



## CREEW'S News

Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work

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### April - June 2009

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We warmly welcome the return of Roger Harris as Director of CREEW. Roger was the original Director, having established the Centre in 1995 and has contributed enormously over the past fourteen years.

We also thank Tom Stehlik for the valued leadership and support he has provided to CREEW members and students over the past eighteen months.

## CREEW Seminar Program

- 15 May

**Susan Bardy:** *The day my Father died in 1948: Meta-autoethnographic analysis of a personal grief experience.*

This presentation follows my progress in my autoethnographic PhD study of vocational transformation in Palliative Care Nursing. I question why nurses would opt for a career in caring for dying people. I am in the process of analysing collected data of not only my metamorphic experiences but also those of sixteen nurses I interviewed. I had written narratives of most transcripts when I discovered meta-autoethnography as an analytical tool. These narratives gave me deeper insight into experience of my father's death from cancer in a post WW2 refugee camp and contributed to my research.

**Lisa Davies:** *The value of qualitative research methods to unravel managers' attitudes towards work-based learning about depression.*  
This presentation details how qualitative, interpretive research methods gave clear insights into manager's beliefs about and attitudes towards the adoption of Government recommendations about work-based mental health education. The research was centred in eight in eight Information and Communications Technology organisations in South Australia. Depression is the lens through which the study is focused.

- 29 May

**Foroogh Bakhtiari:** *The Impact of Individual Characteristics on Training Evaluation Levels in the Iran Gas Company.*

Recently, researchers and authors have distinguished between the two constructs of training evaluation and training effectiveness. Training evaluation is the measurement of a training program's success or failure, while training effectiveness is the study of factors that influence the training process. This seminar discusses the impact of individual characteristics such as personality traits, motivation and experience on training evaluation levels such as reaction to training, cognitive learning and training performance. It also explores the relationships among these training evaluation levels.

**Graham McDonagh:** *Historical overview of the collision repair industry in Australia and the effects of rationalization*

This seminar offers an overview of the smash repair industry in Australia by examining the historical evidence of rationalization and conflict, and how that can be applied to the satisfaction of the major stakeholders, the smash repairers, the insurance companies and the clients, the vehicle owners.

- 12 June

**Glenna Lear:** *A creative synthesis of Third Age rural women*

A creative synthesis is the final stage of the heuristic process and is achieved through the researcher's tacit knowledge, intuition, and self-searching after developing a comprehensive understanding of the totality of the experience of Third Age rural women. It expresses the essences and life experiences of 7 women co-researchers who regard midlife, their Third Age as an opportunity for realising their dreams and achieving personal fulfillment.

This creative synthesis is a descriptive or metaphorical narrative, which uses my personal insight and imagination as a Third Age rural woman living in the same community.

**Tom Stehlik:** *Current research projects*

Reporting on current research projects in CREEW arising out of scoping projects: A discussion of the approach we have developed to contract research using an initial 'scoping process' to identify and develop larger research proposals, with reference to two recent case study projects -

1. Investigating early intervention for disengaged young people in the southern Adelaide region (DECS and Southern ICAN - Innovative Community Action Networks)
2. Leadership and management capability development in the rail industry (CRC for Rail Innovation).

▪ 26 June

**Kerrie Mackey-Smith:** *Becoming Critical of the Technologising of the Word*

This presentation presents a 'slice' of a single-school ethnographic study, which explores aspects of talk as central to the 'accumulated' modalities of literacy (Green, Lankshear & Snyder 2000) - the oral, the written and the digital information technologies. Central to this study is a concern for the invisibility of talk as interrelated to students' abilities and propensities for articulating their concerns and understandings as a social action, whether written or spoken. The presentation takes up the problem of the absence of oracy, particularly for classroom practice and policy on literacy.

**Jill Burton:** *"Writing teaching" for the wider community—A TESOL perspective*

A new version of a common saying might be "Those that can, teach; those that can't, write about it." Why is it that most teachers don't write about teaching in ways that are publicly recognised; whereas educators outside the conventional classroom do? I believe that, apart from the immediate, obvious response, "Classroom teachers don't have time", there are other more subtle factors involved.

In this session, I hope to open a conversation, first, on why teachers avoid writing and publishing on teaching practice and, second, on how more of us might write more openly about our work in ways that please us and also the wider community. This is not a short conversation. But I hope it is one that many of us could enjoy continuing as the new nodes and centre get underway. My input to the conversation will be explaining why I chose to research and write reflectively as a teacher and started to develop a writing strategy that complements reflective teaching.

