
ESAI Newsletter

March 2007

Newsletter of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland

Dear Colleagues

It is that time of year again – time to renew your membership and prepare for the annual conference. It seems incredible how quickly we have come to this point in the academic year!

Membership renewal 2007

We wish to remind people about the need to renew membership ahead of the **1st of May 2007** in order that you will be eligible to receive your copies of *Irish Educational Studies* for this calendar year. The rates for attendance at the conference are also significantly lower for ESAI members (whether individual or associate). If you have mislaid your membership form you can access an electronic copy on <http://www.esai.ie>.

32nd Annual Conference 2007

The theme of this year's conference is *The Quality of Education: Purposes, Policies and Practices*. A draft conference programme can be accessed on our website. We would advise those planning to attend the conference that this draft programme is subject to some changes should individual speakers need to change the time or day of their presentation. We will update the conference programme as required and suggest that you visit it occasionally ahead of the event.

Our keynote speaker on the Thursday evening to open the conference this year is Dr. Ciaran Sugrue, General Editor of *Irish Educational Studies*. We look forward to his address on the conference theme and have no doubt that his presentation will spark lively engagement and debate.

The conference will conclude this year with an optional two-hour workshop on the use of qualitative software provided by Dr. Oscar Odena of Queens University Belfast. This is a Scotens-funded event so there will be no additional cost for those conference delegates who wish to attend.

The conference will take place from 29th – 31st March and for the first time we will use a hotel venue. Over the last number of years it has become increasingly difficult as well as costly to access space in third level institutions during semesters and so the Executive decided to use a hotel, which frequently hosts education conferences. The Cavan Crystal Spa Hotel is our 2007 venue. It is located on the outskirts of Cavan town on the N3 as you approach from Dublin. The hotel has kept accommodation for the ESAI conference so we would strongly recommend that if you are planning to stay in the hotel you inform them when booking that you are attending the conference. Otherwise you will be told that the hotel is booked out! If you wish to stay in the

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vicinity we have put up a list of alternative accommodation on the website including other local hotels, B & Bs and self-catering options.

Registration for the conference is now underway. The registration form can be accessed on the ESAI's website (<http://www.esai.ie>). We would strongly recommend that those intending to come to the conference register ahead of the 20th March deadline for early registration as a discount applies up to that date. Full details of costs are included on the conference registration form.

An important element of the annual conference is always its social dimension. Following the keynote address and discussion on the opening night we will have our usual opening opportunity of the conference to catch up with old friends and make new ones. We have organised a four course buffet dinner for the Friday evening and there will also be live music and dancing!

Any queries relating to the conference should be directed to our Conference Secretary, Ms. Maria Feeney, either by email (Maria.Feeney@nuim.ie) or by post (Education Department, NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare).

AGM 5.30pm 30th March 2007, Cavan Crystal Spa Hotel

We would like to invite all ESAI members to put the time and date of the AGM in their diaries. As always there will be a number of vacancies on the Executive and we are keen to invite any members of the Association who are interested in becoming part of the Executive to attend the AGM and make themselves known. We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank those members of the Executive who are coming to the end of their 'tour of duty'.

Other announcements:

BOOK LAUNCH

Anne Hession and Patricia Kieran (eds.), *Exploring Theology: Making Sense of the Catholic Tradition*, Dublin: Veritas, 2007, 327pp. will take place in

Room 1, Purcell House Conference Centre, All Hallows College, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

on Monday May 14th, 2007 at 5.15 p.m.

CONFERENCE

Religion And The European Project: The Irish Contribution

Monday, 14 May 2007
All Hallows College, Gracepark Road, Dublin 3.

Tony.Lyons@mic.ul.ie
anne.lodge@nuim.ie