



CREEW'S News

Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work

(a research concentration within HRISS)

January – April 2007

Welcome to the first edition of CREEW's News 2007 and a warm welcome also to our new members. This year we are publishing on a bi-monthly basis and hope you will enjoy this newsletter and feel free to contribute whenever you have items of interest to share. We are adding a Director's column this year, particularly so that we can keep abreast of the changes that are taking place around us – so thankyou Alan for agreeing to keep us informed.

Roger, we have all enjoyed your friendship, work, guidance and impressive achievements at the helm of CREEW and are pleased that you will still be with us as a valued CREEW member, and we all join to wish you well with your continuing research in the very important area of VET.

Miriam McLean, Editor

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Director's column

Welcome to the first CREEW's News for 2007.

At the CREEW planning day in February, members agreed that despite the changes in organisation and structure within HRISS we wanted to maintain the ways in which CREEW had functioned over the past few years. It was understood that this aspiration would be tempered by the fact that CREEW has a much reduced infrastructure budget (resources are now controlled centrally in the HRISS office).

It has been decided to keep the CREEW's News going in 2007 but to distribute it every two-three months rather than every month. This section of the news is designed to keep you in touch with general research and management issues.

The CREEW Management Committee in 2007 comprises the 6 HRISS designated key researchers (Roger Harris, Bruce Johnson, Alan Reid, Michele Simons, Tom Stehlik and Peter Willis), a PhD student representative (Ann Lawless) and a researcher representative (Judy Peters). Since the planning day, the Management Committee has met three times. I can report that:

- All members of CREEW will have the designation 'researcher' (as opposed to the three categories that were proposed at the planning day). The designation 'key researcher' will be used for HRISS purposes only;
- We will maintain the CREEW seminar series in 2007, providing members and visiting scholars with the opportunity to explore some of their research ideas with colleagues. Peter Willis has developed a seminar program which will be distributed shortly. Seminars will also be separately advertised.
- Monthly management meetings will be followed by a 'hothouse' seminar in which key researchers will take it in turns to explore a specific research problematic with which they are grappling. These topics will be advertised before each meeting and members are warmly invited to attend.
- CREEW has been allocated 1.1 Research Assistant support by HRISS. I am pleased to announce that Katie Maher has been appointed as 0.5 RA and has already started working with us. We warmly welcome her to CREEW. The Management Committee is now looking to fill the other 0.6 position.
- All supported researchers in the University have been asked to complete an individual research portfolio for the RQF process. Information about the RQF can be found on the University website.

Professor Alan Reid

Director, CREEW, a research concentration in HRISS

Message from our outgoing Director

Transferring the CREEW leadership

At the beginning of this year, Alan Reid took over the reins of CREEW. I wish him all the very best, and look forward to the further blossoming of our group under his leadership. It was time for a change. The subsuming of CREEW within the HRISS, the return of Alan from many important reviews that he had been involved in over the past several years, coupled with my increasing involvement in the Rail CRC, meant that the time was

opportune for a shift within CREEW. I leave the Directorship with sadness but a strong belief that the group needs new leadership at this time. I look back over the past 12 to 13 years and am gladdened by what I see. We have grown from just a seed with a project or so, to a significant University-recognised Centre, a flagship within the social sciences and humanities in this University, with over 40 higher degree candidates, a very substantial income from research grants and a critical mass of research performers as reflected in our count of Supported Researchers. But equally as important, as I said at our February Planning Workshop, has been the camaraderie, friendship, support of each other, collegialism – the “spirit” of CREEW. I believe that that has continuously sustained us at times of institutional shuffling, policy shifts and/or personal upheaval. May we all continue to sustain CREEW, uplift each other and give Alan as much support as you have all given me over this period. I look forward to continuing on in CREEW with you all!

