



Who is missing out and what are they missing?

How the association between absence and achievement varies across students, schools, subjects, and reasons for absence.

Wednesday 31 October, 4.00pm – 6.00pm
University of Western Australia (Education Building, Room 2.34, Level 2)

About the seminar:

This presentation addresses several questions about the nature of the association between higher absences and lower achievement outcomes. Does the relationship depend on the type of absence? Are absences more problematic for some students than others? How do the socioeconomic characteristics of students and schools affect these patterns? The research uses administrative absence data and NAPLAN scores from the population of Western Australian students attending government schools between 2008 and 2016. Assumptions about the potential impacts of absences are challenged, for example, that illnesses are 'harmless' and that low-achievers are more affected by absences than high-achievers. The presentation also discusses differences in what students are missing when they're absent, how well they can catch up, and what this research can contribute to absence policies in Australia.

About Kirsten:

Kirsten Hancock is a Life Course Centre Research Fellow at the Telethon Kids Institute, and Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia. She uses a broad range of survey and administrative data resources to address questions concerning child development, particularly for vulnerable children and those in families with multiple generations of disadvantage. Kirsten's current research includes the causes and consequences of school absences, intergenerational inequality in education, longitudinal trajectories of students through school, and the long-term school experiences of children with health and mental health concerns.



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