

The changing contexts of Teacher Education, North and South

Research Projects and Conferences

In the year 2003-2004, SCoTENS sought applications for seed funding for North/South research and conference projects. The following projects were selected for seed funding:

Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in Ireland

This project is based on two one-day conferences for teacher educators to discuss comparisons of SEN trends in policy and provision, North and South; expectations of newly qualified teachers, North and South; training provision, resources and partnerships; ways ahead for SEN and ITE, North and South. The first conference took place in TCD in March 2004; the second will take place in Stranmillis UC in December 2004. The first conference report is available at: <http://www.socsci.ulster.acu.uk/education/scfe/conference/index.html> [Hugh Kearns, Stranmillis UC and Michael Shevlin, Trinity College Dublin].

North/South Conference on Education for Diversity and Citizenship

This conference was held on 30 September - 1 October 2004 in Ballyconnell, Co Cavan and addressed four areas: schools and school practice; initial teacher education; continuing personal development; and research and evaluation. Further details from: <http://www.ulster.ac.uk/faculty/shse/unesco/scotens/conference.html> [Una O'Connor, University of Ulster and Gerry Jeffers, NUI Maynooth].

A Preliminary Evaluation of a Teaching Package for Children with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)

This project sought to investigate how a software teaching package designed for children with PMLD, which has been piloted in the South, might also be used by SEN teachers in the North. The report of this project is due in November 2004. [Jean Ware, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra and Colette Gray, Stranmillis UC]

Irish Association for Social, Scientific and Environmental Education (IASSEE) Annual Conference

The third annual IASSEE conference was held in June 2004 in St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. IASSEE is an inter-institutional, inter-disciplinary and cross border initiative which promotes writing and research in relation to the teaching of social, scientific and environmental education. Papers to the conference included children's ideas about Irishness; history and citizenship education in Northern Ireland; Team Planet, a Northern Ireland project to teach geography and science in primary schools; and innovations in environmental education and early childhood education.

All-Ireland Survey of Student Perceptions of History, Geography and Science (IASSEE)

The research project, being carried out under the auspices of IASSEE, is a survey of student teachers and their perceptions of history, geography and science in relation to their experiences of being taught these subjects at primary and secondary school. The initial phase of the project is based upon a questionnaire to

all first year BEd students, North and South. [Colette Murphy, Queen's University, Belfast and Fionnuala Waldron, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra].

School Leadership in Ireland

This research project will take the form of an edited book recounting the experiences of 16 school leaders, at primary and secondary level, North and South. The book is intended to be an 'island of Ireland' addition to the resources supporting current and potential school leaders and education policy makers. [Jim Gleeson, University of Limerick, and Tom Hesketh, Regional Training Unit, Belfast].

Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI) and British Education Research Association (BERA)

Joint Conference on Research

This proposed conference in early 2005 will have the theme of developing educational research capacity. It will be presented with a review of the present provision and practice of educational research, North and South, and will help to establish a forum for the exchange of ideas and practice. [Denis Bates, ESAJ and John Gardner, BERA].

Universities and the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) of Teachers, North and South: Policy, Provisions, Processes and Possibilities

This research project will devise a collaborative discussion document looking at the relationships between higher education and the CPD of teachers, North and South. The document will be submitted to a one-day consultative conference. [Regina Murphy, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra; Mary McAteer, University of Ulster; Paul Conway, University College, Cork; and Hugh Kearns, Stranmillis UC].

Together Towards Inclusion: A Toolkit for Trainers

The aim of this research project is to develop a toolkit for training trainers working in the area of linguistic and intercultural education. The project will begin by exploring the needs of primary school pupils, North and South, for whom English is a second language at home. The next phase will be to explore the training needs of teachers working with these pupils. [Mary Yarr, Southern Education and Library Board, Armagh; Barbara Simpson and David Little, Trinity College Dublin].

Contacts

Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS)

The secretary of the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South, is **Andy Pollak**; its administrative assistant is **Patricia McAllister**.

They can be contacted at the Centre for Cross Border Studies, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB.

