



# Advancing the professional learning of teachers through engagement with research

## Professor Shirley Simon, University College London

Shirley Simon (s.simon@ioe.ac.uk) is Professor of Science Education at University College London Institute of Education. She began her career as a chemistry teacher and taught in inner-city London schools before becoming a full-time researcher and lecturer in science education. Shirley's doctoral research focused on the implementation of new assessment practices, and she has since undertaken research in scientific inquiry, cognitive acceleration, teacher learning and professional development. Her current research focuses on argumentation in science, attitudes to science and participation in science. She teaches on masters programs and supervises doctoral students working in many aspects of science education. She is also a visiting professor at Umea University in Sweden where she advises on research projects and supervises doctoral study.

### ABSTRACT

Setting out on a professional learning journey as a new teacher involves experiencing a very steep learning curve. New teachers are primarily concerned with survival and their own performance – how to put a lesson together with sufficient content, strategies, resources and presence to keep the students all engaged and on task. The main source of professional development comes from teaching practice and other colleagues sharing their experiences.

As teachers become more experienced their professional learning needs change, often becoming more complex and diverse as their knowledge, beliefs and values develop in individual ways. There is much evidence to suggest that teachers' professional learning can be advanced by engagement with research, but this can take different forms as suited to individuals and circumstances. In this talk Professor Simon will focus on these different forms of engagement, including collaboration with funded projects, research within higher degrees and school based teacher action research and inquiry projects.



### DATE

Wednesday 10 February 2016

### TIME

3.30-3.45pm Tea/Coffee

3.45-5.00pm Seminar

### VENUE

A&B Meeting Room, Faculty of  
Education, University of Waikato.

[www.waikato.ac.nz/wmier](http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wmier)