

Keynote:

Enhancing the utility of international large-scale assessments

Speaker

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Abstract

From modest beginnings in the late 1950s, international large-scale assessments (ILSAs) have experienced consistent growth both in scope and salience. Increasing interest in ILSA results reflects not only the recognition of the importance of cognitive skills and skill development for both economic growth and societal well-being, but also the value in benchmarking performance against peers and economic competitors. Over this period of some 60 years, ILSAs have also made substantial advances in new methodologies and various aspects of measurement science, as well as pioneering the full incorporation of digital technologies into survey design, development and implementation. Along the way these assessments have contributed to both data quality and validity and hence their increased utility for policy makers, researchers and other key stakeholders. The focus of this presentation will be on describing key aspects of these innovations as they relate to the growing interest in the international assessment of adults over the last 30 years.