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The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS)

Second Annual Conference

THE CHANGING CONTEXTS OF TEACHER EDUCATION, NORTH AND SOUTH

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Sean Feerick

Co-ordinator of EU Expert Group on Teacher Education

Matthew MacIver

Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland

Áine Lawlor

Director, The Teaching Council (Ireland)

Eddie McArdle

Registrar, General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland

PROGRAMME

Thursday 11 November
Fisher 4 Suite, Armagh City Hotel

Chairperson: **Mr Stephen Costello**

- 2.45 Registration (Lobby of Fisher 4)
3.30 Official opening
4.00 **Mr Sean Feerick**, Education and Culture DG, European Commission
5.00 Refreshments
5.30 *Response 1: Professor Richard McMinn*, Principal, Stranmillis University College, Belfast
5.50 *Response 2: Professor Sheelagh Drudy*, Professor of Education, University College Dublin/ NUI Dublin
7.30 Reception
Launch by **Dr Pauric Travers** of the November 2003 Initial Teacher Education conference report and by **Professor Richard McMinn** of the *Diversity in Early Years Education, North and South: Implications for Teacher Education* research report (Lobby of Fisher 4)
8.15 Dinner (Fisher 4)

Friday 12 November
Fisher 4 Suite, Armagh City Hotel

Chairperson: **Professor Anne Moran**

- 9.00 **Professor John Coolahan** - Progress report on SCOTENS in 2003-2004 and reflections on the conference's first day
9.30 Symposium on Teaching Councils and teacher education, followed by discussion
Speakers
Ms Áine Lawlor - Director Teaching Council (Ireland)
Mr Matthew MacIver - Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland
Mr Eddie McArdle - Registrar, General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland
11.15 Refreshments
11.45 Workgroups: first session (six themes)
1. **Training for educational leadership**
Facilitators: **Dr Tom Hesketh** and **Dr Jim Gleeson**
2. **Integrating ICT into Teacher Education**
Facilitators: **Dr Roger Austin** and **Dr Paul Conway**
3. **Attracting, selecting and recruiting student teachers**
Facilitators: **Dr Colette Murphy** and **Dr Padraig Hogan**
4. **Partnerships between schools and universities in delivering initial, induction and in-service education**
Facilitators: **Dr Conor Galvin** and **Mr Keiron Mellon**
5. **Teacher education and the integration of special needs**
Facilitators: **Dr Michael Shevlin** and **Mr Hugh Kearns**
6. **Teacher education for diversity, citizenship and equality**
Facilitators: **Mr Gerry Jeffers** and **Ms Una O'Connor**

- 1.00 Lunch
2.15 Workgroups: second session (six themes as above)
3.15 Final plenary session, chaired by **Dr Pauric Travers**, President, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra
4.00 Close of Conference.

SPEAKERS AND CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSONS



Mr Seán Feerick works in the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture, where he co-ordinates the Expert Group on improving the education of teachers and trainers, one of eight thematic groups set up by the Commission to ensure that European education and training systems respond to the challenges of the Lisbon 2010 agenda. The Expert Group includes specialists and policy makers from all member states, candidate and EFTA countries. A qualified secondary teacher, Mr Feerick has worked widely in curriculum development, teacher education, and the management and development of transnational co-operation programmes in education in Ireland and Europe.



Professor Richard McMinn was appointed Principal of Stranmillis University College in 1993, having previously been Senior Tutor with responsibility for Professional Support and Head of History. He is a specialist in modern Irish history - with a particular interest in the Ulster Liberal Party and Home Rule in the late 19th and early 20th centuries - and has been responsible for the production of numerous history publications widely used in primary and post-primary schools. His book on Rev J.B. Armour of Ballymoney, *Against the Tide*, was published by the Public Record Office (NI) in 1985. He has served on various DENI-established committees, including the Northern Ireland Teacher Education Committee (NITEC) and the Committee for Early Professional Development (CEPD).



Professor Sheelagh Drudy is Head of the Department of Education at University College Dublin/NUI Dublin. Her particular area of expertise is the sociology of education. Her publications include books and papers on the influence of social class and gender on educational participation and achievement. Her current research is on entrance to the teaching profession. Her publications include: *Schools and Society in Ireland*, Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1993 (with K. Lynch); *Gender Equality in Classroom Interaction*, Kildare NIUM, 1999 (with M. Uí Chatháin); and *Men and the Classroom*, London: RoutledgeFalmer, forthcoming (with M. Martin, M. Woods, J. O'Flynn).



Ms Áine Lawlor was recently appointed first Director of the Teaching Council in Ireland. She was the National Co-ordinator for the Primary Curriculum Support Programme (PCSP) from 1998-2004, on secondment from Scoil Nano Nagle, Bawnogue, Clondalkin, where she had been principal since its foundation in 1975 (and had overseen a very rapid growth in pupil numbers in this disadvantaged area). She was the Assistant National Co-ordinator for the Relationships and Sexuality Education Support

Service from 1996-1998. She has delivered many presentations on the management of change in education, communication, group dynamics, conflict resolution and the development of self-esteem.



