



## CREEW'S News

Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work

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(a research concentration within HRISS)

### January – March 2008

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### CREEW Seminar Program

- 22 February  
Linda Jones (Learn2 Associates, Relationships Australia SA):  
*The Heart of Formative Assessment (FA): practical ideas for encouraging sustainable assessment for learning in Work Based Learning (WBL) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)*  
This seminar outlined a small-scale international research project, the findings of which are the starting point for an interactive session designed to explore a set of *considerations for practice* identified by expert practitioners in the UK and Australia.
- 27 February  
Professor Alan Sears (University of New Brunswick):  
*The Struggle for Citizenship Education in Canada: The Centre Cannot Hold*
- 28 March  
Jacinta Poskey: *Socio-spatial reproduction and secondary student mobilities in metropolitan Adelaide*  
Dawn Nolan: *Church Spires and Minarets*

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](mailto:Miriam.mclean@unisa.edu.au).

## Publications

- Harris, R & Simons, M (2008) Becoming one of them: The experience of institution-based educators providing training in companies in Australia. In C Kimble & P Hildreth (Eds.) *Communities of practice: Creating learning environments for educators*, Volume 1, Information Age Publishing, Chapter 8, pp.143, Volumes 1 and 2.
- Raduntz, H (2007) Review of *Globalisation, information and libraries: The implications of the World Trade Organisation's GATS and TRIPS agreements* by Ruth Rikowski. *Library Review* 56/9, pp. 846-848.
- Badenoch, DC (2007) An interdisciplinary approach to developing graduate qualities in Higher Education: A case study of applying theory to practice. *International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management*, 7(10), pp 49-60.
- Lawless, A (2007) Culture Counts. Inspirations for introducing culture into medicine. In *Taking up the challenge: Critical race and whiteness studies in a postcolonising nation*. In D Riggs (Ed.) Adelaide, Crawford House.
- Green, A; Rikowski, G & Raduntz, H (Eds.) (2007) *Renewing dialogues in Marxism and Education: Openings*. Palgrave Macmillan, New York.
- Raduntz, H (2007) The role of education in capital crisis resolution. In A Green, G Rikowski & H Raduntz (Eds.) *Renewing dialogues in Marxism and Education: Openings*. Palgrave Macmillan, New York.
- On December 10<sup>th</sup> 2007, Ann Lawless attended the launch of the book *Taking up the Challenge: Critical Race and Whiteness studies in a postcolonising nation* in which she has a chapter called 'Culture Counts'.

## The Australian Journal of Adult Learning

<http://www.ala.asn.au/>

In the *Research reports* section of the Australian Journal of Adult Learning, researchers and research students can showcase their projects and reflect on their experiences as researchers. This section was reinstated in the journal in 2006, and each of the three editions in 2006 and 2007 has carried a report by a research student, including students and alumni of UniSA.

The *Research reports* section is not necessarily restricted to students; and researchers and supervisors are welcome to submit reports, reflective pieces, and so on. The section is unrefereed and can be seen as contributing to dissemination of your ideas, as inviting collegial dialogue and even as a chance to get some practice at preparing a publication for a journal.

Reports, as well as reflective practice on any stage of research – from the first developing idea about a research proposal through to reflections after completion of a research project – are welcome.

Please feel free to share this invitation with your networks, research students, fellow researchers, academic colleagues and so on.

Submissions should be sent to the editor of the journal:  
[roger.harris@unisa.edu.au](mailto:roger.harris@unisa.edu.au).

## Projects

**Roger Harris and Michele Simons** have won a research grant (\$36,375) for a project entitled *New directions in VET policy and practice: Europe and Canada* from the NVETRE Program.

This proposal is an exploration of new directions in vocational education and training (VET) policy and practice in Europe and Canada, with implications for Australian VET. With the rapid development of the European Union (EU) concept and in light of the very significant positioning of VET in the policy agendas of both its individual members and supra-nationally, it is very timely to analyse closely the developments occurring and being mooted in that region (just as they are closely monitoring Australian initiatives). Furthermore, despite particular similarities in the national contexts of Canada and Australia, there is very little published analysis of the Canadian VET system, and it is also opportune to study that country's directions in VET.

Research questions are:

- (1) What new policy directions in VET are evident in Europe and in Canada? What initiatives / practices in VET have been implemented in recent years? What problems/issues are they attempting to address?
- (2) In what ways are they related (unique) to the particular political, economic and social contexts in which they are embedded?
- (3) How do they relate to the current directions for VET in Australia, and what lessons can be learnt?

