



College of Education

Trends in Breaking Down Data Silos in Education

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, HEDCO 230T



Darleen Opfer **RAND Corporation**

Dr. V. Darleen Opfer is Vice President of RAND Education and Labor and holds the Distinguished Chair in Education Policy at the RAND Corporation. She served as director of RAND Education since 2011 and was promoted to Vice President for the RAND Education and Labor research division in 2018; from 2005 to 2011, she was director of research and senior lecturer in research methods and school improvement

at the University of Cambridge's (England) Faculty of Education. Opfer has conducted policy research studies for a number of local, state, and national governments on issues that affect teachers and schools, including recruitment and retention, professional development, and impact of policies on teacher practice. In 2014, she was selected as a Thomas J. Alexander Fellow by the OECD where she used TALIS 2013 data to explore conditions that support teacher professional development. Her research also includes national studies of teacher professional development for England and Turkey, a study of teacher professional development and its relationship to school outcomes in six U.S. states, and a study of recruitment and retention of teachers and school leaders for the Scottish Government.

In recent years, she's conducted a series of studies to better understand the conditions that support improvements in teaching and learning. She currently leads the TALIS Video Study funded by the OECD; a study using video observation, surveys, and student achievement tests to explore the association between teaching practices and student outcomes in eight countries. In 2015, the Helmsley Trust funded her and Julia Kaufman to conduct a longitudinal study of teachers' implementation of state standards and curricula. With Brian Stecher, in 2014 she launched RAND's American Teacher Panel and American School Leader Panel which are two nationally representative longitudinal panels of teachers and school leaders in the United States who respond to surveys three to four times per year to track impacts of education policies. She is just starting a new study, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to study Coherent Instructional Systems that support teaching and learning.

Opfer currently serves as an advisor to the Israel Ministry of Education and the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training. She has previously served as an advisor to the National Council for Education Research and Training, India. She also served as a consultant for the U.S. Agency for International Development, working on the Increased Access to Quality Education and Training Initiative in South Africa. Opfer is the author of numerous books, reports, and journal articles and has presented to practitioners, researchers, and policymakers worldwide. Opfer holds a Ph.D. in education policy studies from the University of Virginia and B.A. from Stetson University.

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