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

Hammond, C. & McCallum, F. (2009) Interdisciplinarity: Bridging the University and Field of Practice Divide. *Australian Journal of Teacher Education*. Vol. 34. No. 2, March. pp. 50-63.

Reid, A and Gill, J (2009) 'An arm of the state?: Linking citizenship education and schooling practice' in the *International Journal of Citizenship Teaching and Learning*, Vol. 5. No. 1, June 2009.

Johnson, B., Sullivan, A. M. & Williams, D. (2009). A one-eyed look at classroom life: Using new technologies to enrich classroom-based research. *Issues in Educational Research*. 19 (1), 34-47.

Simons, M, Harris, R, Pudney, V & Clayton, B (April 2009), *Careers in vocational education and training: What are they really like?* Adelaide: NCVER, [www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2114.html](http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2114.html)

Harris, R. (June 2009), 'Reflections from the 2008 VET Researcher of the Year', *Insight*, Issue 34, [www.ncver.edu.au/newsevents/insight/issue34/22133.html](http://www.ncver.edu.au/newsevents/insight/issue34/22133.html)

Harris, R & Clayton, B (May 2009), 'Reflections on the Consortium: Supporting VET providers in building capability for the future', final report to NCVER.

Harris, R. *Research Today*, Issue 5, May 2009, pp.3-5 (ISSN: 1441 3183 3) includes Roger's and others' responses to questions about "How to get research funding – researchers' experiences".

O'Donoghue, M. (2009) 'Interpreting Religion: the case of Jihad', *Australian Religion Studies Review* Vol. 22 No. 1 pp 3-12.

Sullivan, A. M. (2009-forthcoming). 'How can teachers enable students to become empowered?' *Curriculum Perspectives*, 29 (1), 53-63.

Freund, M. (2009) Just to let you know that my paper 'What me at University doing teaching. What a Big Laugh': Action Research and Parrhesia has been accepted by the *Educational Action Research Journal* to be published in the next edition.

Harris, R & Rainey, L (May 2009) 'Interrogating the notion of transition: learner experiences of multiple transitions between the vocational and higher education sectors', in Brooks, R (ed.), *Transitions from education to work: New perspectives from Europe and beyond*, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, chapter 3, pp. 42-60.

Poskey, J. (June 2009) Health in All Policies: Introductory Regional Settlement Study. Report commissioned by the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED).

Reid, A & Gill, J 'Schooling and the state: Issues of control and contestation around civics and citizenship education', *International Journal of Citizenship Teaching and Learning*, June 2009.

Le Cornu, R. (2009) Building resilience in pre-service teachers, *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 25(5), 717-723.

## Presentations

Alan Reid gave a public lecture at the Commodore Hotel, Mt Gambier, on June 10, 2009: *An education revolution?: A critical analysis of the Rudd national education agenda*.

The following presentations were given at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual AVETRA Conference, *Aligning participants, policy and pedagogy: traction and tensions in VET research*, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Coogee Beach, 15 - 17 April:

- Harris, R & Hodge, S (2009), 'A quarter of a century of CBT: the vicissitudes of an idea'.
- Simons, M & Harris, R (2009), 'Making managers: the nature of career pathways into leadership and management roles in VET'.
- Carter, J, Hodge, S and Mackey-Smith, K (2009), *Undertaking risky research*.
- Hodge, S (2009), *Trainers and transformation: Facilitating the 'dark side' of vocational learning*.

On May 22, 2009 at the Magill Campus, Alan Reid launched the book by Judy Gill and Sue Howard: *Knowing Our Place: Children talking about power, identity and citizenship* ACER Press, Melbourne, Victoria, 2009.



Also on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Magill, Professor Emeritus Ian Davey launched the book *Rethinking work and learning: Adult and vocational education for social sustainability*, Willis, P., McKenzie, S. & Harris, R. (eds.), Springer: Dordrecht, Netherlands.



Alan Reid presented the keynote address at the 5th International Conference on Citizenship Education at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, Hong Kong, on Friday June 26, 2009: *Globalisation and the nation-state: (Un)Changing constructions of civics and citizenship education*.

The following presentation was made at the UniSA 2009 EAS Autumn Research School, 23-24 April:

Johnson, B. 'Immersed or drowning in data: what's the difference? An exploration of the challenges of managing and analysing qualitative data'.

