
ESAI Newsletter

November 2005

Newsletter of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland

President's Editorial

Our theme for annual conference 2006 is a useful reminder to us that while we may not, in Ireland, be in the most active phase of major policy change at the moment, we are in the implementation phase of the raft of legislation which has been put in place following the 1998 Education Act. This is not to say that policy issues, discussion and argument are far from the surface. A glance at the media's concerns would suggest that the Irish public are more concerned with health and transport issues, for example. Education, for the moment seems to have slipped down the list of high public priorities. Such a perception though is misleading.

Implementation of policy is arguably far more important than merely formulating, discussing and legislating for it. A fine policy which remains unimplemented is a fine folly. Michael Fullan's cautions about the difficulties of effecting change as distinct from talking about it are particularly relevant. The working through of the Education Act, The Universities Act, The Education Welfare Act, The Teaching Council Act, and many more, pose very real and difficult challenges for our society. Are we prepared, as a nation, to pay for our priorities in education? Some, in commercial sectors of society would argue that education is unproductive and an economic liability to society. Few in Education would agree choosing instead to see Education as the single most important investment in the future of our community, society and economy. Global trends have a bearing on this discussion.

Ivor Goodson, speaking at the ESAI & NCCA conference in Dublin Castle some years back spoke of the irresistible tide of global change, particularly in the context of political ideologies which attempt to reduce everything to a simple economic value. Thus the work of Education and of Educators must be costed and measured financially. This is not a problem so long as other measures of value are simultaneously applied.

So, as we continue through the phase of policy implementation in Ireland our ESAI annual conference 2006 provides a welcome opportunity for Educators to gather, to deliver papers, to listen and to discuss. We hope that as is customary, annual conference 2006 will provide an ever more stimulating forum for the gathering of Irish and international educators alike. We look forward to meeting you there.

Denis Bates
President
ESAI

ESAI 31st Annual Conference

The 31st annual conference of the ESAI will take place from 30th March to 1st April 2006 at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin. The Executive organising committee and the local committee at NCAD have been working very hard to plan what promises to be an excellent conference in great centre city location. The organisers would like to encourage educators from the wide field of educational endeavour to participate. Please spread the word and encourage

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people to get involved. See below for the call for papers.

**ESAI ANNUAL CONFERENCE
2006: CALL FOR PAPERS**

**National College of Art and
Design, Dublin
March 30th – April 1st 2006**

**RETHINKING
EDUCATIONAL POLICIES
AND PRACTICES IN AN
ERA OF GLOBALISATION:
CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES**

Globalisation, over the last few years, has become one of the defining issues in international discourse across a range of professional fields and disciplines. For some globalisation is a solution to many problems, for others globalisation itself is the problem. In the current wave of globalisation, one of the major educational features is a restructuring of the school-society relationship in terms of attention to subject matter content, approaches to teaching, and accountability regarding the outcomes of schooling at school and systemic levels. Some scholars argue that the current wave of globalisation has led to increased attention to pedagogies oriented toward problem solving and a heightened emphasis on issues of efficiency; note, for example, the growing importance accorded to performance in mathematical, scientific and reading literacy tests. This year's annual conference theme focuses on how globalisation 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:

- Ø Given that education systems are, more often than not, charged with developing cultural identities, how does globalisation impact identity formation in education?
- Ø In what ways is educational policy-making shaping and being shaped by globalisation discourses?
- Ø As some curricular areas (e.g. science, mathematics and technology; languages) emerge as the focus of policy-making, what is the impact of such a focus on these and other curricular areas?
- Ø What is the relationship between the goal of developing a knowledge society and globalisation?
- Ø How can educational systems and educationalists respond to and shape discourses on social and economic development nationally and internationally?
- Ø How do concepts such as learning to learn and life-long learning relate, if at all, to globalisation?
- Ø What are the links between globalisation and influential features of today's educational landscape such as marketisation, managerialism and supra-national frameworks?
- Ø How are the dynamics of policy borrowing and policy lending changing in the context of globalisation?

**Date for submission of proposals:
Friday January 20th 2006**

Submission forms are available on the ESAI website: <http://www.esai.ie/>

Irish Educational Studies

Volume 25 (1) 2006 of the official journal of the ESAI has been published by Taylor and Francis. This marks a new era for both the journal and ESAI. The relationship with Taylor and Francis will allow the journal to grow and acquire an international standing. However, this welcome development binds ESAI to undertakings that will make significant demands both on the Editorial Board and the Executive. Not least among these are the financial obligations that ESAI has assumed under the contract. The Executive is working to manage these changes in the best interest of the Association.

