

GSID Open Seminar

“Learning to read and numerate in the developing world: A comparative study of reading and mathematics curricula and textbooks”

Lecturer: Dr. Aaron Benavot

Former senior analyst for UNESCO Global Monitoring Report
Professor, Global Education Policy, Dept of Educational Administration and Policy Studies, State University of New York, Albany, USA

Date&Time: 17:00-18:30, January 19 (Thu), 2012

Venue: Meeting Room#1, GSID 8F

Language: English

Brief Description of the Seminar:

Do developing countries define similar contents and standards in their upper primary reading and mathematics curriculum? Do the contents of official curricular guidelines in reading and mathematics align with those found in relevant textbooks? Which developing countries have established more (or less) challenging performance standards in mathematics education?

The seminar compares primary-level mathematics and reading curriculum from the developing world to address these three research questions. His presentation will draw upon a forthcoming UNESCO report, which systematically examines curriculum documents from the newly-established International Curriculum and Textbook Archive (ICATA) at the University at Albany-SUNY. Biography

Biography of the lecturer:

From 2005-2009 he served as Senior Policy Analyst on the Education for All Global Monitoring Report team at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. He contributed to the development and drafting of EFA monitoring reports. His comparative research has explored aspects of the evolution of basic education in the so-called developing world—for example, educational expansion and compulsory schooling, and many others.

Recently he has been examining commonalities in the contents of primary level mathematics and reading textbooks and curricula. He previously taught in the sociology departments at the University of Georgia (1985-1990) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1990-2007) and has been a visiting professor at universities in many other different countries. Through 2007-09, he served on the Board of Directors of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). Today he is a coeditor of the Comparative Education Review.

For further inquiry, please contact Shoko Yamada (syamada@gsid.nagoya-u.ac.jp)