

## **Prof Sarah Howie**

BA, University of the Stellenbosch (1987); BA.Hons. University of Cape Town (1989); M.Ed. University of Witwatersrand (1999); PhD. University of Twente, the Netherlands (2002).

Sarah Howie is a Professor in the Faculty of Education, at the University of Pretoria. She is also the Director of the Centre for Evaluation and Assessment in Education and Training, which strives for research excellence within the areas of Evaluation and Assessment. The CEA has undertaken research, evaluations and training for the National Department of Education, various provincial departments of education, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNICEF, the Zenex Foundation, World Bank, Umalusi, Shuttleworth Foundation as well as various other non-government organisations, private corporations and higher education institutions. Prof Howie was also responsible for establishing a Masters' degree course in evaluation and assessment in 2003 and now has more than 60 students. She supervises about 30 students at masters and doctoral level in the field of evaluation and assessment research. She has served on several Faculty level committees and serves on a number of university-level committees.

Her scientific field of interest and areas of work include monitoring, evaluation and assessment, international comparative research in the fields of science and mathematics education, reading literacy and information and communication technology, and learner achievement. Currently she is the co-National Research Coordinator for Progress in Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2016, and previously 2006 and PIRLS 2011) and was the co-National Research Coordinator for Second Information Technology in Education Study (SITES). She has published both internationally and nationally and has presented at numerous international conferences and seminars. She has worked as a consultant to UNESCO, World Bank, Nuffic (Dutch NGO) and CROSS (Dutch Government), and Spencer Foundation, Link community development, Centre for Development and Enterprise, and the National Business Initiative, in Albania, Russia, Mozambique, Mauritius, Thailand, Ethiopia and South Africa.

Internationally, she has most recently been a member of the member of UNESCO-Brookings Institute international Learning Metrics Task Force for Post-primary (in preparation for Education for All 2015) and was a member of the Scientific Committee for the IEA International Research Conference for 2010. She currently serves as a member of the OECD's framework expert group for the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA 2015); international Questionnaire Development Group for the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2011)

In South Africa, she serves on the 2013 Ministerial Committee to investigate the Standard of the National Senior Certificate; the Umalusi Assessment and Standards Committee, and is a member of Academy of Science for South Africa, amongst others. She was a member of the Peer Review Panel for Scholarly Journals in the Social Sciences and related fields and serves on the SANPAD Research Capacity Initiative committee, where she also taught on the international pre-doctoral programme in Ethiopia for SANTRUST and served on the SANPAD Research Capacity Initiative committee. She previously served on the Ministerial Committee for Learner Retention in 2006, the Umalusi Subcommittee for Standards and Norms, regional executive committee of Association for the Study of Educational Evaluation in Southern Africa (ASEESA), the Gauteng Mathematics and Science Advisory Council, as a member of the SAQA Advisory Committee, the National Executive Committee for PROTEC in South Africa and was on the board of the Southern African Monitoring and Evaluation Association.

Prior to her appointment at the University of Pretoria, she worked at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) (1994-2001) in her last position as a research specialist where she led a number of research projects). She was the National Research Co-ordinator of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (from 1997-2001). She was also the Vice-Chairman of the EXPO for Young Scientists, the Secretary-General for MILSETS' Exposcience Internationale in 1997. Prior to the HSRC, she was the Acting Manager for the Science Education Research and Development Programme and had also worked in the Schools division and bursaries section at the Foundation for Research Development (1989-1994) (now the National Research Foundation) during which time she received an award from the British Council in 1995.

Prof Howie's research has been recognised nationally as well as internationally. She sits on the editorial committees for the international journals of Studies in Educational Evaluation (Elsevier); Educational Research and Evaluation (Taylor and Francis); and IERI Research Journal (Springer). In recognition of her work, she was entered into the prestigious Academy of Science of South Africa in 2006. She is a past winner of the National Science and Technology Forum's Most Innovative Research award for 2002 (awarded in 2003). She won the Dean's award for Innovative Research in the Faculty of Education for 2003 and for excellence in doctoral supervision in 2011. She was also recognised by the University of Pretoria as an Exceptional Young Achiever in 2003 and given an award and in 2008 awarded a gold medal by the Department of Curriculum Studies for her research leadership. Her research has also been acknowledged by the National Research Foundation who awarded her a grant in 2003; and again in 2005 two grants and R3 mil grant in 2011. She received a research rating (Y1) from that organisation in 2003 and a C1 in 2011. She was a finalist in the Women in Science in 2004. Finally, in 2005, she was a finalist in the Woman of the Year competition in the category Science and Technology having also been nominated for the category Education.