Marie Brennan and Alan Reid were invited presenters, with author Shane Maloney, to a professional development seminar on the 'education revolution' run by the Australian Education Union on June 19 at the Tivoli Hotel, Adelaide.

### **Project News**

- Tom Stehlik, Faye McCallum, Steven Hodge and Katie Maher conducted a scoping project on Southern ICAN (Innovative Community Action Networks) and FLO (Flexible Learning Options). This involved consultations with key stakeholders (schools, government and community partners), the compiling of a report identifying key issues and the writing of three proposals for further research in the areas of program impact, early intervention and youth voice.  
As a result of this scoping project, Southern ICAN has agreed to provide \$42,240 in funds for a one year research project to address educational disengagement among primary school aged children. In June 2009, the research team (Steven Hodge, Katie Maher, Faye McCallum and Tom Stehlik) held an initial planning meeting and scheduled research activities for the period July 2009 to June 2010.
- Debbie Price in conjunction with Catherine House – Exploring self-efficacy, self-esteem and future perspectives (hope) of women affected by homelessness participating in the Catherine House Incorporated Sagarmatha Vocational Education and Employment Program (VEEP), June 2009 - Dec 2009.
- CRC for Rail Innovation:
  1. Roger Harris gave a presentation on the strategic directions of the Education and Training Program to the CRC Board on 3 June 2009 at University of Wollongong, which was very well received.
  2. At the most recent CRC Board meeting, the next Education and Training project was approved, "Developing a national competence assurance framework for train drivers" which will be led by Dr Liza O'Moore and Dr Lesley Jolly at the University of Queensland.
  3. Another project, to be led by Dr Tom Short in CREEW, has been approved by the CEO, "Scoping the feasibility of developing a national Rail Safety Investigator competency framework and tertiary qualification". This will be undertaken during the second half of this year.

4. A third project, "Scoping the further potential and limitations of using e-learning to deliver training and development projects in the rail industry" to be led by Dr Karen Becker at QUT in collaboration with Julie Fleming at Central Queensland University, will also be undertaken during the second half of this year.
- Rob Hattam, Marie Brennan, Lew Zippin, Michael O'Donoghue & Rachel Busbridge – Development of a professional development module for the Research Project, Stage 2 of the new SACE. Project is for the Association of Independent Schools SA and Catholic ED. May- July 2009.

### **Achievements**

- Rosie Le Cornu, Senior Lecturer, School of Education, won the Australian Teacher Education Association's Teacher Educator of the Year award for 2009.
- Roger Harris has been appointed a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators (from April 2009) – the presentation will be made at a Dinner on 18 September 2009.
- Congratulations to Dr Tom Short, Research Fellow with the CRC for Rail Innovation at UniSA. Tom was awarded a PhD for his thesis entitled 'Strategic alignment and learning in human resource development: a hermeneutic exploration'. He was supervised to completion by Roger Harris and Peter Willis.
- Michael O'Donoghue was awarded the inaugural Eric Jackson Award for Outstanding Service at the May Annual General Meeting of the Workers' Educational Association of South Australia. The award aims to acknowledge the excellent service of our long term tutors, who have shown exceptional dedication to adult community education. Michael will have reached 27 years of service.



### **Postgraduate News**

Jacinta Poskey has been granted a scholarship to attend and present to The International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development, in conjunction with the Australasian Human Development Association, multi-disciplinary workshop on the implications for human development of movement by individuals and populations within the Asia Pacific region on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009.

Sharon Zivkovic was video interviewed on her thoughts about democracy along with one hundred other Australians for the new Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in Canberra. The interview will be included in the national collection of social and political history and excerpts from the interview will be included in an immersive installation, a mosaic of vision and sound called Meet the People – the introduction to the Living Democracy Gallery. The Living Democracy gallery is scheduled to open in late June.

### **Other News**

During May and June, Katie Maher completed training with the Australian Bureau of Statistics on accessing ABS information and using CDATE online. CDATE online enables users to construct tables and graphs of census data, to create custom data groups and to compare geographic areas. Users can manipulate the layout of data within tables and add additional classifications and geographic areas. In terms of education research it is a useful tool for obtaining a breakdown of information by education level, occupation, population group, school level and type etc.

### **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 send all contributions (this should include anything that has not been reported in previous newsletters this year) to

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