the reliability of public examinations outcomes, and candidates' experiences of test anxiety.



Professor Peter Tymms is Head of Department in the School of Education, Durham University. His main research interests include monitoring, assessment, interventions and research methodology generally. He set up the PIPS (Performance Indicators in Primary Schools Project) which runs in thousands of schools around the world. Peter Tymms is an adviser to the German National Educational Panel Study, is on the Expert Board of the European Science Foundation and a member of the Academy of Social Science.

ⁱ Details of the series may be found at <http://oucea.education.ox.ac.uk/events/>. Further seminars are scheduled for: Wednesday 7th March 2012 and Wednesday 25th April 2012.