Professor Roger Harris

Publications

- A report published last week by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) was the culmination of a national research project undertaken during 2005 by researchers from the Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work at Mawson Lakes, a constituent of the Hawke Research Institute. The report entitled *Learning collaborations between ACE and vocational education and training providers: Good practice partnerships*, was written by **Sue Gelade, Tom Stehlik** and **Peter Willis**. It includes a separately published *Good Practice Guide* as well as an online support document located on the NCVER website.
- **Ann Lawless** has had three book reviews published, one in an international journal and two in Australian journals:
 - Lawless, A. November 2006. Book Review of M Newman's *“Teaching Defiance”* Australian Journal of Adult Learning, vol 46, no 3, pp. 459-465.
 - Lawless, A. November 2006. Book Review of K King's *Bringing transformative learning to life*. Australian Journal of Adult Learning, vol 46, no 3, pp. 440-444.
 - Lawless, A. February 2007. Brief Review of Constantine and Sue's Addressing racism in health and educational settings. Brief reviews section, Education Review, a journal of book reviews.
- **Ann Lawless** and **Barbara Sedorkin** have had a short publication accepted in the April edition of Australian Journal of Adult Learning. Titled 'Entering research' it describes how a casual lunchtime conversation led to the formation of a research team.
- **Alan Reid** (2007) 'An anatomy of the attacks on Australian education', *Idiom*, Vol. 43. No. 1. pp. 5-8.
- **Faye McCallum** and L. Burrows (2007) Wellbeing: a core principle on which to base teacher preservice program

development and delivery. *Education Connect*, issue 8, pp. 9-11

Seminar Program

Thanks to all who attended the following seminars:

- **Friday 9th March - Rob Steventon**
Rob's seminar focused on issues associated with the education of boys.
- **Friday 23rd March - Professor Philipp Gonon, University of Zurich, Switzerland**
Philipp spoke about the Swiss VET system and its developmental dynamics and then integrated this into the international theory debate on the institutional form of VET.

We encourage you to volunteer now if you would like to be added to the seminar presentation list. Our membership is growing and we are interested to hear from new members sometime during the year. If you would like to slot into the schedule please contact Miriam.mclean@unisa.edu.au.

Professor Philipp Gonon pictured after the seminar with Roger Harris and Peter Willis



Hothouse Seminars

The 'hothouse' seminar this month was led by Michele Simons and Roger Harris and titled *Using cognitive interviewing in developing research instruments*. They involved us in a discussion about designing survey instruments (interviews, questionnaires) and the use of cognitive interviews to facilitate this process. It was held on Friday May 4, 3.00pm – 4.00pm, in Room G3-06.

Centre News

- The CREEW planning day was held on 13th February at The Mawson Lakes Hotel function room. The Annual Report was distributed to members on the day. This Report documents all achievements by CREEW members, many of which are gleaned from the CREEW's News - so please keep us up to date with your activities.



Projects

- **Heather Foster, Robert Crotty and Michael O'Donoghue**, with the support of Janet Barelli and Philip Paasuke from the Flexible Learning Centre, having won a \$60,000 consultancy from Open University Australia to develop five new courses in Religion Studies over the next two years. These courses will be developed in online format with the technical support of Philip Paasuke. Together with the existing OUA religion courses, Religion Studies: the Long Search and Religion Studies: Myth, Ritual and the Sacred, they will enable students to complete a major in Religion Studies. The new courses are; Islam: past and present; Religions of the Ancient World; Religions of Asia; Christian Scriptures; Contemporary Issues in Religion.
- The project 'Skilling for development: Matching needs and learning in regional Australia' is now at the first progress report stage and soon **Sue Gelade** and a colleague from QUT will be off to sunny Cairns and cooler Limestone Coast to interview industry representatives. Many thanks go to a new addition to CREEW, Anne Morrison, for the hard work in data retrieval and presentation that has gone into the tables and charts required.
- The Adult and Vocational Education and Social Sustainability project (AVESS), now almost a year into its project life, is engaged in finalising the book from the symposium discussions held after Easter last year. We have been able to secure the services of Stephen McKenzie, although no longer directly attached to HRISS and in fact based in the Pacific at Honiara in the Solomons. Thanks to the magic of Broadband, Stephen has been able to take up some of the editorial work he was doing in this project towards the end of last year. We are waiting to finalise the contract for the collection of the AVESS essays as a book in the Springer series.

Conferences and Presentations

- **Tom Stehlik** presented a refereed paper entitled *Schooling vs education: (Re)engaging early school leavers in meaningful learning through whole-of-community approaches to learning as part of social inclusion initiatives in South Australia*, at the New Zealand Association for Research in Education (NZARE) National Conference in Rotorua, 5 – 8 December, 2006.
- **Alan Reid** was an invited participant at the first meeting of the newly formed national committee of key professional associations held in Melbourne, Airport Hilton, Friday 9 February 2007. The committee has been formed to influence the national curriculum debate.
- **Alan Reid** was an invited participant at a national seminar of 15 curriculum scholars organised by Professor Allan Luke and held at QUT, Brisbane on Friday 16 February 2007.
- **Alan Reid** and **Judith Gill** presented a paper – ‘Democracy, citizenship and citizenship education: Ties to the Nation or Bridges to the World?’ - at the invited international civics education conference held at Sydney University, 27 – 29 April, 2007
- **Roger Harris** (2007) ‘Unravelling the notion of organisational capability: What do writers say it is and VET providers think it is?’, paper for the Annual National Conference of AVETRA, Victoria University, Melbourne, 11-13 April.
- **Roger Harris** and Berwyn Clayton (2007) ‘Towards a synthesis of key findings from the National VET Research Consortium, “Supporting VET providers in building capability for the future”’, paper for the Annual National Conference of AVETRA, Victoria University, Melbourne, 11-13 April
- **Roger Harris** and **Michele Simons** (2007) will present the following refereed papers in Northern Ireland and England in July:
‘Interrogating the role of adult and community education providers’, paper for the SCUTREA Annual Conference, Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 3-5 July

