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Lecture: The development of statistical and mathematical literacy

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Lecture Department Curriculum Studies

Topic: The road to statistical and mathematical literacy: Instructional and assessment challenges in developing human capital.

Speaker: Dr Iddo Gal, Chair: Department of Human Services and President-Elect, International Association for Statistical Education (IASE), Department of Human Services, University of Haifa, Israel

Date: Monday, 23 April 2012, 17:00; Refreshments after the presentation. RSVP before 19 April.

Venue: Faculty of Education, GC Cillie Building, Ryneveldt Street, Staff Room, 5th Floor.

Abstract: Statistical literacy is an important competency that is associated with mathematical literacy (or numeracy) and is essential for the empowerment of citizens, managers, and consumers. Yet, the development of statistical literacy presents unique challenges stemming from many factors, such as the literacy aspects of quantitative tasks, the demands for critical interpretation of quantitative or probabilistic arguments, differences between statistics and mathematics, teachers' background, and others. In this talk, I will examine conceptual models and pragmatic issues that educators and schools aiming to develop learners' statistical literacy should consider, using illustrative real-world tasks and findings from large-scale studies. I will also emphasize the need to develop informal understanding of statistical inference and related vocabulary.

Implications for instructional policy and for classroom assessment will be discussed.

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