ICL BUSINESS SCHOOL

Research Outlook

Message from the Principal

We are making progress with our application for approval for the Graduate Diploma in International Business Innovation. At the recent NZQA panel visit we met four out of the eight criteria, and received a lot of encouragement. Nonetheless the application requires more work and we are hoping for a successful panel re-visit in August.

Although we met the research criterion, one of the recommendations the panel made was to produce a five-year plan to support our current research activity, which at present is revised on an annual basis. One of the advantages of external stakeholder input – NZQA's on this occasion – is that we see additional perspectives. Most PTEs have no research activity at all, and ICL's is still young, at barely three years. Five-year plans, and all their soviet resonance, have generally not adapted well to today's fast-changing education environment – especially with the very same NZQA changing the rules on entry requirements on an almost monthly basis! But of course research is one area where a long-term view is often essential. We will be announcing our new five-year research plan in the next newsletter.

The ICL Ethics Committee has met three times recently and approved Tahera Afrin and Makelesi Latu's **Tuning with the hermit crab: a success story of Tātaiako for Māori and Pasifika learners,** Dana Cumin's questionnaire on Innovation (to support our graduate destinations research) and Dr Syed Jamali's **Assessing difficulty level of the curriculum: international students' perspectives on the New Zealand Diploma in Business (Level 6).**

But our core activity remains teaching, and a recent triumph was having one of our NZDipBus assessments published by NZQA as an example of best practice. In the latest issue one of our 469 assessments was included; the first time for many years that a PTE's work has been so honoured in a theatre traditionally the exclusive preserve of ITPs. http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/Providers-and-partners/NZDB-prescription-review/NZDipBus-Examples-of-good-assessment-practice-June.pdf. We congratulate Jamali, the writer of the assessment, and the moderation team, who produced this excellent result.

Ewen Mackenzie-Bowie

June Seminar

Date: 18th June 2013
Time: 1:10 – 1:40pm
Venue: Room 211

Trisector Partnership: an innovative solution to E-waste management
Speaker: Saurav Satyal

July Seminar

Date: July 2013 (TBA)
Time: 1:10 – 1:40pm
Venue: Room (TBA)

Bridging the Divides - Transitions from Secondary to Tertiary and into Employment
Speaker: Tahera Afrin

Recent Research Projects

Business Department

The Involvement of Family/Whanau in Education and Therapy

Maria Concepcion Umali

Family involvement in education is one area where different perceptions exist. Similarly, family involvement in therapy is another area which people oftentimes consider irrelevant or insignificant.

Family/whanau involvement has been defined in various ways, manifested in varied forms and linked to student achievement, self-esteem, self-efficacy and positive attitude towards life, improvement of curriculum, school and community development and other benefits.

This is a descriptive quantitative study of the parental involvement in education based on the Field Theory of Kurt Lewin, Fritz Heider's Balance Theory, Robert Havighurst's Developmental Tasks, Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory and Joyce Epstein's Theory of Overlapping Spheres of Influence. Epstein is the proponent of the Framework of the Six Types of Parental Involvement.

The researcher used a valid and reliable 49-statement Parental Involvement in Education Scale (PIES) among the learners and their parents Of the 220 paired respondents, more than 60% come from nuclear middle income families and their children go to private schools.

There are significant differences in the perception of the level of parental involvement especially in the subscale parenting. Parental age, gender, marital status, occupation, family type and monthly income, school type, and the developmental stage of the child can be related to the levels of parental involvement in education.

On the other hand, six cases from therapy were qualitatively analyzed focusing on the role of family/whanau in the therapeutic process. Data revealed significant findings and uncovered relevant implications.

Innovative Work Behaviour (IWB)

Dana Cumin

Dana has started working on a research project in collaboration with The University of Auckland, exploring senior executives' innovative work behaviours (IWB) and the role they play in fostering and promoting innovation in their organizations.

