

# EDUCATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

## LETTER FROM THE ESAI PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues

I am very happy to announce that Dr. Dympna Devine is the incoming General Editor of *Irish Educational Studies*. She will formally replace Dr. Ciaran Sugrue when her name is put before the AGM next March for ratification. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of my colleagues on the Executive, to acknowledge the debt that the Association owes to Ciaran Sugrue, who has worked tirelessly in the role of General Editor and who has made a major contribution to the journal's development. All of us on the Executive are delighted to welcome Dympna Devine as incoming General Editor and wish her the very best of luck in that role.

2007 is drawing to a close and that means that there are two pressing ESAI issues to be considered, namely submission of proposals for the Annual Conference (details included in the Newsletter) and renewal of membership.

This Newsletter includes the Call for Papers for the Annual Conference which will take place in Galway from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008. This is the first time we will have held a conference in Galway in eleven years. The forthcoming Annual Conference will be hosted in Days Hotel in Galway city allowing easy access to a

range of accommodation and public transport options for delegates. The theme of the conference is a broad-ranging one: "Research, Ethics and Diversity: Interrogating a New Ireland". The Conference is particularly early next year for two reasons. Firstly Easter is early and secondly St. Patrick's Bank Holiday weekend coincides with our traditional Conference time and it was deemed inappropriate to hold the conference then.

For the first time this year we are introducing a new bursary scheme to encourage and facilitate associate members to attend the conference. Full details of this scheme are outlined below and are also available on the association's website, <http://www.esai.ie> (see under 'Annual Conference'). This scheme is open to all associate members, including those who have newly joined the Association. We plan to offer ten such bursaries.

On behalf of the Executive of the Association I wish all of you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Anne Lodge  
ESAI President

## IRISH EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

We are delighted to announce that from October 2007, *Irish Educational Studies* will be included in the Social Sciences Citation Index®. The SSCI, available via Thomson Scientific's Web of Science platform, is the world's most prestigious abstracting and indexing service for the social sciences, and IES will be one of only around 100 journals included in the 'Education and Educational Research' category of the database. Listing on the index will ensure a greater international profile for educational research conducted in Ireland, as well as encouraging submissions to the journal from researchers internationally on topics of interest to educationalists in Ireland.

Inclusion in the SSCI also means that IES will feature in Thomson's Journal Citation Reports and will therefore be given an Impact Factor, widely acknowledged as a key international measure of journal quality. Only journals included in the SSCI or the Science Citation Index receive an Impact Factor. IES's first Impact Factor will be published in the 2008 edition of the Journal Citation Reports, due to be released in the summer of 2009.

We view this as a considerable achievement for the journal and testament to the quality of educational research and publication that is being conducted in Ireland. Many thanks to those who have made an active contribution to the journal and we look forward to working with you over the coming years.

Ciaran Sugrue  
Dympna Devine  
Paul Conway  
Emer Smyth  
Editors, *Irish Educational Studies*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership subscriptions for 2008 are now due. This Newsletter is accompanied by a membership subscription form which can also be downloaded from our website (<http://www.esai.ie>) and we encourage our members to submit their annual subscriptions before Christmas or early in the New Year. As was the case last year, membership for the calendar year will close at the beginning of May next. It is necessary to have subscribed by then in order to receive copies of the journal.

A few members over-paid by a small amount at the 2007 Conference. Maria Feeney was in contact with those people and it was agreed that they would pay a reduced membership fee for 2008. We would ask those people to pay the agreed reduced amount and mark their membership forms 'Conference Refund' for our records.

We are aware that a small number of our members did not receive the first issue of *Irish Educational Studies* for 2007. We are currently rectifying this error and these members should receive the first issue of IES for 2007 shortly. Our sincere apologies to those members.

We would encourage all our members to renew their membership before the close of this year or early in January. We are not raising the membership costs for Individual and Associate members this year. We are particularly keen to increase our membership among those undertaking post-graduate study in education and ask current members to encourage colleagues, students and others of their acquaintance to consider joining ESAI. We would ask you to draw the attention of post-graduate students to our bursary scheme to support attendance at the annual conference.

