

'Delivering social cohesion through education in Northern Ireland: concepts and contradictions'

Northern Ireland has a deeply divided education system with demarcation most notable along ethno/religious and social class lines. The former is largely attributable to the historical organization of the schools estate based on religion, and social segregation is associated with a system of academic selection that channels children into Grammar and non-selective post-primary schools according to their performance in tests taken during the final year of primary school. Drawing on social cohesion theory, I will suggest a 'not easily reconcilable' tension between the class based animating principles governing the grammar system, and the intergroup relations or shared future imperatives for education that have driven school-based peacebuilding efforts in Northern Ireland.

Professor Joanne Hughes MBE | FAcSS | UNESCO Chair | Director of the Centre for Shared Education |
School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work | 028 9097
5934 | <https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforSharedEducation/>