James Catterall

James S. Catterall is Professor Emeritus and past Chair of the Faculty at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. He is an Affiliate Faculty member at the UCLA Center for Culture, Brain, and Development. In July 2011, Dr. Catterall became Principal Investigator at the Centers for Research on Creativity, (CRoC), based in Los Angeles and London, UK. (www.croc-lab.org)

Professor Catterall's research focuses on measurement of children's cognitive and sociocultural development and motivation in the context of learning in the arts. He is the author of the 2009 book, Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art, a 12-year longitudinal study of the effects of learning in the arts on the achievements and values of young adults (Los Angeles, CA: I-Group Books). Dr. Catterall and colleagues Prof. Susan Dumais and Prof. Gillian Hampden-Thompson, published The Arts and Achievement in At-risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies, released in 2012 by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Professor Catterall has published leading studies on learning in music and its effects on visual and spatial intelligence; and on learning in the visual arts and the development of creativity, originality, and self-efficacy beliefs. His latest study is titled: A Neuroscience of Art and Empathy: Aligning Behavioral and Imaging Evidence (available at the CRoC website). This research points to significant overlaps in the neural circuitry and neuroanatomy of empathetic responses and artistic expressions.

CRoC is working under a grant from the Walt Disney Company to explore the assessment of creative thinking in children and youth, including the possible utility of mobile technologies such as the I-Pad in assessment strategies. This work is exploring the development of creativity in theatre arts, graphic design, youth leadership, and science. CRoC is also testing assessment processes at a dedicated "creativity lab" at Inner-City Arts in Los Angeles.

Professor Catterall holds degrees in economics (with honors) from Princeton University and in public policy analysis from the University of Minnesota; he holds a Ph.D. in Education from Stanford University.