The project will be primarily undertaken using synthesis-based desk research, supported by communication with European and Canadian professional counterparts. Content analysis of relevant, available literature will generate the required information for the study, and then, to minimize the risk of distortion, key themes will be verified using a modified Delphi technique with a small number of selected key figures in Europe and Canada.

**Roger Harris** has won a grant (\$112,000) from NCVET in response to its national advertisement for ways to build VET researcher capacity.

The project has been funded over three years. It will involve a network of experienced VET researchers in universities, coordinated by Roger, working in cooperation with VET organisations to build the research capability of individuals employed in those organisations through encouragement to undertake further formal study by research. The number of candidates that can be accommodated is six per year for three years (18 in total).

The formal study would most likely be an Honours degree or a Masters degree by research, and candidates can enrol in any of Australia's universities. The candidates are to be mentored *both* by an experienced university VET researcher (or two) as a supervisor *and* by their organisational (VET) supervisor. In this way, the mentoring would be a partnership through joint supervision. Successful applicants will be offered an NCVET Research Scholarship (each of \$4,000). These funds may be used to facilitate attendance at conferences (e.g. No Frills, AVETRA), professional association membership (e.g. AVETRA), and access to information (e.g. journals and NCVET and ABS data) and other project expenses. The funds may also support attendance at training courses such as ACSPRI.

## Conference Presentations

**Alan Reid** and **Judy Gill** are off to New York to present a paper on civics education in Australia at the American Association for Research in Education (AERA) annual conference, on March 27.

**Sue Gelade** gave an invited keynote and ran a workshop for the TAFE Victoria Development Centre's 'Professional Learning Series 2008' program in Bendigo on March 14. The day's events were focussed around the theme of 'what employers want - delivering high quality learning in the workplace' and Sue was invited to discuss aspects of her recently completed NCVET report that explored facets of skill development in regional Australia. The Bendigo seminar program was part of series aimed at delivering professional development to TAFE educators in Victoria.

**Tom Stehlik** was in Finland during March for the Encounters 08 conference – 'Insightful Encounters – regional Development and Practice-Based Learning', convening a theme on Academic Identities with colleagues Sharron King from UniSA and Anne Herbert from Helsinki School of Economics. Tom presented a paper entitled '(Re)constructing academic identities through practice'. The conference was sponsored by the Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences which is like a polytechnic institution, offering vocational programs. Students from the Tourism and Hospitality program were involved in some of the catering and in managing the conference, which took place in Porvoo, a mediaeval town east of Helsinki on the old 'King's Road' to St Petersburg.

Tom then went on to Prague and participated in a conference organised by the British Council to discuss the project 'Challenges in Schools', which aims to develop a vision of the 'school of the future' with the active engagement of young people in schools across Europe. Participating countries include Finland, Northern Ireland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, Estonia, Poland, Sweden, Lithuania and the Ukraine. Some useful international contacts were established and it is intended that this initial pilot project in Europe expands next year into a global project including Australia and New Zealand.

## CREEW Member News

- Alan Reid hosted Professor Alan Sears (University of New Brunswick) at CREEW, from February 26-February 29. Professor Sears presented a CREEW seminar and discussed plans for a book on comparative approaches to civics education, edited by Judy Gill, Alan Reid and Alan Sears.
- Steve Keirl and Larry Spry, lecturers in Design and Technology Education, conducted a day of professional development sessions with approximately 100 K-12 site and school managers and principals on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. The two-day DECS Wallara District leadership conference focussed on *Educating for the 21<sup>st</sup> century* and drew on a presentation from Prof Colin Power (WEF/UNESCO) and other guest speakers on its first day. Steve and Larry then offered perspectives on (1) emergent technologically created and mediated worlds; (2) implications of these for the realities of managers' agendas; and (3) implementation strategies for creativity, innovation and futures through D&TE in the curriculum.

## Grant Application News

- **Training and workshops**

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

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Anne Morrison, CREEW Research Assistant, who was recently awarded her PhD after completing her research on language self-instruction. Focusing on single language (ancient Egyptian) as a case study, Anne researched the design of 'teach-yourself' materials. The project resulted in a teach-yourself coursebook which has been tested on a cohort of learners. So if you have a burning desire to learn Egyptian hieroglyphs (and don't we all), speak to Anne!

