



Understanding the Construct of Parent Involvement and Its Impact on Math Development in Elementary School: Findings from ECLS-K

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12:45 – 14:00

Room 205, Runme Shaw Building, HKU

(Chair: Dr Xiao Hu)

Abstract:

Research evidence and legal mandates have pointed to the critical influence of parental involvement on students' academic and social success. Even though this construct has been studied extensively in the literature, there has been lack of consensus in terms of what it really means, how it should be measured, and what impact it has on various educational outcomes. This session will aim to address two research questions through two research studies: 1) how has parent involvement been operationalized in empirical studies during the past two decades? 2) Do parent home activities impact math development in elementary school? The first study was a content analysis of parent involvement measures in which content similarities and differences are described with an eye towards emphasizing the multidimensional nature of parental involvement. The second study used latent growth curve modeling to investigate the impact of parent involvement from the perspective of Home Activities on math development in elementary school using data from the ELCS-K, a nationally representative longitudinal dataset collected in United States. Implications for empirical researchers and practitioners will be discussed.

About the speaker:

Dr Duan Zhang is an associate professor in the Research Methods and Statistics Program at the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver. She received her PhD from Texas A&M. With her extensive experiences in both applied statistics and child development, Dr Zhang has been actively involved in research studies funded at different levels in early development and children's psychological well-beings. Being a big fan of adopting instructional technology in statistics education, Dr Zhang has been working closely with DU's Office of Teaching and Learning, and other statistics faculty across the campus. Her research interests are focused on two areas: first methodological area in multilevel modeling using Structural Equation Modeling and Hierarchical Linear Modeling, and second substantive area in parenting practice and school readiness in early childhood.

~ All are welcome ~

For enquiries, please contact the Office of Research at 3917 8254.