

Magda Chia appointed to Understanding Language/SCALE

Understanding Language/Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity (UL/SCALE) today announced the appointment of Magda Chia, Ph.D., as the Director for Strategy, Impact and Policy, effective July 18, 2016.

In her role, she will develop and execute collaborations with states and districts to advance coherent education policy and practice using the resources of UL/SCALE. Given available expertise in content, language acquisition, teacher training, and policy, UL/SCALE is uniquely positioned to support efforts related to recent policy shifts in academic standards now emphasizing disciplinary uses of language.

“We are excited to have Magda join our team of language, assessment, and content experts,” said Kenji Hakuta, who is faculty director for the center. “She will strengthen our outreach to educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders while taking advantage of our cross-disciplinary approach that supports the education of all students.”

His colleague Ray Pecheone, Executive Director of UL/SCALE, noted that Chia’s extensive experience, most recently as Deputy Director of System Design for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium at UCLA, will contribute to the Center's efforts in coordinating the various fields of expertise and support its short and long-term strategies. During her tenure with Smarter Balanced, she led the efforts across multiple fields to produce summative, interim, and formative assessments that support all students.

“I am honored to be a part of a center with such unique and extensive expertise,” said Chia. “I am excited about the work we can continue to accomplish throughout several key components of education--pedagogical practices, professional development, assessment systems--within the context of supporting and celebrating the diversity of students across the country.”

Chia's research addresses validity and fairness in assessments across diverse student populations including English language learners, students with disabilities, and English language learners with disabilities. She specializes in the relationship between cultural and linguistic diversity and assessment development, implementation, data use, and classroom instruction. Her work has been funded by numerous organizations, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Chia received her doctorate in education, equity, and cultural diversity at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She holds a master’s at New York University, and was a Fulbright scholar in Peru.

Understanding Language/Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (UL/SCALE) at the Graduate school of Education at Stanford is a center dedicated to research and development around educational practices and policies focused on student learning and

language, with a special focus on English language learners (ELLs). Supporting states and districts, UL/SCALE integrates language assessment, curriculum materials, teacher learning, and educational leadership.