The aim is to identify the specific behaviours needed by senior executives in order for innovation to occur. This work will use qualitative research methods. Interviews with senior executives will focus on behaviours thought to correlate with innovation and championship, identified from a literature review.

Student Academic Performance:
A qualitative analysis of environmental factors and teaching practices that affect students 'academic success

Saurav Satyal and Dr Syed Md. Masud Jamali

This research primarily focuses on the environmental factors and teaching practices that have a direct correlation with students' academic success. A qualitative analysis is conducted to investigate external/internal independent variables that impact academic success and suggests innovative transformation required by an academic institution to offset those variables. The study uses a mixed method. It combines field research based on observation and interviews with stakeholders.

The research is near completion. Drafting of the final report is in progress.

Recent Research Projects

Business Department
Determinants of Growth in Consumption of Rural Household in Bangladesh: A Regression Analysis

Dayal Talukder and Love Chile[1]

The purpose of this study is to investigate the determinants of growth in consumption of rural households in Bangladesh in the post-liberalization era. Using data from both primary and secondary sources, the study applied the ordinary least square (OLS) regression models to assess the determinants. It also used both economic and non-economic characteristics (endowments) simultaneously for considering their joint effects on determinants.

The study found that the non-farm household dummy was the largest positive determinant of household consumption, followed by household land area in 2010. Conversely, the net buyer dummy variable was the largest negative determinant, followed by rice price in the same year. Food consumption was the largest determinant of growth in household consumption followed by household land area in 1985-86. Rice consumption was the largest negative determinant of growth in consumption in 1985-86, but was the largest positive determinant in 2005.

This study argues that agricultural trade liberalization contributed to an increase in rice production and consumption, leading to higher growth in household consumption in the post-liberalization era. Three difference variables – changes in share of income from agriculture, business-commerce, and house rent – were the positive determinants of growth in both 1985-86 and 2005. However, income-from-rice and change-in-income-from-rice were not statistically significant. This analysis suggests that it was not the rice income but income from other sources that was responsible for the growth in household consumption in both 1985-86 and 2005.

The study suggests that while agricultural trade liberalization positively impacted on rice production, resulting from technological transformation and leading to a substantial decrease in both producer and consumer prices of rice, farm households did not benefit much from rice income in determining consumption growth (welfare). This might be attributed to a greater decrease in the producer price than that of the consumer price. This study argues that some farmers may shift from rice to other agricultural or non-farm activities, thus jeopardising the country's food security and self-sufficiency efforts in food grain production. Therefore, it is crucial to formulate government policies to support farm households in the form of income transfer such as tax reduction and production subsidy in order to avoid food security and macroeconomic instability, resulting from high food prices due to a shortage of rice production.

[1]Associate Professor, Institute of Public Policy, Auckland University of Technology. Email: love.chile@aut.ac.nz

Recent Research Projects

Impact of Agricultural Trade Liberalization on Rice Production and the Environment in Bangladesh

Dayal Talukder

The purpose of this study is to analyze the impacts of agricultural trade liberalization on rice production and the environment in Bangladesh with a view to analyzing economic and environmental sustainability. The study applied an interview technique using a semi-structured questionnaire for primary data collection. It also used time series data from secondary sources. It applied the ordinary least square (OLS) regression models to indentify the determinants of rice output, and Logit regression models to estimate impact on the environment.

The study found that agricultural trade liberalization facilitated significant technological transformation – a combination of irrigation, fertilizer and high yielding varieties (HYV) seeds – in rice production, leading to a significant increase in productivity of rice in the post-liberalization era. Farmers shifted resources from less-efficient local varieties to more productive HYV rice, resulting in a significant increase in the volume of rice production. Amongst three rice crops – Aus, Amon and Boro, Boro was predominantly the HYV rice and was the most important determinant of total rice output. The study found that rice farmers engaged too much of their cultivable land in rice production.