The email contact for all matters relating to membership is [esaimembership@gmail.com](mailto:esaimembership@gmail.com). The postbox continues to be checked regularly!

Aidan Seery  
Membership Secretary

## **BURSARY SCHEME FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS TO SUPPORT CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

We are introducing a bursary scheme open to all our Associate members to support them attending the annual conference. We propose to award a maximum of **ten bursaries of €100 each** towards conference attendance costs. We deliberately charge our Associate members a subsidized conference fee but recognize that the cost of accommodation in particular can be daunting. The bursaries will be awarded to the ten best proposals for poster presentations submitted by 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007 to the Academic Conference Co-ordinator, Majella McSharry. Poster presentation proposals being submitted for consideration for the bursary scheme should address the conference theme. Submissions should be clearly marked for consideration for ESAI Bursary Scheme. Those who are successful will be notified by the beginning of February 2008.

### **ESAI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008: CALL FOR PAPERS**

Deadline for the submission of abstracts of papers, poster presentations and symposia is:  
FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007

### **RESEARCH, ETHICS AND DIVERSITY: INTERROGATING A NEW IRELAND**

The accelerating pace of socio-economic, cultural and curriculum changes as well as the challenges of recognising and undertaking research in increasingly diverse communities on the island of Ireland (North and South) are providing new opportunities and challenges for the professional preparation of all involved in education. Indicative of this new era in professional education are the following: the advent of professional doctorates in education, expansion of leadership and opportunities to specialise across the education sector (e.g. development of new areas of professional expertise in schools, colleges and education agencies such as early childhood, special education, educational psychology, scholarship of teaching, curriculum design, project evaluation), debates about the optimal conditions of initial teacher education (face-to-face, blended and

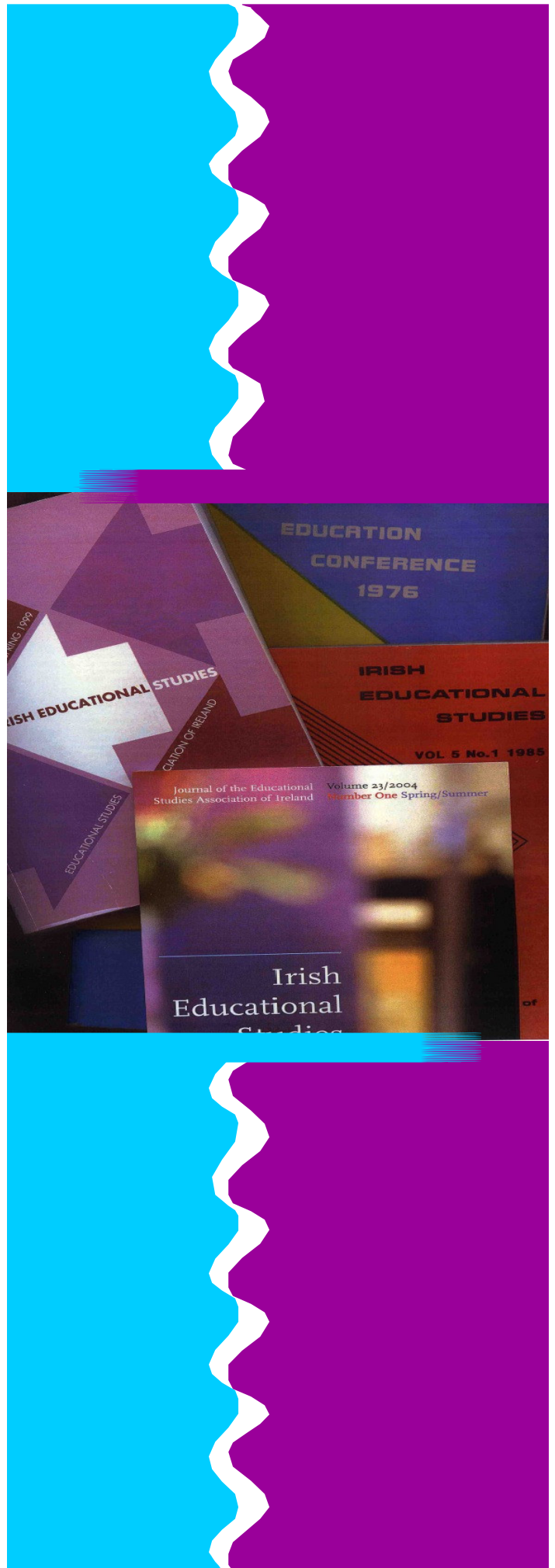
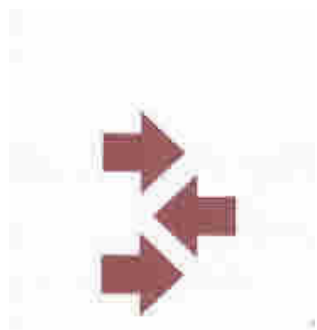
online), renewed emphasis on strengthening teachers' professional learning opportunities (e.g. induction, role of teaching support services, stronger models of continuing professional development), and unprecedented emphasis on professional standards, competences, qualifications and codes of conduct in education. ESAI's 2008 annual conference theme invites and encourages debate and critical engagement on how professional education presents both challenges and opportunities for all sectors of education (pre-school, primary, secondary, tertiary, adult and further education...etc.). Among these are the following:

