

PROPOSED SESSION ON SCHOOL LEAGUE TABLES

In the UK, School League Tables are used extensively by policymakers and parents as one of the key measures of school effectiveness. However it has been widely recognised that there are problems with some of these measures. Indeed last year the UK government introduced a new measure of school effectiveness (Contextualised Value Added (CVA)), which adjusts school's expected performance to take account not only of pupil prior attainment but also some other pupil and school characteristics associated with performance differences (outside a school's control) (see Ray, 2006). We will be hosting a mini conference, with a joint ADMIN, LEMMA, CEMMAP session at the Methods Festival on the limitations and problems of school league tables, and measuring value added by schools with speakers from the three ESRC investments.

The proposed programme would be on Monday 5th July and Tuesday 6th July in Oxford. The first day, which includes talks from a range of leading international experts, would cover a range of methodological issues around the measurement of value added, school performance and use of school league tables. The session on Tuesday am would be of general interest to a wider audience, including those from different disciplines and methodological backgrounds and focus on possible ways forward in measuring school effectiveness after outlining the problems with current approaches.

Monday 5th July

Session 1: (Chair: Lorraine Dearden)

09.15 Introduction by Lorraine Dearden

09:20 Lorraine Dearden and Alfonso Miranda “Methodological issues with school league tables and contextualized value added: an overview of the UK system”

9:50 Herb Marsh, University of Oxford

10.35 Discussion

10.45 refreshment break

Session 2: (Chair: Andrew Chesher)

11: 15 Flavio Cunha, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Economics.

12.00 Harvey Goldstein and George Leckie, ‘The limitations of using school league tables to inform school choice in UK: the social statisticians

12.30 Discussion

12.45 Lunch

Session 3 (Chair: Harvey Goldstein)

13:45 Lorraine Dearden, Marcello Sartarelli, and Anna Vignoles, “Value added and choice among secondary schools in England. Evidence from population means”

14:30 James Brown, Institute of Education and Nikos Tzavidis, University of Manchester.

15:15 Discussion

15:30 Break

Session 4 (Chair: Sami Berlinski)

16:00 Jeff Smith, Department of Economics, University of Michigan “Methodological Issues on measuring Value Added: An international Perspective” **TO BE CONFIRMED**

17:00 Discussion

17:30 End

Conference Dinner – venue to be confirmed

Tuesday 6th July - Methods Festival Session

Session 1(Chair: Anna Vignoles)

09.15 Introduction: Anna Vignoles

09:20 Lorraine Dearden – “Overview/Summary of Monday Methodological Issues – set the scene for following discussion”

09:55 John Fletcher, Benjamin Nagengast – non technical summary of key methodological challenges?

10.35 Discussion

10.45 refreshment break

Session 2 (Chair: Andrew Chesher)

11:15 Introduction: Andrew Chesher

11.15 Jeff Smith – “The way forward with measuring school performance”

11.40 Flavio Cunha – “The way forward with measuring value added in schools”

12.05 Plenary discussion

12.45 End