Agricultural trade liberalization resulted in a decrease in cropping diversity, thereby adversely affecting soil fertility. Irrigation caused a shortage of drinking water and destroyed the habitats of aquatic life through drying up rivers, lakes and ponds during the dry season. Cheaper agricultural inputs such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides caused damage to the environment in the form of pollution, loss of bio-diversity, loss of soil fertility, and ecological imbalance.

The main cause of this damage was associated with farmers' application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to rice fields without appropriate scientific knowledge.

Farmers also exposed themselves to serious risk of health hazards from pesticides and fertilizers. There were concerns that intensive rice production through excessive exploitation of land and water resources would create risks for long-term sustainability of both rice production and the environment in the rural economy. The study argues that a sound environmental policy is urgently needed to address the environmental issues arising from agricultural trade liberalization in order to maintain a balance between economic growth and environmental protection.

The government should formulate policy to provide farmers with training and scientific knowledge of the application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to rice fields for protecting the environment, reducing health hazards and ensuring economic growth.

This paper has been accepted for presentation at the **54th New Zealand Association of Economists Annual Conference** to be held on 3rd to 5th July 2013, Amora Hotel, Wellington.

Upcoming Academic and International Conferences (Updated)

As a part of the ongoing development of the School's research culture, ICL Business School encourages staff to get involved in research and participate in academic conferences. Staff are encouraged to prepare papers and attend conferences and financial support is allocated from the research budget. Below are some of the up and coming academic conferences in NZ and Australia for staff to consider. If staff are interested in these or other conferences, they should discuss them with Dayal, Dana or Brent.

Conferences in New Zealand

HERDSA 2013 Conference (on higher education, research and development)
1st to 4th July 2013
Auckland.
For more information:
Website: http://conference.herdsa.org.au/2013

NZAE Conference 2013, (54th Annual Conference)
3rd to 5th July 2013
Amora Hotel, Wellington.
For more information:
http://www.nzae.org.nz/event/nzae-conference-2013/

ANZEA Conference 2013
22nd to 24th July 2013
Auckland.
For more information
 http://www.anzea.org.nz/anzea-conferences-and-events/anzea-conference-2013/

4th New Zealand Discourse Conference
2nd to 4th December 2013
AUT University, Auckland.
http://www.aut.ac.nz/research/research-institutes/icdc/conferences

New Zealand International Education Conference 2013
7th to 8th November 2013
Wigram Airforce Museum, Christchurch.
For more information:
http://conference.educationnz.org.nz/

19th International Conference on Collaboration and Technology
31st October – 1st November
Wellington.
For more information:
http://criwg2013.vuw.ac.nz/

2013 International Information Security and Privacy Conference
8th to 10th July 2013
Auckland.
For more information:
http://www.sec2013.org/

Social Psychology of the Classroom International Conference 2013
15th to 18th July 2013
Owen Glenn Business School, Auckland.
For more information:
http://www.eenz.com/spcic13/

20th NZASIA Biennial International Conference
22nd to 24th November 2013
Auckland.
For more information:
http://www.nzasia2013.org.nz/

26th Annual Conference of Computing & Information Technology Research & Education New Zealand
6-9 October 2013
Hamilton.
For more information:
http://conference.citrenz.ac.nz/

Conferences in Australia

People and the Planet 2013: Transforming the Future
2nd to 4th July 2013
Melbourne, Victoria.
For more information:
http://global-cities.info/content/conferences_forums/people-and-the-planet

Border Breach: Australia & The Global Circulation of Ideas
5th to 7th December 2013
Melbourne, Victoria.
For more information:
 http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/history/conferences/inasa-2012/

15th Accounting, Financial & Social Research Conference
2nd to 3rd August 2013
Canberra.
For more information:
http://sgsrconference.review-gjsg.com/

eResearch Australasia 2013 Conference
20th to 25th October 2013
Brisbane.
For more information:
 http://conference.eresearch.edu.au/

International Conference on Computational & Network Technologies – 2013
2nd to 4th December 2013
Adelaide, South Australia.
Fro more information:
 http://thescipub.com/iccnt