



CREEW'S News

Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work

(a research concentration within HRISS)

April – June 2008

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CREEW Seminar Program

6 June – Anna Sullivan, Bruce Johnson and David Williams: *Looking in classrooms – again: using digital technologies for authentic research into early career teachers' classroom management.*

30 May – Dr Leo Elshof (Acadia University, Nova Scotia): *Sustainability, design and technological education.*

16 May - joint student presentation – Glenna Lear: *Women's Third Age Transformation*, and
Fiona Partridge: *Exploring the construction of knowledge about Middle Years teaching and learning in the practice of pre-service teacher education*

A key role of the CREEW seminars is to provide a safe, supportive and rigorous (although not too critical) venue for PhD students to present their work. If you would like to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact Miriam.mclean@unisa.edu.au.

Publications

- Daniels, J. (2008) 'Negotiating learning through stories: women, VET and narrative inquiry'. *Australian Journal of Adult Learning*, Volume 48, No 1.
- Rainey, L; Simons, M; Pudney, V. and Hughes, E. (2008) 'What Choice? An evaluation of career development for young people'. Formal report, NCVET.
This study evaluates a selection of career development services available for young people. It examines the characteristics of the services provided, with a focus on career decision-making and the provision of information about vocational education and training (VET) options. The education providers and young people surveyed were generally satisfied with the services provided. However, it was agreed that information about Vet options could be improved. A better understanding of the ways in which young people seek help will enhance accessibility to services.
- It is worth noting on the second anniversary of Dr Sue Howard's death (23rd May 2006) that the final jointly authored paper by Professor Bruce Johnson and Dr Sue Howard was published in the second edition of the *Journal of Student Wellbeing*. The paper is entitled, 'Causal chain effects and turning points in young people's lives: a resilience perspective' and is available online at:
<http://www.ojs.unisa.edu.au/index.php/JSW/article/viewFile/171/138>
This paper completes a decade long research collaboration between Sue and Bruce that advanced understanding of the complexities of student and adolescent resilience.
- Harris, R & Rainey, L (2008, in press) 'Interrogating the notion of transition: learner experiences of multiple transitions between the vocational and higher education sectors', in Brooks, Rachel (ed.), *Transitions from education to work: New perspectives from Europe and beyond*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, Hampshire, chapter 2 (of 12, from six countries).
- Reid, A and Gill, J (forthcoming, accepted 3/6/2008) Schooling and the state: Issues of control and contestation around civics and citizenship education, international journal of *Citizenship Teaching and Learning*
- The following book has now been completed and submitted to press, to be published later in the year by Springer:
Willis, P, McKenzie, S & Harris, R (eds.), *Re-thinking work and learning: Adult and vocational education for social sustainability*, Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.
It will contain 20 chapters, some of them by CREEW members – Peter Willis, Roger Harris, Heather Foster, Tom Stehlik and Anne Morrison.
- Harris, R - The first issue for this year of the *Australian Journal of Adult Learning* (Vol. 48, no. 1, April 2008) is now published, with the theme of 'Inclusion and Diversity' (204 pages), journal editorship.
- 'Leading support for vocational education and training providers', article published in the latest edition of *HRISS News*

You Can Use (e-newsletter), vol 4, May 2008, pp. 2-3. It told of the work of the National VET Research Consortium which Roger Harris has been leading over the past two and a half years.

Invited Address

Alan Reid has been invited to speak on the public/private debate in Australia at the Education 20/20 summit to be held in Sydney on June 28.

Conference Presentations

- Simons, M & Harris, R (2008) 'General staff in VET contexts: what are their working lives like?', paper for the 11th Annual Conference of AVETRA, *VET in context*, Adelaide, 2-4 April, refereed conference paper.
- Harris, R (accepted March), 'Crossing boundaries? Australian learners' experiences of teaching and learning in both the higher education and vocational education sectors', European Education Research Association, Goteborg, Sweden, 10-12 September 2008, refereed conference paper.
- Harris, R & Clayton, B (2008), 'Process and impact of VET research: the Consortium approach as a case study', 17th National VET Research Conference, University of Tasmania, Launceston, 9-11 July.
- Susan Bardy PhD candidate in the School of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, presented a paper titled "Palliative Care and Hospice Nursing: A Vocational Transformation; Researching a Career Change", at the Fourth International Convention of Qualitative Inquiry held at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Illinois on May 14-17 2008.
- Jeannie Daniels presented a paper titled "The Teaching-Research Interface: implications for practice in HE and FE", at the Escalate Conference on April 29th, Stirling University, Scotland.
- Reid, A & Gill, J (27 March, 2008) *Comparative approaches to citizenship education*, presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, New York.
- Steven Hodge presented a refereed conference paper "Disorienting Vet: Enhancing VET practice through transformative learning theory", at the Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) 2008 11th Annual Conference in Adelaide 3-4 April.
- Glenna Lear (PhD student), was invited by The Catholic Women's League of SA to speak on 'Adult Learning, Third Age and Retirement' at the biennial state conference, Henley Beach. 12-13 May 2008
- Reid, A, Davies, I & Sears A (2008) From Britishness to nothingness and back again: Looking for a way forward in citizenship education, presented at the conference on *Britishness, Identity, Citizenship: The view from abroad*, held at the University of Huddersfield (UK) 5-6 June, 2008.

Project News

The CRC for Rail Innovation continues to unfold, in which Roger Harris is the Program Leader for Education and Training. CREEW members are involved at this stage in two R&D projects, one on course evaluations lead by Michele Simons, and the other on leadership and management development practices lead by Tom Stehlik, both projects in conjunction with Railcorp (as the lead industry partner) in Sydney and QUT (as a research partner) in Brisbane.

