

SREE Workshop A

Draft Title:

Building Bridges: Adapting Rigorous Research Designs for Relevance and Impact across Diverse Contexts.

Panelists:

Beth Boulay, Project Evident

Anthony Bryk, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

Scott Cody, Insight Policy Research

Rebecca Maynard, University of Pennsylvania

Moderator/Discussant:

Ruth Neild, Research for Action

Abstract:

Experimental research designs have become well-established tools for testing causal relationships in education. The growing appetite for evidence has challenged researchers to go beyond examining average effects – or even effects for subgroups – to (1) develop interventions that are sensitive to resources and challenges of local contexts and (2) adapt interventions with evidence of effectiveness to new contexts. This enduring research-to-practice challenge has catalyzed the use of continuous improvement approaches designed to integrate the work of researchers and practitioners in ways that improve educational outcomes across diverse local contexts. These two approaches have coexisted in the pursuit of effective interventions.

This panel discussion will illuminate how these two approaches to educational research – experimental and continuous improvement – are being brought together by some of the field’s leading researchers. As researchers who have used both approaches at various points in their careers – and recognize value and the limitations of each -- the panelists will discuss how these two types of inquiry can be used in complementary ways. The panel will focus on how both approaches can be used to “stretch” the other to advance educational equity aspirations in school systems and networks.