

ESAI Annual Conference 2012

Call for Papers

***Title:* Educational Research in a Time of Transformation: Insights, Influences and Impacts**

**Venue: University College Cork / River Lee Hotel,
Cork**

Date: 29th - 31st March 2012

The annual conference of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland will take place in Cork from March 29th to 31st 2012. This year's theme invites practitioners and researchers to reflect on and discuss the role played by educational research in this period of significant societal and systemic transformation.

It is perhaps something of an understatement to acknowledge that we are currently living through a period of social, economic and political transformation. At all levels of our society we are being forced to consider changes to how we organise key services and supports in a period when the overriding imperative is one of economic consolidation. Taken individually these changes are significant, taken as a group they are transformational.

Arguably the education sector has faced more challenges than most in recent times. Shrinking resources have seen staff numbers fall and core services diminish. External comment has called into question the value of much of what takes place at all levels of our education system, which in turn has seen a range of, at times radical changes proposed to address perceived as well as actual flaws. In this context educational research would seem to have a key role to play.

The entire education sector – and education for the profession – has witnessed a series of developments and proposals for change which have a potentially profound impact on policy and practice, from local to systemic level. These diverse developments offer a range of opportunities and challenges for practitioners, researchers and policy makers. They further highlight the need for a sound evidence-based approach to educational change as well as critical enquiry into underpinning philosophy, influences and potential impact, transformative or otherwise.

As well as experiencing change as an external force acting upon the education sector, education itself can be an active player in the transformation and creation of the future. Education as transformation takes a radical, critical and questioning approach to society and to individual consciousness. It is pivotally placed to engage in new and deep analysis and to apply analysis from other disciplines to real world problems. Educational research draws on a wide range of research traditions and approaches and can contribute significantly to evidence-based thinking and decision making. In so doing it can also extend our idea of what counts as evidence and move beyond short-term thinking and acceptance of the status quo as inevitable.

The Educational Studies Association of Ireland invites submissions that address, both nationally and / or internationally, the broad theme of educational research in a time of transformation. Presenters are asked to consider the extent to which the work they are engaged in has already or has the potential to influence the current series of debates and developments relating to educational provision policy and practice. In practical terms this might involve:

- An examination of the extent to which the current economic and political context is shaping education development, innovation and change
- An examination of how educational research is influencing discourse in the areas of policy and practice across the whole range of educational provision
- An examination of the impact of research at a local, regional, national and transnational level
- A critique of the national and international influences on educational provision · An analysis of the role of researchers and practitioners as translators of educational research for the wider community
- Speculative thinking to address possible transformative roles for education research

With its broad theme, we hope that the conference can bring together educational professionals from a range of sectors and roles (e.g. researchers, policymakers, teachers, leaders...etc.) from Ireland and beyond to discuss these important educational questions.

Please note that this year we will be using [an online conference system](#) to manage all paper submissions and registration.

Papers can be submitted at:

<http://ocs.sfu.ca/esai/>

Or

<http://www.esai.ie/conference2012>

The closing date for submissions is **Monday, January 9th 2012**