



OXFORD UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Public Understanding of Assessment – Seminar Series 2011/12

Seminar 1 - Wednesday 16th November 2011

Public and Media Perceptions of Assessment

Speakers: Anastasia de Waal, Professor Roger Murphy and Warwick Mansell

Chair: Isabel Sutcliffe

In the first of the series¹, this seminar seeks to explore the various perceptions of assessment in the public domain with each speaker briefly setting out key issues and observations of the theme from the perspective that they represent. Anastasia de Waal (Director of Family and Education at the think tank, Civitas) will examine the public and specifically parents' perspective of assessment in schools, while Roger Murphy (Professor of Education at the University of Nottingham) and Warwick Mansell (independent education journalist) will each address the theme from the perspective of the media and their portrayal of assessment-related issues in the public domain. The audience will then be invited to engage with the issues raised and to discuss how public understanding of assessment in schools may need to be improved.

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.



Anastasia de Waal is Deputy Director and Director of Family and Education at think tank Civitas. A qualified primary school teacher, Anastasia is a regular contributor to broadcast and print media and Chair of the parenting charity Family Lives.



Warwick Mansell is an education journalist. During nine years as a reporter with the Times Educational Supplement, he covered most aspects of schools policy, specialising for the final six years in curriculum, assessment and accountability. Since January 2009, he has been freelance, writing on issues including the effects of results pressures on schools. He has been shortlisted for several reporting awards. His book, *Education by Numbers: the Tyranny of Testing*, was published in 2007.



Roger Murphy is a Professor of Education at the University of Nottingham. He has had a long standing interest in research into educational assessment and examinations. His many research studies in this area have included work on the reliability of different types of assessment, the public understanding of the limitations of assessments, as well as the media coverage of public examination results in the UK.



Isabel Sutcliffe is Edexcel's Regulation, Standards and Research Director and carries the role of Accountable Officer. Before joining Edexcel in 2006, she followed a long career with NCFE, a vocational awarding body based in Newcastle, culminating in serving as its Chief Executive from 2001 to 2006. Prior to joining NCFE, she worked for one of the many predecessor bodies now comprising AQA. Isabel is Chair of the Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB) Executive Committee.

¹ Details of the series may be found at <http://oucea.education.ox.ac.uk/events/>. Further seminars are scheduled for: Wednesday 18th January 2012, Wednesday 7th March 2012, Wednesday 25th April 2012.