

February 2014

Educational Studies Association of Ireland

Cumann Léann Oideachais na hÉireann

Newsletter

Letter from ESAI President

Dear Colleagues

A very happy 2014 to all and I hope it will be a successful year for educational research in all its forms. We are looking forward to another busy year following on from an eventful and energetic 2013. The year just passed has seen further growth and development in ESAI, both in terms of membership and in terms of activities.

These activities centred on our Annual Conference. The conference was held at the University of Limerick and the Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick on the theme of "Education Policy in Challenging Times: Consultation, Implementation and Impact". A very well-attended conference heard papers from a variety of participants, including academic researchers, graduate students and educational practitioners. It is this diversity of participation and of research modes that characterises ESAI. The conference had two keynote sessions. The opening plenary session was addressed by Dr. Anne Looney of NCCA, Professor Teresa O'Doherty of Mary Immaculate College, and Professor Noirin Hayes of DIT. The second keynote was given by Dr. Sotiria Grek from the University of Edinburgh on the theme of "Europeanizing Education". A further innovation at the annual conference was the introduction of workshop sessions which would provide a service to members through the sharing of information and expertise. This is an aspect of the association's work which we plan to expand in the coming year.

It was also an eventful year for *Irish Educational Studies*. A presentation and tribute was made to Prof. Dymphna Devine who stood down as General Editor of *Irish Educational Studies*. Under her editorship, the journal has progressed to the point where we felt that the task of editor needed to be shared between two people. Two joint General Editors, Dr. Paul Conway of UCC and Dr. Aisling Leavy of MIC, were appointed and we wish them well as the journal goes from strength to strength.



Dr Sotiria Grek, University of Edinburgh, gave the key note address at the ESAI Conference 2013

Inside this issue

Letter from ESAI President	1
ESAI Conference 2014	2
IES Report.....	3
EERA Report	4
ESAI Membership.....	6
Contact Information.....	6

Special points of interest

- The deadline for abstracts for the ESAI Conference 2014 is February 14th.
- The deadline for abstracts for the ESAI symposium at the AERA Conference 2014 is February 14th.
- Dr. Paul Conway & Dr. Aisling Leavy have been appointed General Editors of *Irish Educational Studies* (IES)
- Renew your membership for 2014 at www.esai.ie/joinesai

President's letter

2014 has so far followed the pattern of the previous year and promises to be at least as busy. The Call for Papers is already on the website and the conference theme promises to break new ground in addressing the issues of innovation, creativity and sustainability. The conference venue is also new to us - the Sheraton Hotel in Athlone - and I hope that its good transport links will make it accessible to very many of you.

Another important aspect of ESAI's activities is its ability to link with other research associations in a range of countries. Stronger links have been developed with EERA and we have supported their campaign to oppose cuts in research funding. We would also like to draw your attention to the call for symposia at AERA (American Educational Research Association) Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, the deadline for which is February 14th.

ESAI is a voluntary organisation and therefore depends completely on the subscriptions of members to fund its activities. I'd like to thank all our members for their continuing loyalty and to make a gentle reminder that it is now time to renew. Rates for 2014 have not been increased. I am making a special plea to members in Education Departments to publicise the work of the association to your students and to encourage them to join as associate members and to present papers at the conference. I am also asking all members in institutions to ask your department or school to join as a corporate member.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the ESAI Executive for their dedicated participation and to send every good wish to the incoming President, Dr. Delma Byrne.

Dr. Rose Malone, ESAI President
National University of Ireland Maynooth

"I'd like to thank all our members for their continuing loyalty and to make a gentle reminder that it is now time to renew".

ESAI Conference 2014: Call for Papers

Submission of Abstracts:

The deadline for submission of abstracts is Friday, February 14th, 2014. Abstracts should be completed using the abstract template available on the ESAI website: www.esai.ie

Abstracts should be sent by email to:
conference@esai.ie

Conference Dates: Thursday April 10th - Saturday April 12th, 2014

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Athlone

Theme: [Imagining and Innovating for Sustainable Futures: Education in Challenging Times](#)

Sustainable futures can be thought of as hinging on actions in the present that meet our ecological, societal, cultural and economic needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do so in their time and turn. This conference is centred on the question of how imagination and innovation in education can contribute to that outcome.

We welcome proposals for papers from practitioners at all levels in the education system that address education, technical, economic, and social issues related to expanding our capacities to work towards such sustainable futures.