Apologies!!!

The publication of the last issue of IES was a matter of great satisfaction following the successful contract negotiations with Taylor and Francis. However, some members were not able to enjoy the event on the day, as they did not receive their copy with the initial mailing. This was due to an administrative error linked with the membership database. The problem has been rectified and we believe that all members have now received their copy. We apologise for the delay.

Scholarly Articles Research Alerting

Taylor and Francis also offers a number of online services, one of which is SARA. This is an email contents alerting service that delivers tables of contents for more than 1050 journals. The service is free. All that is necessary is to register and indicate

categories, titles and keywords of interest. The service then alerts you of the contents of journals in your chosen areas in advance of the printed edition.

Information can be found at www.tandf.co.uk/sara. At the time of printing this newsletter, 82 ESAI members had signed up to the service. It is hoped that many more members will avail of the service in the future.

Institutional subscribers to the print version of IES can also enjoy online access. More information on this can be found at www.tandf.co.uk/online.

ESAI Website

While on the topic of online services, let us give a particular mention to the ESAI website at www.esai.ie. The site is under the capable direction of Josephine Boland (NUIG) and Martin Ryan (AIT). Work continues to make the site the association's principal point of contact with its membership and the public at large. Two large scale tasks are in hand: the publication of the register of theses and the indices of IES back issues.

Conference Calls and Funding Opportunities

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) ESRC-Irish Collaborative Projects

The Economic and Social Research Council and the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences welcome applications for collaborative projects involving UK and Irish social scientists.

Closing Date: None

Web Link:

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/international/BilateralAgreements.aspx>

Forthcoming international interdisciplinary conference Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania

Language, Diversity and Integration in the Enlarged EU: Challenges and Opportunities

12 - 14 May 2006

CALL FOR PAPERS

We welcome papers in the following areas:

Language issues in relation to ethnicity, citizenship, class, gender
o Language ideologies and public discourse
o Language policy, language rights and language practices
o Multilingualism and cross-cultural communication
o Language and education

Please submit your paper proposals (max. 300 words) online by 20 February 2006.

For more information and an online registration form please visit our website <http://www.vdu.lt/LTcourses/?pg=112&lang=2&menu_id=57>.

E-learning Conference

University of Ulster
Thursday 19 January 2006

The aim of this one-day conference is to raise awareness of the benefits of using on-line technologies in supporting teaching, learning and assessment, with particular emphasis on the inclusivity of e-learning.

Speakers include:

Lawrence Hamburg, Senior Adviser for E-learning, Higher Education Academy

Lawrie Phipps, Senior Adviser for Higher Education with the JISC-funded TechDis Service

John Traxler, Director of the Applied Innovative Digital Technologies Research Group at the University of Wolverhampton

Please note that a reduced 'early bird' fee will apply for all applications received before 9 December 2005.

Further details and booking forms are available on the Conference Website <<http://www.ulster.ac.uk/staffdev/e-conference.phtml>>

CALL FOR PAPERS

8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

May 25-28, 2006

Athens, Greece

The Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) will hold its 8th International Conference in Athens, Greece, May 25-28, 2006 on Education.

Participation can be as panel organizer, presenter of one paper, chair a session or observer. Papers (in English) from all areas of education are welcome. Selected papers will be published in a Special Volume of the Conference Proceedings or Edited Books. For Books and Proceedings of previous conferences you may visit www.atiner.gr for table of contents and order forms.

Please submit a 300-word abstract by December 5th, 2005, by email (education@atiner.gr) or mail, to: Dr. Gregory T. Papanikos, Director, Athens

Institute for Education and Research (ATINER), 8 Valaoritou Street, Kolonaki, 10671 Athens, Greece. Tel. + 30 210 363 4210 Fax: + 30 210 3634-209. Abstracts should include: Title of Paper, Family Name(s), First Name(s), Affiliation (Institution), Current Position, an email address and at least 3 keywords that best describe the subject of your submission.