- What challenges and opportunities do the new societal contexts on the island of Ireland present for educational researchers and practitioners?
- In light of the contemporary expansion and flux in professional education, what are the key issues and implications for the preparation and ongoing professional development of teachers, educational leaders, teacher educators, educational researchers and other professionals in education?
- What are the opportunities and challenges for the teaching and teacher education, on the island of Ireland, in the context of the teaching councils in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland?
- As the randomized controlled trial (RCT) emerges as a focus of policy-makers and 'gold standard' of research design in the USA, UK and elsewhere, what is the impact of this phenomenon on educational policy, approaches to research design, the professional preparation of educational researchers and research funding?

- What are the consequences of new lines of research funding for research, institutions, policy and professional education?
- The role of diverse research methods (e.g. RCTs, life-history, portraiture, meta-analyses, ethnography, data collection challenges, cross-sectional and longitudinal research) in research design and professional education of researchers.
- The role of research paradigms (positivist, interpretative and emancipatory), research methods (interviews, observation, survey....etc.).
- What are the key aspects of ethical research practice that ought to guide the design, enactment and communication of research for researchers in various different professional contexts?
- What is the role of the 'voice' of participants in research?
- How can the voices of a 'new Ireland' be recognised and included in the teacher education and development and research processes?

Submission forms are included with the Newsletter and are also available on the ESAI website: <http://www.esai.ie>

Submission forms should be emailed to [Majella.McSharry@dcu.ie](mailto:Majella.McSharry@dcu.ie) or posted to Dr. Majella McSharry, School of Education, DCU, Dublin 9, Republic of Ireland.



## Submission Form for Presenters at ESAI Annual Conference 2008

Name:	
Institution/Organisation:	
School (if applicable):	
Address for correspondence:	
Contact telephone number:	
Email address:	
Biographical details ( <i>3 sentences</i> )	
Type of presentation:	
Title of paper:	
Technical requirements:	

**Abstract 1:** (300 word abstract for consideration by reviewers for inclusion in the conference)

**Abstract 2:** (100 word abstract for inclusion in the Conference Book of Abstracts)

Signed:	
Date:	

Please post the completed form to: Dr. Majella McSharry  
School of Education Studies  
Dublin City University  
Glasnevin, Dublin 9

Alternatively you can email the completed form to: [majella.mcsharry@dcu.ie](mailto:majella.mcsharry@dcu.ie)

Completed forms must be received no later than **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007**.

Periodically the Educational Studies Association of Ireland may seek to use the contact information provided to inform you of upcoming events or to keep you in touch with important issues facing the Association. The information you provide will never be passed on to a third party for any purpose without your specific agreement.

If you **DO NOT** wish us to use your contact information in this manner please tick the following box