Mr Matthew M MacIver was appointed Chief Executive/Registrar of the General Teaching Council for Scotland in 2001, having previously been the Depute Registrar (Education) since 1998. He had been Rector of Scotland's oldest school, the Royal High School in Edinburgh, and prior to that Rector of Fortrose Academy in the Highland Region. Until recently he represented Scotland on the British Educational Leadership Management and Administration Society. He has been nominated to represent the GTCS on the new Ministerial Group on Continuing Professional Development. Mr MacIver, a native Gaelic speaker, was an inaugural member of the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee in 1991 and chaired the Committee from 1996 to 2001.



Mr Eddie McArdle has been Registrar of the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland since October 2002. Before that he had been Deputy Chief Executive of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools. He worked for 18 years as a teacher in West Belfast, at St Paul's Secondary School for Boys and St Louise's Comprehensive College, an all girls' school of over two thousand pupils. In 1990 he was seconded to the Belfast Education and Library Board to develop the Board's first LMS scheme and in 1992 was appointed by BELB as an Adviser for School Management. He has been a member of a number of regional bodies and working groups, including the management board of Classroom 2000 and the council of the NI Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment.



Mr Stephen Costello was Marks and Spencer Chief Executive for Ireland up to his retirement in 2001. In 2003 he chaired the Post-Primary Review Working Group for the Northern Ireland Minister for Education, whose report was published in January 2004. He is currently Chairman of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service; a member of the Irish Government's Consumer Strategy Group, and a board member of Business in the Community Ireland. He has also been a board member of Stranmillis University College. In 1997 he received an MBE for services to education and training in Northern Ireland.



Professor John Coolahan is Professor Emeritus at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He is author of a number of books and has published over 100 articles in Irish and international journals. He has acted as adviser to the Department of Education and Science on a wide range of initiatives in recent years. He was Secretary General and Chief Rapporteur of the National Education Convention (1993-1994); Chairman of the Roundtable on Regionalisation in Education (1994); one of the authors of the Green paper on Adult Education (1998) and the White Paper *Learning for Life* (2000). He was Secretary General of the National Forum on Early Childhood Education (1998). He also served on the Review Body on Post-Primary Education in Northern Ireland. He is author of the Irish Background Report for the OECD study *Attracting Developing and Retaining Effective*

Teachers. He has led OECD review teams on education in countries in Eastern Europe, South Korea and Chile.



Professor Anne Moran is Professor of Education at the University of Ulster and former Head of the School of Education. Prior to assuming her current role as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, much of her teaching focused on initial teacher education and continuing professional development for teachers. She has a particular commitment to the integration of the three phases of teacher education - initial, induction and early professional development - and to school-based models of professional development. Her research interests include inclusive education as well as all aspects of teacher education.



Dr Pauric Travers is President of St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, in Dublin, the Republic of Ireland's largest college of education. A Donegal man by birth, he is a graduate of University College Dublin and the Australian National University. He has written, lectured and published widely on aspects of Irish history and education. He is a member of the committee of SCOTENS and vice chairman of the Centre for Cross Studies.

Facilitators

- Dr Tom Hesketh** is Director of the Regional Training Unit in Belfast.
Dr Jim Gleeson is Senior Lecturer in Education at University of Limerick.
Dr Roger Austin is Head of the School of Education at the University of Ulster at Coleraine.
Dr Paul Conway is a College Lecturer at University College Cork.
Dr Colette Murphy is Lecturer in Education and Head of External Relations and Publicity in the Graduate School of Education at Queen's University Belfast.
Dr Padraig Hogan is Acting Head of the Education Department, National University of Ireland Maynooth.
Dr Conor Galvin is a Lecturer in Education at University College Dublin.
Mr Keiron Mellon is an Advisory Officer in the area of teacher induction with the Western Education and Library Board in Derry.
Dr Michael Shevlin is a Lecturer in Education (Special Education) at Trinity College Dublin.
Mr Hugh Kearns is a Director of the Masters Programme in Education at Stranmillis University College Belfast.
Mr Gerry Jeffers is a Lecturer in Education at National University of Ireland Maynooth.
Ms Una O'Connor is a Research Associate in the School of Education at the University of Ulster in Coleraine.

Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South (SCOTENS)

Committee

Professor John Coolahan and Professor Anne Moran (joint chairs), Dr Pauric Travers, Professor Richard McMinn, Dr Roger Austin, Professor Sheelagh Drudy, Dr Tom Hesketh, Dr Ruth Leitch, Dr John O'Brien, Professor Mona O'Moore, Rev Professor Martin O'Callaghan, Mr Andy Pollak.