The increasing availability of microdata from large-scale assessments of students and adults have spurred a great deal of research in labour economics and economics of education. Test scores from these assessments are often seen as better and more precise proxies of cognitive skills or human capital than years of schooling. Researchers using these data are however often unaware of how assessments are designed, and of how test scores are estimated on the basis of the answers provided by respondents sitting an assessment. Large-scale assessments are primarily designed to describe the distribution of proficiency in the population of interest, and are not intended to provide unbiased measures of the individual proficiency of any single respondent. This has important implications for their use in secondary, individual-level analysis. The purpose of this Seminar is to raise awareness about the methodology used to estimate test scores in large-scale assessments and to stimulate a reflection on how methodological choices made at the production stage affect the use of data in secondary analysis. The Seminar intends to bring together users and producers of this type of data, in order to stimulate an inter-disciplinary dialogue and reflect on how the production and the dissemination of the data could be improved in order to better serve the multiplicity of demands that these data are called to satisfy.
Item 4. Discussions  
Andrew Ho (Harvard Graduate School of Education)  
Edwin Leuven (University of Oslo)  

10:45-11:15: Coffee break  

11:15-12:30  
Session 2 – Applications  

Item 5. Mixed-Effects Structural Equation Models  
Lynne Schofield (Swarthmore College)  

Item 6. Factor Models in Economics Research  
Sergio Urzua (University of Maryland)  

Item 7. Discussion  
Irini Moustaki (London School of Economics and Political Science)  

12:30-13:30: Lunch break  

13:30-15:00  
Session 3 – Applications  

Item 8. Putting test scores on an interval scale  
Timothy Bond (Purdue University)  

Item 9. Discussion  
Wim van der Linden (University of Twente)  

Item 10. The use of survey weights in regression analysis  
Jeffrey Wooldridge (Michigan State University)  

Item 11. Discussion  
Sabine Meinck (IEA)  

15:00-15:30: Coffee break  

15:30-16:15  
Session 4 - Roundtable and Open Discussion  

16:15-16:45  
Session 5 – Available Software  

16:45-17:00  
Concluding Remarks  

Practical Information

Venue: The seminar will be held in the Auditorium of the OECD Boulogne Building, at 46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France.  
Registration: To register, please complete the attached registration form and send it to piaac@oecd.org. Participation is free of charge.