

Public Lecture:

The importance of learning to read young

by Professor David Andrich

Thursday 19th May 2016, 4.30 pm

Seminar Room A, Oxford University Department of Education

Quantitative evidence of the importance of learning to read young

In his research David Andrich demonstrates the importance of acquiring reading proficiency early in life as one of the most important skills in a pervasively literate culture. He applies formal measurement, of the kind found in the natural sciences, to measure reading proficiency by extrapolating and interpolating the means of the reading proficiency of Australian students in grades 3, 5, 7 and 9. He demonstrates that socio-economic disadvantages lead to gaps in mean literacy that cannot be bridged in schooling later on and that the gap in mean literacy proficiency between students even increases when comparing older students.

David Andrich is Chapple Professor, Graduate School of Education, The University of Western Australia and a Visiting Professor at the Oxford University Centre for Educational Assessment (OUCEA).

David Andrich is one of the foremost researchers internationally in psychometrics and specifically on Rasch modelling. He applies this technique across disciplines and is interested in the broader effects of measurement, as well as the technical issues.

David's lecture is typical of his work in that it will be well grounded in technical matters, while speaking to the history, philosophy and modern day applications of measurement.

He has previously held visiting research positions at the University of Trento, Italy and at the Danish Institute for Educational Research. His PhD was from the University of Chicago. David was previously Dean of Education at Murdoch University and he has contributed to many national programmes on educational measurement in Australia.