ESAI Conference 2014: Call for Papers

Possible themes for conference papers include:

- 1. Researching for sustainability:** scientific engagement; modalities of operating; funding futures.
- 2. Governance and policy:** policymaking; investment and returns to education; consumption; participatory and exclusionary practice.
- 3. Impacts and resilience:** systems and ecosystems; urban resilience; migration and diaspora; cultures of belonging.
- 4. Innovative pedagogies:** which focus on capacity building and sustainability over the lifecourse in a digital age.
- 5. Professional education for sustainability:** innovative and sustainable practices across the continuum of professional education programmes.

This list is not exhaustive and an inclusive approach will be taken in accepting papers. We welcome papers from early career researchers and practitioners.

Further details on our conference theme are on the ESAI website: www.esai.ie/conference-2014-call



Athlone: ESAI Conference venue 2014

Irish Educational Studies (IES) Report

Report on journal at ESAI AGM: The Editorial Team will update the association's membership on journal developments at the upcoming AGM in Athlone.

Editorial Team: The journal's editorial team comprises Dr. Aisling Leavy (General Editor), Dr. Paul Conway (General Editor), Prof. Emer Smyth (Co-editor) and Dr. Maeve O'Brien (Co-editor), Dr. Aidan Seery (Reviews Editor), Claire Carroll (Administrator), Dr. Alicia Curtin (Special Issue Administrator). Within the next few months, the journal's Editorial Board will be inviting applications for the position of Co-editor (1 position) and will also invite applications in Spring 2015 (1 position).

Submitting papers to IES: At ESAI's Annual Conference 2014, the editorial team will present a session on submitting to the journal (online only now via ScholarOne Manuscripts), the review process (for

those submitting and reviewers) and revision of papers: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ries>

Published Special Issues: The Editorial Board decided a number of years ago to include an annual special issue and these have focused on the following themes:

Research in Education Related to Teacher Accountability (2013, Eamon Kelly & Aisling Leavy, editors);

Physical Education (2012, Mary O'Sullivan & Judith Oslin)

Transitions into and out of Higher Education (2011, Rolf Van der Velden & Emer Smyth)

'Race', migration and education in a globalised context (2010, Gill Crozier, Kalwant Bhopal & Dymphna Devine)

Education and the Law: Modern Challenges (2009, Kilkelly & Devine)

Irish Educational Studies (IES) Report

Reviewers: As the blind peer-review process is central to any journal's on-going good standing and quality, we would like to thank all those who have reviewed papers for their expertise, thoughtful feedback and timeliness in submitting reviews. We also invite those interested in becoming reviewers to submit an email to the journal's Administrator [include your name, affiliation, 3 keywords indicating areas of expertise and list (if applicable) 2 recent peer-reviewed publications] Claire Carroll iesjournal@gmail.com

Book Reviews: The Editorial Board welcomes suggestions for book reviews. Please contact the journal administrator Claire Carroll or Dr. Aidan Seery (Reviews Editor).

Invitation to submit papers: Given the recent expansion of doctoral education in the area of education, and cognate fields/disciplines in Ireland

and elsewhere, the Editorial Board would like to invite those who have recently completed their doctorate to consider submitting a manuscript to IES. See the submission details at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=ries20&page=instructions#.UvCry3lwg-c>

Tribute: A presentation (leather bound volume comprising five issues of the journal) was made to Prof. Dymphna Devine (UCD) at the ESAI 2013 Conference in appreciation of her leadership role in the journal as its General Editor (2007-2013).

Dr. Paul Conway, University College Cork
Dr. Aisling Leavy, Mary Immaculate College
University of Limerick

European Educational Research Association (EERA) Report

Dr. Delma Byrne has now taken over from Prof. Joe O'Hara as the ESAI representative on the EERA Council. EERA membership comprises more than 20 national and regional Educational Research Associations from all parts of Europe. For those not familiar with EERA, further detail on the work of EERA and on the associated Research Networks can be found at the following link: <http://www.eera-ecer.de/about/>. The EERA Council meets 3 times each calendar year: two meetings in advance of the annual conference, and a further meeting at the end of each annual conference.

EERA is also responsible for the organisation and administration of the ECER Conference. The next ECER Conference titled 'The Past, Present and Future of Educational Research in Europe', will take place at the University of Porto from 1-5th September, 2014 (<http://www.eera-ecer.de/ecer2014/>). The Emerging Researchers Conference begins on

1st September, and we urge all emerging researchers involved in Educational Research on the island of Ireland to attend. This is an excellent networking opportunity, and the conference fee is very reasonable and there are also a number of bursaries available (for further detail on bursaries see <http://www.eera-ecer.de/ecer2014/emerging-researchers-conference/>)



EERA Council Members, University of Porto, January 18th 2014.

