SCoTENS
THE STANDING CONFERENCE ON TEACHER EDUCATION, NORTH AND SOUTH

Ninth Annual Conference

Promoting Literacy and Numeracy through Teacher Education

Keynote Speakers
Professor Terezinha Nunes, Professor of Educational Studies, University of Oxford
Dr Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector, Irish Department of Education and Skills
Sir Bob Salisbury, Chair, Northern Ireland Literacy and Numeracy Task Force

The Radisson Blu Farnham Estate Hotel, Cavan,
Thursday 29th - Friday 30th September
Programme

Thursday 29 September 2011

Redwood Suite, Radisson Blu Farnham Estate Hotel, Cavan

Chair: Professor Teresa O’Doherty, Head of Education, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, (Co-Chair SCoTENS)

10.00 am Registration and refreshments, Redwood Suite Reception Area

10.30 am Official Opening by Irish Minister of State for Training and Skills, Mr Ciaran Cannon TD, and NI Minister for Education, Mr John O’Dowd MLA

11.15 am Dr Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector, Department of Education and Skills, Dublin, and Sir Bob Salisbury, Chair, Northern Ireland Literacy and Numeracy Task Force: The North/South Task Force on Literacy and Numeracy

12.15 pm Professor Jackie Marsh, Professor of Education, University of Sheffield and Professor John O’Donoghe, University of Limerick: Literacy and Numeracy – Beyond Definitions?

1.15 pm Lunch – Botanica Restaurant

2.15 pm Parallel workshops – Teacher Educator Perspectives (participants can choose to participate in two of these four workshops)

Workshop 1. Literacy: facilitated by Dr Eithne Kennedy, St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra and Ms Deirdre Robson, St Mary’s University College, Belfast.

This workshop will present the Leonardo Effect as an interdisciplinary methodology that facilitates the development of literacy skills among young children through first-hand experiences.

Workshop 2. Numeracy: facilitated by Dr Sean Delaney, Marino Institute of Education, Dublin.

This workshop will draw on teacher education experience and research into teachers’ mathematical knowledge to identify challenges in designing the content, pedagogy and assessment of mathematics in pre-service teacher education programmes.

Workshop 3. Literacy: facilitated by Ms Michele Long, University of Ulster and Dr Brian Murphy, University College Cork.

This workshop will use data showing systematic changes in literacy education in schools, as well as research conducted with student teachers, teachers and parents, to look at current classroom literacy practice in rapidly-changing contexts in both Irish jurisdictions (and particularly for disadvantaged children).

Workshop 4. Numeracy: facilitated by Dr Aisling Leavy, Mary Immaculate College Limerick and Mr Jim Mullan, Queen’s University Belfast.

This workshop will explore North/South perspectives on numeracy issues such as: What is the extent of the numeracy problem? Should teachers of all subjects be responsible for addressing numeracy? How can teacher educators prepare teachers to integrate and promote numeracy?

4.15 pm Refreshments

4.45 pm Plenary feedback session from workshops, with questions and discussion

5.30 pm SCOTENS business meeting

6.00 pm Close for evening

7.30 pm Launch of Reports in Redwood Suite Reception Area

Teacher Education for Inclusion: SCOTENS 2010 Conference and Annual Reports, launched by Ms Anne Barrington and Ms Mary Bunting, Joint Secretaries, North South Ministerial Council

Primary School Teachers’ experiences of teaching Healthy Eating with the curriculum, launched by Professor Teresa O’Doherty

Disabilit Bullying: An investigation of student teachers’ knowledge and confidence, launched by Professor Marie Parker Jenkins, University of Limerick

8.00 pm Dinner in Redwood Suite Reception Area.