CREEW Member News

- Jeannie Daniels attended a one-day conference at Stirling University "Easing transitions from community education to FE", and spoke with a number of academics and educators about adult education in Scotland particularly, and the UK more broadly.
- Jenni Carter was a joint presenter with Sam Sellar at a Hawke/CLPLC Seminar on 9 May. The topic was *Pedagogy and policy in education: The ineptitude of calculation*.
- Alan Reid was a visiting scholar at the University of York (UK), from March 31 – May 10th.
- Glenna Lear has joined the Port Lincoln Adult Learners' Week planning committee as Ambassador of Learning.
- Tom Stehlik recently spent two weeks in Sweden, at the invitation of Professor Michael Christie from Chalmers University, Gothenburg. Prof Christie is Director of the university's professional development centre CKK, and Tom was asked to conduct an evaluation of the centre's courses, participating in assessing some of the workshops and presentations by staff undertaking a core course in 'pedagogical projects'. The centre offers a Diploma of Higher Education for its staff which is similar to the Graduate Certificate in Education (University Teaching) mandated for all new academic staff at UniSA. Chalmers is a technical university and most of the staff in the course were scientists and mathematicians etc, but all embracing the concept of facilitating active learning and moving away from exposition and transmission models of teaching. Of interest is the fact that all Chalmers PhD students are required to do two of the centre's courses – one in Ethics, Science and Society and one in Teaching, Learning and Evaluation. A highlight of the visit was playing a game of golf until 10.30 at night – still daylight in the Swedish summer!
- *CREEW says thanks and farewell to Val Pudney*



We bid a fond farewell to Val Pudney who has been a valued member of CREEW for some years, and now leaves not only UniSA but South Australia as she moves to Victoria to be closer to her family. As a Research Associate Val has been our 'numbers person' – very skilled and capable at

working with large scale databases and quantitative information using computer software like SPSS. Val has contributed to a number of significant CREEW projects and publications, but more importantly has contributed to the friendly CREEW social environment on the 4th floor of G building at Mawson Lakes. Thanks and good luck Val, you will be missed!

- Alan Reid was invited to a consultation with the National Curriculum Board on Friday June 27, 2008 at the Hilton in Melbourne.
- Roger Harris (as one of 13 Australian researchers) was invited to participate in a national Research Forum with the visiting OECD delegation in Melbourne, 11 April 2008.

Grant Application News

- Three CREEW Key Researchers and a CREEW Adjunct Researcher – Bruce Johnson, Rosie Le Cornu, Judy Peters, and Anna Sullivan – recently won one of only six ARC Linkage Grants awarded in Education Studies nationally (out of a total of 210 across all fields of study). Their project (outlined below) involves a strong collaboration between UniSA, Murdoch University, Edith Cowen University and 7 Industry Partners in SA and WA. The ARC will contribute \$140,000 to the project, with cash and in-kind contributions by the collaborating Universities and Industry Partners making this a million dollar investment in research into early career teacher resilience and retention over the next five years.

Project description:

Addressing the teacher exodus: Enhancing early career teacher resilience and retention in changing times - ARC Linkage Grant 2008-2012 (Professor Bruce Johnson, Professor Barry Down; Dr Rosie Le Cornu; Dr Judy Peters; Dr Anna Sullivan; Dr Jane Pearce; Ms Janet Hunter).

The first few years of teaching are difficult for many teachers. Yet research into the 'problems' of beginning teachers is nearly exhausted. Few new ideas about how to address these 'problems' are emerging. There is a need for a new generation of collaborative research that investigates how beginning teachers develop resilience and sustain their commitment to teaching. Therefore, this project aims to find out how early career teachers deal with threats to their wellbeing. It will identify what internal strengths and external strategies promote teacher resilience. It will provide the evidence base for interventions that will increase teacher commitment and reduce teacher attrition.

- CREEW member, Deb Tranter, is part of a team with Barbara Comber and Rob Hattam which was successful in bidding for a consultancy tender of \$130,000 from DEEWR to research "Early school intervention as a means to improve higher education outcomes for disadvantaged students" under the auspices of the new National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education. The new Director of the National Centre will join the team once he commences in July.
- A briefing session on ARC Future Fellowships was held on 20 June 2008 - the **Future Fellowships Consultation Paper** is

available on the ARC website at
<http://www.arc.gov.au/default.htm>

Training and workshops

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

Other News

- *Celebration of Research Evening was held on Thursday 8th May, Hyatt Regency*

On the 14th of November 2006, the former Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, announced that the Australian Government would implement the Research Quality Framework (RQF). In order to be ready for the RQF, the University of South Australia undertook an extensive preparation process.

As part of this process, in 2007, the University asked over 30 RQF Research Groups to prepare a draft RQF Evidence Portfolio. Evidence Portfolios comprised a 5 page Context Statement, a 10 page Impact Statement, best four publication (output) choices and justifications and a body of work for the group. It was the intention of the University to submit a number of these draft Evidence Portfolios for the RQF.

Academic staff throughout the University committed a large deal of time and effort into developing the draft Evidence Portfolios and produced quality documents that may have been submitted to the former Department of Education, Science and Training by the April 2008 deadline.

This event showcased the quality of research undertaken by each Research Group during the RQF assessment period. Thanks went to the staff that assisted in the development of the Evidence Portfolios, the different research concentrations and projects being undertaken at the University, and applauded the outstanding achievements made during the assessment period.

Future CREEW News

CREEW News is your newsletter, so please keep us informed of all your activities and help maintain the democratic, collaborative and inclusive culture of CREEW.

Please start sending all contributions for July - September (this should include anything that has not been reported on in earlier newsletters) to Miriam.McLean@unisa.edu.au