



# ***The Impact of SBA: Reflections on its Implementation***



**Professor Steve Andrews**

## **Abstract:**

As secondary schools in Hong Kong complete their third cycle of School-based Assessment in HKCE English Language, this seminar presents some reflections on issues relating to the impact of SBA, drawing on some initial findings from an on-going project funded by the Research Grants Council. The presentation will examine what Alderson (2009) describes as the 'micropolitics' of language education: the agendas, motivations and actions of those involved. In doing so, it will focus primarily on micropolitics at the school level, with reference to data gathered from in-depth case studies over a complete two-year cycle of SBA implementation. In reflecting on aspects of the SBA experience so far, the presentation will explore the issue of the 'ownership' of innovation in relation to ownership of the SBA 'product'. It will examine the potential impact of 'mediators' on the ways in which students, the ultimate stakeholders, experience an assessment innovation like SBA. The discussion will highlight the importance, when investigating the impact of an assessment innovation, of giving due attention to the micropolitical dimension of implementation, rather than treating innovation as largely a technical matter.

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## **Steve Andrews**

Stephen Andrews is Professor in English Language Education in the Faculty of Education, University of Hong Kong, where he has worked since 1990. He was previously Head of the TEFL Unit at what is now Cambridge ESOL. Before that he worked at the University of Reading, as well as in Thailand, Sudan, Egypt, Mexico, Switzerland, Germany and France. His research and publications mainly concern second language education, particularly the language awareness of L2 teachers, and the impact of assessment on teaching and learning. He has published a number of international journal articles and book chapters, and he is the author of the 2007 Cambridge University Press book *Teacher Language Awareness*.

**(Chair: Professor Liz Hamp-Lyons, Universities of Bedfordshire, Hong Kong and Nottingham)**

**29 June 2009 (Monday), 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
LG 02 Hui Oi Chow Building,  
The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road**

**All are welcome!**

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**Organised by the SBA Consultancy Team, Faculty of Education, HKU**