

## **LLAKES Workshop on:**

# **International Comparisons of Inequalities in Education and Skills: Using PISA and PIAAC to Explore their Causes and Effects**

**28 April 2015, 10.30 am - 4.30 pm**

**Venue: Elvin Hall, UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL**

Persistent inequality in education and skills causes widespread concern, not least because it is seen to contribute to rising income inequality and also to declines in social mobility in some countries. Yet, as the proliferating evidence from international skills surveys shows, countries vary considerably in degrees of skills inequality both amongst young people and adults. This workshop explores what we can find out from comparative analysis of data in PISA and PIAAC, and other international surveys, on the causes and effects of inequalities in educational attainment and skills achievement. What are the trends across countries in education and skills inequalities? What contributions do the different phases of education and training make to these inequalities? What can cross-country analysis of education and welfare systems and skills inequalities tell us about policy options for reducing skills inequality and increasing inter-generational mobility?

### **Programme**

**10.30 am - 12.30 pm**

#### **Session One: Comparative Perspectives on Skills and Incomes Inequalities.**

Jim Williams (George Washington University):

*Cross-National Variations in the SES-Dependence of Student Performance in PISA*

John Jerrim (UCL Institute of Education):

*Income Inequality, Intergenerational Mobility and the Great Gatsby Curve: is Education the Key?*

Amy Berman and Michael Feuer (both George Washington University):

*Standardized Testing: Does it Help to Address or to Exacerbate Inequality?*

**12 .30 - 1.30 pm      Lunch**

**1.30 - 3.00 pm Session Two: The Contribution of Upper Secondary and Training to Education and Skills Inequality**

Andy Green and Nicola Pensiero (UCL Institute of Education)

*The Effects of Upper Secondary Education and Training Systems on Skills Inequality. A Differences-in-Differences Analysis using PISA 2000 and the OECD Survey of Adult Skill*

Marius Busemeyer (University of Konstanz)

*Skills and Inequality: Partisan Politics and the Political Economy of Education and Training Reforms in Western Welfare States*

**3.00 - 3.30 pm            Tea and Coffee**

**3.30 – 4.30 pm Round Table on Policy Lessons on Reducing Skills Inequality:**

Marius Busemeyer, Andy Green, Michael Feuer, Nicola Pensiero, Lorna Unwin and Jim Williams