“‘To me career means ...’: What staff employed in VET organisations say about their working lives as careers’, paper for the Researching VET, 7th International Conference, Worcester College, Oxford University, 6-8 July
- Philipp Gonon and **Roger Harris** (2007) ‘VET systems in Switzerland and Australia – how flexibly do they respond to actual needs/developments?’, paper for the Researching VET, 7th International Conference, Worcester College, Oxford University, 6-8 July
- **Michele Simons**, **Tom Stehlik** and **Alan Reid** were invited participants in a Social Science Academy funded seminar on part time senior secondary students, held at the University of South Australia, Thursday 22 February, 2007.

- **Faye McCallum** was invited to address the DECS Core Professional Learning Day on March 9 2007 with a presentation titled, 'Creating Enabling Conditions for Inquiring into Wellbeing.'
- **Judith Gill** was a facilitator at the Deliberative Poll in Canberra on March 2- 4 on the issue of Muslims and non-Muslims in Australia. This poll was the third national poll initiated by Hawke Associate Dr Pam Ryan and her team at Issues Deliberations Australia and marked a significant involvement by the University in broad ranging Public Education. A/Prof Gill will present a seminar on her experience at five of these polls in the CREEW seminar series later in the year.
- **Andrew Wojecki** gave a paper discussion titled 'I am not a learner: implications of identity construction in workplace learning' at the American Educational Research Association's annual conference in Chicago, April 9-13, 2007.

Due to interest in the paper, Andrew was asked to present it as a formal presentation, as well.

During the conference, Andrew was elected as the International member-at-large for the Workplace Learning SIG (special interest group) to coordinate communication amongst all international members, and to further contribute toward the aim of increasing international participation within the Workplace Learning SIG at future AERA conferences.

- **Helen Raduntz** *Trends towards the privatisation of Intellectual Property: A Marxian progress report for Educators and Education Researchers*® Refereed paper RAD06109 presented at the Conference of the Australian Association for Research in Education, Adelaide, South Australia, 26-30 November 2006.
- **Helen Raduntz** *Towards a Critical Democratic Pedagogy: a Marxian Critique*® Refereed paper RAD06110 presented at the Conference of the Australian Association for Research in Education, Adelaide, South Australia, 26-30 November 2006.
- A symposium in the American Educational Research Association conference in Chicago 9-13 April explored the concept of 'Funds of Knowledge', with presentations from School of Education/Hawke Research Institute researchers, led by Rob Hattam, Sam Sellar, **Brenton Prosser**, **Bill Lucas**, Lew Zipin and **Marie Brennan**. Pat Thomson, now at Nottingham, and a South African colleague completed the symposium, which also had as discussant a foremost exponent of the concept, Prof Luis Moll from Arizona State University.
- **Judith Gill** presented a paper at the recent AERA (American Educational Research Association) conference held in April in Chicago entitled "'I still wanna be an engineer"! Women, education and the engineering profession'.
- **Roger Harris** was invited to Thessaloniki, Greece. His reflections follow:

I was recently invited by CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training – CEDEFOP is the French acronym!) to speak at AGORA XXV whose topic was “Higher education and VET”. This is a hot topic in Europe at this time, and evidently, someone saw a report that I, Bob Sumner and Linda Rainey had written called *Student traffic: two-way student movement between VET and HE* (2005) and then followed up with a second report, *Crazy paving or stepping stones? Learning pathways within and between VET and HE* (2006). I received the letter of invitation which among other things, said, “... as you show in your book, Student Traffic ... This is original, promising and interesting for the EU countries and we would be happy if you could accept”. Well, since they were going to pay, I couldn't say no, could I! I was actually the only non-EU-based person participating.