### CREEW Planning Day

The 2008 CREEW Planning Day was held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, Edgewater Room Mawson Hotel. In addition to tabling the annual CREEW activities report and celebrating our achievements for 2007, this year for the annual planning day we invited key representatives from our industry partners in education and work to address the meeting as to their views on the research agendas and issues for the near future. In attendance were:

Tom Karmel, Managing Director NCVER  
Chris Robinson, CEO DECS  
Paul Kilvert, CEO SSABSA  
Ruth Schubert, General Manager, Regions, TAFE SA

After a brief presentation by each invited guest, a panel discussion addressed some of the issues raised with questions from those in attendance, which included about 40 people comprising CREEW members as well as staff from the School of Education at UniSA.

As the panel members represented the spectrum of CREEW activities and relationships, from school to post-compulsory education to VET, the event reinforced the strong connections and shared concerns between these areas and our contribution to policy analysis and educational development in this broad field - in fact one panel member quoted research and findings that actually came out of a seminal CREEW research project in VET.

The event also contributed greatly to highlighting CREEW's presence and importance as a key player in the field of educational research, and provided great networking opportunities and possibilities for further collaboration with these industry organisations.

The last hour of the planning day was then spent in sharing and summarising the main points, issues and ideas to arise from the panel session, with small groups then asked to identify what these might mean for CREEW in terms of possible research collaborations, funding opportunities and internal structural arrangements.

The resulting dialogue was recorded and will inform ongoing planning and development for CREEW this year. Thanks to all those involved in organising the day, particularly Miriam.

A selection of photos from this event follow.



Tom Stehlik, Alan Reid and Michele Simons with Guest Speakers, Dr Paul Kilvert (CEO SSABSA), Chris Robinson (CEO DECS), Tom Karmel (Managing Director, NCVET), and Dr Ruth Schubert (General Manager, Regions, TAFE SA)



Dr Ruth Schubert and Tom Stehlik



Faith Thorley, Judy Peters, Rosie LeCornu



Peter Willis, Robert Crotty, Roger Harris



Margaret Freund, Judy Gill, Chris Robinson, David Badenoch

## Other News

- From John Knight at Post Pressed (22 February 2008):

Good news! We have received a request from EBSCO to list the content of a number of Post Pressed books, including Beyond Communities of Practice, on their Education Research Complete database. EBSCO is 'the world's largest database aggregator with over 100 worldwide databases' and we are happy to accede to their request.

It's time we took account of our on-line and e-book potential. This will provide access to your work for a much greater readership and should also be invaluable for citation reference index listings for your work and indeed for other aspects of academia to which we are all subject.

- Welcome to Sarah Rose, who is currently providing research assistance to CREEW on a one day a fortnight basis until Katie Maher returns from maternity leave in July. Sarah is a research assistant and academic researcher with the Centre for Studies in Literacy, Policy and Learning Cultures (LPLC).

- The International Research Scholars Scheme:

This scheme replaces the Visiting Researchers Scheme, which has been very successful in attracting international scholars to UniSA. Please note changes to the Scheme and new application procedures, as outlined below.

UniSA International has been developing a list of priority countries and priority institutions for internationalisation of our research. The People's Republic of China and India have been designated priority countries for research collaboration, and within these countries priority will be accorded to those institutions with which UniSA has established links. At the same time the Federal Government has declared China and India to be priority countries for Australian research collaboration and has established the Australia-China Strategic Fund and the Australia-India Strategic Fund with substantial funding to foster research collaboration.

The International Research Scholars Scheme will continue to consider applications for incoming visiting researchers from any country. It is not adequate for the visitor merely to be a high performer in their field; clear benefits from the visit and evidence of contributions to the wider research culture of the university and community need to be defined in advance.

Exclusions: The fund is not to be used for living allowances, per diems or car hire. Funding for domestic visitors is to be sought from the relevant Dean of Research/Director of Institute/Dean of Whyalla and not through the International Research Scholar Scheme. It is not usual for this fund to support visits which are limited specifically to the running of fee paying workshops. These should be self supporting from fees charged to participants.

Application procedures Applications are accepted twice per year for consideration - 31 March (**applications extended to 25 May 2007**) and 30 September. Applications will be assessed two times a year at the Divisions, Deans and Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President meeting. Application form can be downloaded from <http://www.unisa.edu.au/res/grants/visiting.asp>

### **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 April – June (this should include anything that has not been reported in earlier newsletters) to [Miriam.McLean@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Miriam.McLean@unisa.edu.au)