

What We Need Skills for: The PIAAC Research Conference 2015
Key Bridge Marriott • Capital View Ballroom
Arlington, VA
December 10-11, 2015

Thursday, December 10 from 8:00 - 5:30

- 8:00 - 8:30 **Registration, Breakfast, and Networking**
- 8:30 - 8:45 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
David Myers, President and CEO, American Institutes for Research
- 8:45 - 9:00 **Opening Keynote**
Peggy Carr, Acting Commissioner, National Center for Education
Statistics, U.S. Department of Education
- 9:00 - 10:45 **Work, Education, and Skills: PIAAC-Based Research from the Center for
the Study of Higher Education, Pennsylvania State University**
- Moderator: Amanda Ahlstrand, Administrator, Office of Workforce
Investment, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of
Labor*
- Papers:***
- The Educational and Cognitive Transformation of Social Opportunity and
Inequality: Credentials, Cognition, and C-status***
David Baker, Professor of Education and Sociology
Karly Ford, Assistant Professor in Education Policy Studies
Liang Sun, Graduate Research Assistant, Higher Education Program
Yuan Chih Fu, Graduate Research Assistant, Higher Education Program
Frank Fernandez, Graduate Research Assistant, Higher Education Program
Mark Umbricht, Graduate Research Assistant, Higher Education Program
- Education and Work in the 21st Century: Credential Inflation or
Transformation?***
Frank Fernandez, Graduate Research Assistant, Higher Education Program
Mark Umbricht, Graduate Research Assistant, Higher Education Program
- Social Background and Numeracy Skill Levels Among College Graduates:
Social Mobility or Social Reproduction?***
Karly Ford, Assistant Professor in Education Policy Studies
Mark Umbricht, Graduate Research Assistant, Higher Education Program
- Discussant: Maureen Conway, Vice President and Executive Director of
the Economic Opportunities Program, Aspen Institute***
- 10:45 - 11:15 Small Group Discussion
- 11:15 - 11:25 Break

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11:25- 12:15

The Skills of Immigrants

Moderator: Brenda Dann-Messier, CNA Principal Research Scientist, Institute for Public Research, and former Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education

Paper:

Literacy and Numeracy Skills of Second-Generation Young Adults: A Comparative Study of Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States

Jeanne Batalova, Senior Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Institute

Michael Fix, President, Migration Policy Institute

Discussant: Terrence G. Wiley, President and CEO, Center for Applied Linguistics

12:15 - 12:40

Small Group Discussion

12:45 - 2:00

Lunch and Keynote

Johan Uvin, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education

2:00 - 3:15

Skill Gain and Loss

Moderator: Dana Kelly, Branch Chief, International Assessment Branch, Assessments Division, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education

Papers:

Reconstructing the Evolution of the American Supply of Cognitive Skills: A Synthetic Cohort Analysis

T. Scott Murray, President, DataAngel Policy Research Inc.

Marilyn Binkley, Consultant, DataAngel Policy Research Inc.

Richard Shillington, Principal, Tristat Resources

Earnings and Employment Benefits of Adult Higher Education in Comparative Perspective: Evidence Based on PIAAC

Richard Desjardins, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

Jeongwoo Lee, Researcher, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

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Discussant: Louis Soares, Vice President, Center for Policy Research and Strategy, American Council on Education

3:15 - 3:45 Small Group Discussion

3:45 - 4:00 Break

4:00 - 4:50 A Closer Look at Numeracy

Moderator: Catherine Brown, Vice President, Education Policy, Center for American Progress

Paper:

Examining Gender Differences in the Mathematical Literacy of 15-Year-Olds and the Numeracy Skills of the Age Cohorts as Adults

Aika Arora, Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Emily Pawlowski, Research Associate, American Institutes for Research

Discussant: Claus von Zastrow, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Research, Change the Equation

4:50 - 5:10 Small Group Discussion

5:10 - 5:30 Closing and Preview of Friday Agenda

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Friday, December 11 from 8:00 - 3:00

8:00 - 8:30 **Breakfast and Networking**

8:30 - 9:00 **Reflections on Day 1**

Mary Alice McCarthy, Senior Policy Analyst, Education Policy Program,
New America

Laura Salganik, Consultant and former Director of Quality, American
Institutes for Research

9:00 - 9:30 **Health, Literacy and Fertility**

Moderator: Iris Feinberg, PhD, Assistant Director, Adult Literacy
Research Center at Georgia State University

Paper:

Literacy and Fertility Across OECD Nations

Jane Seymour, MPH, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Epidemiology, School
of Public Health, Boston University

Rosemary Frasso, PhD MSc CPH, Director of Education, Masters of Public
Health Program, University of Pennsylvania

Ian M. Bennett, MD PhD, Professor, Department of Family Medicine, University
of Washington

9:30-9:45 Q & A and Large Group Discussion

9:45 - 10:40 **A Closer Look at Adult Reading Skills**

Moderator: Liza McFadden, President and CEO, Barbara Bush Foundation

Paper:

*Understanding the Basic Reading Skills of U.S. Adults: Reading
Components in the PIAAC Literacy Survey*

John Sabatini, Managing Principal Research Scientist, Educational Testing
Service

Discussant: Amy Trawick, PhD, Director, Center for Adult Learning
Leadership and Advancement (CALLA)

10:40 - 10:50 Break

10:50 - 11:45 **A Closer Look at Digital Problem-Solving**

Moderator: Gabe Martinez Cabrera, Project Manager, Adult Education
Initiatives, Digital Promise

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Paper:

Exploring Response Patterns in Problem-solving Items Using Process Data: Insights from Log Files of Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments (PS-TRE) in PIAAC

Qiwei (Britt) He, Associate Research Scientist, Center for Global Assessment, Educational Testing Service

Matthias von Davier, Senior Research Director, Center for Global Assessment, Educational Testing Service

Discussant: Yigal Rosen, Senior Research Scientist, Vice Provost for Advances in Learning (VPAL) Research Team, Harvard University

11:45 – 12:20 Small Group Discussion of Numeracy, Reading Components and Digital Problem Solving

12:20 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:10 Using PIAAC to Improve Adult Learning

Moderator: Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, Branch Chief, Applied Innovation and Improvement, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education

Papers:

Using the PIAAC Framework for Literacy to Guide Instruction: A Guide for Teachers, Lead Instructors, and Professional Development

Amy Trawick, PhD, Director, Center for Adult Learning Leadership and Advancement (CALLA)

Using the PIAAC Framework for Numeracy to Guide Instruction: A Guide for Teachers, Lead Instructors, and Professional Development

Donna Curry, Senior Professional Development Specialist, SABES (System for Adult Basic Education Support), Center for Math and Adult Numeracy, Technical Education Research Centers (TERC)

Review Panel: Alisa Belzer, Associate Professor, Rutgers University; Cynthia Bell, Numeracy Specialist, Literacy Assistance Center; David Rosen, EdD, President, Newsome Associates

2:10 – 2:20 Break

2:20 – 2:45 Future Directions for PIAAC

Daniel McGrath, Branch Chief, Reporting and Dissemination Branch, Assessments Division, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education

2:45 – 3:00 Evaluation and Closing