Postgraduate News

Postgraduate students have always been part of CREEW and the new Concentration will continue to have a place on its Management Committee for postgraduate research students. The representative is currently **Ann Lawless**. A student report was tabled at the recent annual planning forum.

Achievements

- Congratulations to **Bruce Johnson** on his recent promotion to the professorial position in Primary Education based at Magill. The contributions made by Bruce to the Centre, School and the Division over many years have been outstanding and we at CREEW are delighted to have another Professor in our midst. The key researchers and several students celebrated with Bruce following the Key Researcher meeting and Hothouse seminar on Friday 4th May.
- **Ann Lawless** has been accepted into a master class run by the Centre for Post-Colonial Studies. The title of the master class is *Theorising Transcultural Processes; Diaspora, Identity, Technology*.

One outcome of the master class is that participants will be invited to contribute a chapter to a collection of essays which will be published by Professor Pal Ahluwalia's publisher, Routledge.

The classes will be led by international and national experts from a variety of academic disciplines, including Professor Michael Dutton (Professor of Politics, Goldsmith College, University of London) and Professor Couze Venn (Theory, Culture and Society Centre, Nottingham Trent University) under the overall direction of Professor Pal Ahluwalia (UniSA) and Dr Norman Porter (UniSA).

- **Nerilee Flint** submitted her thesis 'Undergraduate university students' perceptions of the fairness of educational assessment: a grounded theory study' on 24 April. Bruce Johnson was her supervisor; Dianne Bills was her associate supervisor.
- A Religion and Education Research Group formed earlier this year as a sub group of CREEW. The group is concerned with

promoting and supporting individual and collaborative research endeavours in the areas of 'Religion' and 'Religion and Education'. An intention of the group is to foster scholarship and to provide a forum where working papers can be presented in a supportive, critical environment. The group has to date conducted two seminars, one facilitated by **Robert Crotty** on the general topic of research and, the second by **Michael O'Donoghue** on Islamic Jihad. Further sessions have been scheduled, the next by **Clare Hay** 'Teaching scripture in a tertiary setting'. The group will also be involved in a CREEW Hothouse forum. Once established the intention is to expand the group to include adjunct members and to provide a forum for postgraduate student involvement. The role of Facilitator is currently being undertaken by **Heather Foster**.

Teaching and Learning

Among those honoured at the opening ceremony of the Elizabeth Special School's New Facilities on 11 April, were **Jan Coker**, PhD candidate in education and former coordinator of Advanced Design Methodology and Senior Lecturer **Richard Coker**, LLS School of Architecture and Design. The design for the facilities was the work of Shoshanna Roberts, at that time a student in Advanced Design Methodology and Final Year industrial design studio.

Profiles

- *Professor Philipp Gonon* was a visiting researcher from the University of Zurich, Switzerland from the 19 – 30 March. He was born in Flensburg (Germany), and spent his childhood in Spain, Germany and Switzerland.

He studied law and journalism (1974-76) at the University in Fribourg (Switzerland), graduated in Pedagogy after Studies of Education in Berlin and Zürich (1976-1982), undertook research projects (1982-86) in the field of workplace learning and earning biographies at the University of Berne (Switzerland) while working part-time as a teacher in general subjects at a vocational school in Zürich.

From 1986 – 1992, he was a research assistant and lecturer at the University in Berne, and his PhD thesis was about Georg Kerschensteiner, school and work. In 1993 he was a Visiting Scholar at the Institute of Education, University of London, and in 1997 Senior Lecturer and Habilitation about the International Argument in VET-Reforms at the University in Berne. From 1999-2004, he was appointed for a Chair of Lifelong Learning at the University of Trier (Germany), and since 2004, Professor for VET and Teacher Training at the University of Zürich.

Professor Gonon's research interests are: international comparative approach to VET and further education, philosophy and history of (vocational) education, and quality assurance and evaluation.

- *Anne Morrison* joined us late last year as a sessional research assistant, is in the final stages (editorial and examination submission) of her PhD with the School of

Communications. If there is anything you ever want to know about Egyptian hieroglyphics, ask Anne, as her PhD has been the writing of a text book on the subject, which will hopefully go to commercial print following the conferral of the PhD. She has also been working at the Art Gallery of SA presenting a demonstration of hieroglyphics related to the Treasures of Ancient Egypt exhibition. Anne will remain as a part time researcher with the School until the end of this year.

