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# ESAI Newsletter

November 2006

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*Newsletter of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland*

## IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The ESAI is very keen to ensure that its members derive maximum benefit and value from their involvement with the organisation. Consequently, over the course of the last two years, the ESAI and *Irish Educational Studies* (IES) have developed a new and exciting relationship with Taylor and Francis (now called Routledge) whereby IES (ESAI's journal - now in its 25th volume) is printed, marketed and distributed by Routledge. This has resulted in a much improved and more effective distribution of the journal with 9,000 libraries accessing the journal through EBSCO all round the world (up on a distribution of 250 approximately prior to our relationship with Routledge).

A number of implications for both the ESAI and IES flow directly from the need to meet production and distribution deadlines including, crucially, the need to streamline our membership renewal so that Routledge can print the appropriate number of journals per volume and issue. In this context, we would like to draw your attention to some new arrangements concerning membership and the corresponding receipt of the three annual issues of the *Irish Educational Studies* journal, in particular.

- From January 2007, membership of the ESAI will be operated on a calendar-year basis. Hence, in the context of next year's membership for example, membership reminders will be issued in November 2006, by email wherever possible or by post, as required. All members who subscribe **on/before May 1, 2007** will receive the three issues of *Irish Educational Studies* for that calendar year. However, for administrative reasons, only members who renew their membership **on/before 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007** will receive the first issue of *Irish Educational Studies* by the due date. The second posting of this volume will not take place until after the May 1 deadline has passed. Therefore, members are encouraged to renew/subscribe to the organisation as soon after receipt of the membership reminder as possible.
- Members who subscribe **after 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007** will not receive copies of the IES journals for that year; however, they will be entitled to all of the other membership benefits including receiving

ESAI NEWSLETTER

newsletters and other communications, as well as reduced cost for attendance at ESAI events. Their membership will run to the end of 2008 and they will receive the three issues of

*Irish Educational Studies* for the calendar-year 2008.

## **ESAI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007 CALL FOR PAPERS**

Deadline for the submission of abstracts of papers, poster presentations and symposia is:  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

### **THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION: PURPOSES, POLITICS, AND PRACTICES**

In education, like other sectors of society, regulations, work cultures and accountability practices to define, support, appraise and ensure the provision of 'quality service' have become agenda setting features for contemporary professional practice. This year's ESAI annual conference theme focuses on how understanding, supporting and appraising the quality of education presents both challenges and opportunities for

all sectors of education (pre-school, primary, secondary, tertiary, adult and further education...etc.). For example, new definitions and concerns about the quality of education are reflected in a range of terms which have become more central to educational debate over the last decade including value for money, value-added measures, 'vetting of teachers', evaluation, professional self-regulation, accountability, league tables and ranking,...etc. A range of issues emerge in considering ESAI 2007's conference theme including:

- ? Given that education systems address competing aims and purposes, what does this mean for how educators and wider society understand, experience and appraise the quality of education?
- Ø In what ways are the metrics for measuring quality impacting purposes, politics and practices in education?
- ? To what extent and how are curriculum, pedagogy and assessment being shaped by discourse on the quality of education?
- ? What is the relationship

between the goal of developing a knowledge society and the quality of education?

- Ø Whose interests are best served in the drive toward quality education?
- ? How can educational systems and educationalists respond to and shape discourses on quality education and local, national and international levels?
- ? How do concepts such as learning to learn and life-long learning relate, if at all, to quality of education?
- Ø How are trans-national agencies shaping and being shaped by the 'quality of education' imperative?

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

## CONFERENCE VENUE AND DATES

**Cavan Crystal Hotel,  
Dublin Road, Cavan**

**29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

We strongly recommend that those who plan to come to the Annual Conference check out the accommodation options listed on the ESAI website under Annual Conference. These include two hotels, a number of B & Bs and self-catering options. We also suggest that you make an early reservation.

## Important Notice - Electronic Newsletter

The editors welcome submissions from members for the newsletter. With this number, we have moved to an electronic version only. This should provide the opportunity to produce a more frequent and more current newsletter at a fraction of the present costs of production and distribution. We look forward to promoting the ESAI newsletter as an efficient means of distributing information about new publications, conferences, events and courses. Submissions can be made either to Tony Lyons, ([Tony.Lyons@mic.ul.ie](mailto:Tony.Lyons@mic.ul.ie)) or to Aidan Seery ([seerya@tcd.ie](mailto:seerya@tcd.ie))

**If you do not wish / are unable to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter which we will email to members please contact ESAI, c/o Drumcondra Education Centre, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 in writing requesting that a hard copy of the Newsletter be posted to your current address.**

**QUEEN 'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**  
**ESAI-BERA EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH SEMINAR**

*Funded by the Centre for Cross Border Studies and the Standing Conference of  
Teacher Educators –North and South (SCoTENS); facilitated by the Educational  
Studies Association of Ireland and the British Educational Research Association*

DECEMBER 6, 2006 AT QUEEN 'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Are you interested in finding out about the principles and practices  
of working with young people and children in educational  
research?

Would you like to talk with members of journal editorial teams  
about how to get published?

If YES to either, have a look at the attached programme for the  
ESAI-BERA Research Seminar on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Queen 's.

Attendance is FREE and lunch is provided

The seminar is restricted to 30 participants

Preference will be given to research students and researchers new  
to research.

Why not sign up?

Send your details (by email or by completing the slip below) to:

Jo Wilson ([joanne.wilson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.wilson@qub.ac.uk))

School of Education, Queen 's University, 69 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HL

-----TEAR OFF AND RETURN-----

I wish to attend the ESAI-BERA Educational Research Seminar on December 6<sup>th</sup> at  
Queen 's

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Research Student:  Research Assistant/Fellow  Academic Staff

**(See ESAI website under 'Theme Conference 'for further  
information and programme of day 's events)**