European Educational Research Association (EERA) Report

ECER 2014 will welcome five keynote speakers: Madeleine Arnot (University of Cambridge), Gert Biesta (Institute of Education and University of Luxembourg), Marilyn Cochran-Smith (Boston College), António Nóvoa (University of Lisbon) and Agnès van Zanten (CNRS). Two key issues that arose at the recent meeting at the University of Porto in January 2014, and at the previous meeting at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul in September 2013 included (a) the quality of research and presentations at the conference and (b) the visibility of educational research in the Horizon 2020 calls.

Conference Quality

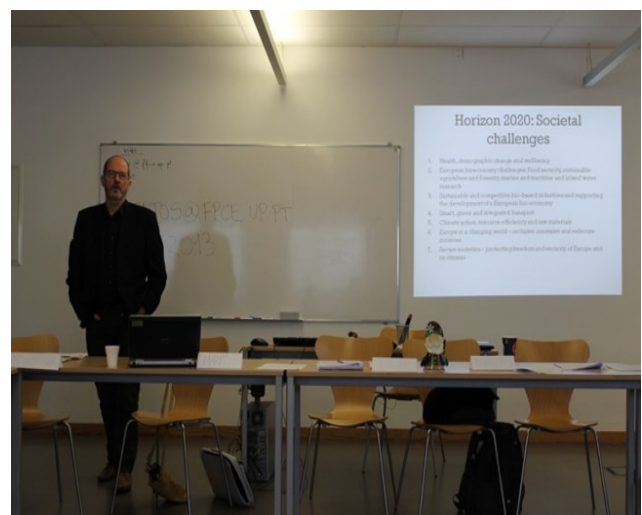
At both meetings, the Council looked back on a successful conference in Istanbul. Based on feedback from the delegates at the conference, as well as from Council members, an issue arose surrounding the need to improve the quality of research and presentations at the sessions of the annual ECER conference. In response to this, the Council will forward this concern to each of the Research Network conveners. Changes will also be made to the application process in terms of quality monitoring and criteria for acceptance. For those attending the 2014 conference please be reminded to ensure the communication of the link between research questions and presentation of results in your presentation, as well as to keep within the timeline proposed for presentations

Horizon 2020

The work of EERA in improving the visibility of educational research in the Horizon 2020 call is ongoing (see ESAI Newsletter January 2012). Leif Moos, the President of EERA, highlighted the success of the Horizon 2020 Workshops during ECER 2013 and the ongoing work of some EERA Re-

search Networks to address H2020 in their programme for ECER 2014. The Executive of EERA also continue their efforts in improving the visibility of educational research in H2020 through meetings with the European Commission Directorate for Social Sciences, and ongoing lobbying with associations involved in the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH). For further information on the work of EERA, see the 'EERA and Horizon 2020' section on the main EERA website. On that page, a document also clearly highlights EERA's Agenda for H2020.

For further information and queries about EERA, please contact Dr. Delma Byrne at: esaimembership@gmail.com



President of EERA, Prof. Leif Moos, talks about work on improving the visibility of Educational Research in H2020.

Dr. Delma Byrne, National University of Ireland Maynooth

“Two key issues arose... the quality of research and presentations at the conference and the visibility of educational research in the Horizon 2020 calls”

ESAI Membership Rates

- Individual Membership €80
- Associate Membership (available to students only) €35
- Corporate Membership €500
- Institutional Subscription to *Irish Educational Studies* €300

Membership of ESAI

Is ESAI for me?

ESAI actively encourages and supports new members. We welcome members from all education sectors – early childhood, primary, secondary, further education and higher education. Our members are drawn from the entire island of Ireland and include educational researchers, students, educational practitioners, lecturers, school leaders, managers, curriculum specialists, administrators, policy makers and research funders.

Benefits of membership:

ESAI is a vibrant and dynamic organisation dedicated to the advancement of educational research and practice in Ireland. By joining you can benefit from:

- Free subscriptions to our eminent international journal, *Irish Educational Studies* (IES), published by Taylor and Francis.
- Special member registration rates at the ESAI Annual Conference, held in March/April.
- Unrivalled networking opportunities within the Irish educational community.
- Access to workshops and seminars designed to support educational researchers in the research and publication process.
- Access to our ESAI newsletters, email bulletins, and regular updates relating to the activities of our sister organisations including the European Educational Research Association (EERA) and the American Educational Research Association (AERA).

Contact Information

Members of the Executive Committee

ESAI President: Dr. Rose Malone
Vice President: Dr. Delma Byrne
Secretary: Dr. Josephine Boland
Treasurer: Dr. Annelies Kamp

Ms. Mella Cusack
Dr. Enda Donlon
Dr. Tom Farrelly
Dr. Conor Galvin
Dr. Andrew Loxley
Dr. Alan McCully
Dr. Catriona O'Toole

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