- *Lisa Davies* joined Uni SA at Underdale in mid 1993 to undertake her PhD. Prior to this she had many years in HR and Education roles, having been the Human Resources Manager and HR consultant for the Adelaide branch of a software development organisation and a lecturer, instructor, adult educator and management consultant in the private and public sectors. During this time Lisa developed a strong interest in research associated with work place learning and is currently engaged in the latter stages of writing her PhD thesis, *A qualitative investigation into workplace cultures and organisational learning in the deregulated Information Technology sector in South Australia*. She has also been engaged for 3 years in the School of Education at Uni SA teaching external students in the Bachelor of Education: Adult, Vocational and Workplace Learning and internal students in Approaches to Learning. Lisa's first degree was a BA majoring in psychology and English at The University of Adelaide.
- *Katie Maher's* background is rather varied. She has recently returned to Australia after several years working with community organisations such as Save the Children in China and other parts of South East Asia. Aside from enabling her to gain valuable hands on experience in participatory research, this work provided her with a range of opportunities for working on grant applications and literature reviews, as well as research reports and publications on education and equity issues. Prior to this Katie was engaged in various education and development support programmes with Indigenous and minority communities in Australia and China. As for her university based work experience, she spent two years working as a research assistant with the School of Teacher Education at Charles Sturt University, several years tutoring through the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme and a semester teaching Australian Cultural Studies in Beijing. Katie's first degree was in Communication (print journalism) followed by further studies in China and a postgraduate honours degree in cross cultural communication. Katie is very pleased to have been offered the position as CREEW Research Assistant and is looking forward to working with and learning with CREEW members.

Training and Workshops

- Eleanor Ramsay, Alison Mackinnon, Hawke Research Institute, and Marie Brennan, School of Education, hosted a funded Academy of Social Sciences Australia workshop on 22-23 February at the Art Gallery of SA. Drawing together an inter-disciplinary group of scholars, the workshop focussed on the topic Student engagement with post-compulsory education and training: Meaning making and

blurred boundaries in shifting policy and work contexts.

Attending the conference were a range of scholars and Dr Jan Patterson from the Social Inclusion Unit. External academics included Prof Terri Seddon, Monash; Prof Lyn Yates, Melbourne; Prof Bob Gregory, ANU; Prof Margaret Vickers, UWS; Dr Kitty Te Riele, UTS; Kathleen Ferguson, Monash; Dr Julie McLeod, Deakin; Prof Johanna Wyn, Melbourne; Prof JoAnne Dillabough, UBC, Canada; Prof Jane Kenway, Monash; and Dr Erica Smith, CSU. UniSA participants included Assoc Prof Michele Simons, Dr Lew Zipin, Dr Elspeth McInnes, Prof Alan Reid, and Ms Rochelle Woodley-Baker. The workshop grew out of an academic roundtable held last year associated with the ARC Project on Part-time SACE.

Other News

- Research Quality Framework Ready Newsletter. The second edition of the Research Quality Framework (RQF) Ready Newsletter is now available at our website. The RQF Ready Newsletter is designed to keep you up-to-date with RQF developments and UniSA's preparations for it and all staff are encouraged to take the time to read the newsletter.
- Judith Gill, School of Education, Deirdre Tedmanson and Lia Bryant, School of Social Work and Social Policy, hosted a visit by Professor Dominique Jouve of the University of New Caledonia who presented a seminar for the Hawke Research Institute titled Growing up Pasifika: A case of multiple layers of belonging? about her research with children in New Caledonia on questions of belonging, national identity and civic participation. This visit and the presentation is part of a series of joint cross cultural research initiatives being undertaken collaboratively between the team.
- As you may be aware there is a major Egyptian Exhibition from the Louvre Museum at the SA Art Gallery. Our resident Egyptologist and member of CREEW, Michael O'Donoghue, has kindly consented to take a group from Mawson Lakes for a guided tour of the collection. This has been organised for Sunday June the 17th at 10.30. You will need to purchase your tickets for the exhibition on the day (\$18). For those who are interested this will be followed by lunch at a restaurant yet to be selected. A small donation to cover Michael's lunch as a thank you would be appreciated. Please let me know if you wish to attend the session and if you will join the group for the post tour lunch. As you may be aware Michael has been involved with the exhibition in his capacity as the foremost Egyptologist in SA and we are very fortunate that he is willing to share his knowledge with us.
- Control + click to follow the link below:

[How to win an Australian Research Council Linkage-Project Grant](#) - resources available

Future CREEW's News

CREEW's News is your newsletter, so please keep us informed of all your activities and help maintain the democratic, collaborative and inclusive culture of CREEW. As Alan mentioned earlier, future newsletters will come to you bi-monthly. Please send all contributions to Miriam.McLean@unisa.edu.au

