

A Faculty of Humanities / Department of English
Public Seminar on
Language Testing and Assessment

How Are We to Evaluate Language Assessments?

Professor Antony John Kunnan
California State University, Los Angeles, USA

Date: 27 August 2010, Friday

Time: 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Venue: AG434, 4/F Core A, Department of English, PolyU campus

Abstract

Evaluations of assessments and assessment practice – narrowly called assessment reviews – are typically conducted with minimal analyses. In the mid-20th century, reviews were focused on two qualities – reliability and validity, and this narrow focus continues in many parts of the world. Expanding Bachman and Palmer's (1996) six qualities in their *Test Usefulness* framework, I propose an **Assessment Evaluation Framework** which includes (1) analyzing the wider contexts of political, economic, educational, socio-cultural, and the legal in which assessments are deployed, and (2) analyzing assessment qualities such as the validity, absence of bias, access, administration, and social consequences of tests. The two sets of analyses, when used together, offer a comprehensive model for evaluation of tests and testing practice. Illustrative studies that use the various components of the framework will be discussed.

About the speaker

Antony John Kunnan is Professor of Education at California State University, Los Angeles, and Honorary Professor of Education at the University of Hong Kong and Fulbright Visiting Professor at Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan, in 2006-07. He has authored and edited books, journal articles and chapters in books on a wide variety of topics in language assessment; mainly on test fairness, differential item functioning, statistical analyses, structural equation modeling and assessment for immigration and citizenship. He is also the founding editor of *Language Assessment Quarterly*.

For further information about the talk, please contact the seminar organizer, Professor David Qian (egdavid@inet.polyu.edu.hk).

For free car parking, please contact Miss Zoe Mak to organise a parking voucher (Tel. 3400-3497, egzoemak@inet.polyu.edu.hk).