Joint MRU-IOE Seminar

Migrant Integration, Education Policies, and Student Outcomes in Western Europe and Beyond,
Monday 13 November, 13:00-14:00, 26 Bedford Way, Room 113

Louis Volante, Professor of Education at Brock University and an Affiliated Researcher at UNU-MERIT (United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology), Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, in the Netherlands, will be speaking on Migrant Integration, Education Policies, and Student Outcomes in Western Europe and Beyond. The abstract for the talk, as well as Professor Louis Volante’s biography, can be found below. All welcome to join.

Abstract: International achievement measures such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) have consistently reported an achievement gap between non-immigrant and immigrant student groups in relation to reading, mathematics, and science literacy – a result that is often referred to as the immigrant student performance disadvantage. This presentation examines immigrant student achievement results on past administrations of PISA in greater detail across Western Europe as well as other internationally comparable jurisdictions. Although numerous European nations possess a notable performance disadvantage, even after controlling for important background characteristics such as parental education levels and socioeconomic status, there are some jurisdictions within and outside Europe where immigrant students perform on par or better than their non-immigrant peers. These diverse results are juxtaposed against education policies and practices that have been associated with enhanced student achievement results, as well as other salient student outcomes, for immigrant student populations.

Louis Volante is a Professor of Education at Brock University and an Affiliated Researcher at UNU-MERIT (United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology), Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, in the Netherlands. Louis is currently President-Elect for the Canadian Educational Researchers’ Association (CERA) and a past recipient of the R.W.B. Jackson Publication Award, which is awarded annually by CERA for the best English language journal article. His research, which is widely disseminated and referenced by scholars around the world, is focused on the global governance of education, comparative policy analysis, international achievement studies, socioeconomic inequality and student achievement, migrant integration and student outcomes, and
educational reform and innovation. Professor Volante was recently featured as an educational change expert by the American Educational Research Association (AERA) within their Lead the Change Series (http://www.aera.net/SIG155/Lead-the-Change-Series). He is currently the Principal-Investigator of a 5-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) study that examines the relationship between immigrant student achievement and education policies across Canada with Co-Investigator Dr. Don Klinger (Queens’ University) and Collaborator Dr. Melissa Siegel (Maastricht University).