



## Joint Symposium at the WERA Focal Meeting at AARE – APERA conference Sydney, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2012

Three members of the APPEAR research team from the University of Vienna, Gottfried Biewer, Michaela Kramann and Michelle Proyer (Margarita Schiemer joined from Vienna via Skype) and Alemayehu Teklemariam from Addis Ababa University presented findings from the project CLASDISA (Classifications of Disabilities in the Field of Education in Different Societal and Cultural Contexts, <http://classifications-of-disabilities.univie.ac.at/>). The main focus lied on the identification of barriers and facilitators in education for children with disabilities in Vienna, Bangkok and Addis Ababa. In the course of the symposium, which took place on Monday, December 3rd 2012, the team presented a brief overview of the research process, findings from the three city contexts and Dr. Alemayehu broadened the view on the situation in Ethiopia by sharing insights into ongoing research on the learning environment of children with disabilities. The discussant of the session, Dr. Ilektra Spandagou from the University of Sydney, gave a final statement wrapping up the most interesting findings before we engaged in a discussion with a rather small but interested audience.

### Details on the program:

Chair: Gottfried Biewer  
(University of Vienna)  
Discussant: Ilektra Spandagou  
(University of Sydney)



### Presentations:

1. Biewer, G. (University of Vienna, presenting), Luciak, M. (University of Vienna, co-author): Methodological challenges in comparing highly different countries and cultures – Developing adequate research approaches in Asia, Africa, and Europe
2. Kramann, M. (University of Vienna): Participation of children with disabilities, their parents, and teachers in a Viennese research study
3. Proyer, M. (University of Vienna, presenting), Sriwanyong, S. (Srinakharinwirot University, co-author): In quest of mutual understanding: Insights into the educational situation of children with disabilities in Bangkok
4. Teklemariam, A. (Addis Ababa University, presenting), Schiemer, M. (University of Vienna, co-author): Research in Ethiopia: Exploring the situation of teachers of children with disabilities in different school settings
5. Teklemariam, A. (Addis Ababa University)  
Acoustic environments of schools and their effects on children's hearing and learning in selected schools of Addis Ababa

On Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 2012, the team was invited to visit the Faculty of Education and Social Work at University of Sydney.

All in all, the conference visit can be described as extremely enriching in terms of networking and exchange on ongoing research in the Asia – Pacific region and beyond.