IMPROVING EVALUATIVE JUDGEMENT: COUNTERING THE LAKE WOBOGON EFFECT

Kieran Fergus Lim (林百君)

Presenting Author: Kieran Fergus Lim (林百君) (kieran.lim@research.deakin.edu.au)
Deakin University, Geelong, Australia
Postal address: School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Hwy, Burwood, Victoria 3125, Australia

KEYWORDS: Evaluative judgement, illusory superiority, self-evaluation

ABSTRACT
Evaluative judgement is the ability to objectively evaluate the quality of one's own work. This is an important metacognitive skill for all students and graduates. The tendency of inexperienced people to over-estimate their ability is called illusory superiority, which is also called the Lake Wobegon effect, after the fictional town where “all the children are above average”, or the Kruger-Dunning effect, after the Ig Nobel Prize winners.

In this study, students were rewarded if their self-evaluation was consistent with the evaluation of an academic marker. It was found that self-evaluations were consistent with markers' evaluations when a binary (achieved / not-achieved) marking scheme was used. For multi-mark, non-binary marking schemes, students would eventually recalibrate their self-evaluations over a few assessment cycles.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
This study has Deakin University human research ethics approval (STEC-23-12-LIM and STEC-08-2018-LIM). KFL thanks Professor Emma Duncan (University of Queensland) for the introduction to Lake Wobegon.

Proceedings of the Australian Conference on Science and Mathematics Education, The University of Sydney and University of Technology Sydney, 2 - 4 October 2019, page 69, ISBN Number 978-0-9871834-8-4