Some New Appointments

Dr. Frank Flanagan (MIC) has been appointed by the NUI as External Examiner for Postgraduate research degrees in Education at UCC for the three-year term 2004-2007. Dr. Eugene Wall (MIC) has been appointed as External Examiner to the B.Ed and H.Dip. in Education programmes in TCD until the end of 2007. Dr. Patricia Kieran (MIC) has been appointed as External Examiner to the Religious Education component of the B.Ed. degree at the University of Glasgow. Dr. Donal O Donoghue (MIC) has been appointed a member of a review team to select a Graduate Dissertation exemplifying the work of Arts- Based Educational Research (ABER)

Ceapadh an Dr. Eilís Ní Dheá (MIC) mar Chomhalta ar Bhord Rialuchain Scoil an Leinn Cheiltigh, Instituid Ard-Leinn, BAC, ag Uachtaran na hÉireann agus ar chomhairle an Aire Oideachais, M.Ní Ainifin.

Dr. Maria Gravani, formerly of Bristol University has been appointed Research Development Officer at the School of Education at Trinity College Dublin. Dr. Aidan Seery has been appointed lecturer in Education at Trinity College Dublin to assist strategic development and will lecture in the Philosophy of Education on the retirement of Prof. J. V. Rice after 39 years as Chair of Education.

Some Recent Publications

Flanagan F. (MIC) Greatest Educators Ever, Continuum International Publishing Group (November 30, 2005) ISBN: 0826484670 (hardcover), 0826484689 (Paperback)

Kieran P. (MIC) and Hession A (St. Patrick's College, Dublin) Children, Catholicism and Religious Education, Veritas, Dublin(2005)

Miscellaneous

Press Release for Interim Report of Working Together Project (17 November 2005)

The Working Together Project, a partnership between Mary Immaculate College and disadvantaged Limerick City schools has just released its interim report. The project is aimed at promoting positive behaviour in the primary school.

By working with teachers, children and parents in 3 schools in Limerick City over the past 4 years the project has shown how schools can build an approach to behaviour that is acceptable to all, particularly students, teachers and parents.

The participating Primary Schools are Corpus Christi, Moyross; Queen of Peace, Janesboro; and St. Mary's Boys' School, King's Island in Limerick.

The Interim Report was presented to Ms Mary Hanafin, Minister for Education, by Dr. Claire W. Lyons, Mary Immaculate College, at a special function in the College on 28 October 2005.

Working Together is a joint project of the Centre for Educational Disadvantage Research (CEDR) and the Targeting Educational Disadvantage (TED) Project

at Mary Immaculate College and is funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies.

For further information and/or copies of the report, please contact:

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OR

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061/204545 (work). E-mail:

sharon.barry@mic.ul.ie

France and closer to home. The conference was officially opened by Ms Síle de Valera, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science.

The keynote speaker was Professor Jagdish Gundara, UNESCO, chair of Intercultural Studies and Teacher Education at the Institute of Education, University of London. Other speakers included Dr Derick Wilson (UU), Dr Dympna Devine (UCD), Signe Marie Natvig Andreassen (school principal, Oslo), Dr Roland Tormey (UL), Mr Tom Boland (HEA), Professor John Coolahan (NUIM) and Dr Pauric Travers of St. Patrick's College (DCU) Dublin.

Past Events

ECER 2005, DUBLIN

The European Conference on Educational Research took place between 7 - 10 September 2005 at University College Dublin. The conference theme was: *'Education and Knowledge Economies'* and the keynote speakers were Professor Kathleen Lynch, Co-ordinator of the Equality Studies Centre, UCD and Professor Dr Marek Kwiek, Director of the Centre for Public Policy and Department of Philosophy, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland. A Post Graduate and New Researchers' Pre-Conference took place prior to the main conference on 5 - 6 September 2005. The very successful conference attracted a large number of participants, presentations and papers. Congratulations to the organisers of this prestigious event!

SCoTENS

The annual conference of **SCoTENS**, the standing committee on teacher education, north and south, was held in Malahide on 10-11 November. The theme of the conference - 'Teacher Education for Citizenship in Diverse Societies' - was timely given recent developments in

The Newsletter

The newsletter has new editors. They are Dr. Tony Lyons, MIC (Tony.Lyons@mic.ul.ie) and Dr. Aidan Seery, TCD (seerya@tcd.ie). News of events, publications, appointments and developments that might be of interest to the membership of ESAI are always welcome. These can be sent to either editor.

The future form of the newsletter is under discussion at present. The Executive would like to consult the membership at conference and through the website on the desirability of changing from a print to an electronic version. If you have any suggestions on the matter please contact the editors.