Friday 29 October 2010

Redwood Suite, Radisson Blu Farnham Estate Hotel, Cavan

Chair: Dr Tom Hesketh, Director, Regional Training Unit (Co-Chair SCOTENS)

9.00 am Professor Terezinha Nunes, Professor of Educational Studies, University of Oxford: Why teachers must know about more than phonics to teach English literacy

10.00 am Literacy and Numeracy projects, North and South

DEIS Project: Ms Ciara O’Donnell, Professional Development Service for Teachers (POST), and Mrs Mary Irving, St Catherine’s Infant School, Cabra, Dublin

Achieving Belfast: Mr Paul Lawther, Assistant Senior Education Officer, Belfast Education and Library Board

Bright Futures (Derry): Mr Paddy Mackey, Senior Education Officer, Western Education and Library Board

11.00 am Lunch/refreshments

11.30 am Japanese Research Lesson Study – Loreto Convent, Cavan and St Louise’s Comprehensive, Belfast: Professor John Gardiner, Queen’s University Belfast and Dr Mary Magee, St Angela’s College, Sligo

12.00 pm New resources for Special Educational Needs on the SCOTENS website: Dr Noel Purdy, Stranmillis University College, Belfast

12.15 pm Closing panel discussion: Professor Terezinha Nunes, Sir Bob Salisbury and Professor Jackie Marsh with contributions from delegates

1.15 pm Lunch/refreshments
Conference Speakers and Chairpersons

Mr Ciaran Cannon TD is Minister of State for Training and Skills in the Irish Department of Education and Skills. He was the last leader of the Progressive Democrats party, joined Fine Gael in 2009 and was elected to Dáil Éireann as a deputy for Galway East in the February 2011 election. He was appointed by the coalition government as a Minister of State in the Department of Education and Skills in March 2011. Before entering politics he worked as a local government administrator and was chief executive of ICPT-The Irish Pilgrimage Trust. In 2007 he was a Taoiseach’s nominee to the Seanad.

Mr John O’Dowd MLA became Minister for Education in the Northern Ireland Executive in May 2011. He has been a member of Sinn Féin for over 20 years, and spent over 14 years of those as a member of Craigavon District Council. In 2003 he was elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly as an MLA for Upper Bann. In 2007 he was re-elected to the Assembly, becoming the first nationalist/Republican candidate to top the poll in the Upper Bann area. A married man with two young children, he is a former leader of the Sinn Féin Assembly team and a member of the party’s Ard Comhairle.

Professor Sir Bob Salisbury is Chair of the Northern Ireland Literacy and Numeracy Task Force. Until recently he was the Director of Partnerships at the University of Nottingham. He is now based in Northern Ireland where his wife Rosemary is principal of an integrated secondary school. He is a promoter of the National Leadership Training Programme for future school leaders with the National College of School Leadership in the UK. Before that, he was the head teacher of the Garibaldi School in Mansfield, Notts. This 11 - 18 mixed comprehensive had experienced a chequered history and by 1999 had a very negative image and was losing a large number of pupils to neighbouring schools. Under Bob Salisbury’s leadership it was dramatically turned around and is now widely recognised for its achievements. He now has a national and international reputation for his thought-provoking ideas on leadership styles and staff motivation in education, and regularly works with schools in challenging circumstances. His innovative approach to challenging complacency, creating ‘enterprise cultures’ and education for the 21st Century has brought him many invitations to speak to both educational and commercial audiences. He is a governor of the Integrated Education Fund in Northern Ireland. He was knighted in 1998.

Professor Teresa O’Doherty is Dean of Education at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick where she is responsible for the academic and administrative leadership of a large education faculty, with almost 70 academic staff and 2000 students. After completing her degree in education at Mary Immaculate College in 1984 Professor O’Doherty taught in the primary sector for more than a decade. She completed her Master’s in Education at NUI Maynooth in 1989 and was subsequently awarded her PhD at the University of Limerick in 1997. She is a member of a wide range of academic, professional and administrative committees on a regional and national level and is the Southern Co-Chair of SCOTENS. Professor O’Doherty has held a number of academic appointments including Lecturer in Education and Assistant Dean, Research in the College of Education, University of Limerick. Professor O’Doherty’s research interests are in the area of History of Irish Education. She is also an active member of a number of national and international projects in the area of teacher education and teacher induction.

Dr Harold Hislop was appointed as Chief Inspector at the Irish Department of Education and Skills in February 2010. He joined the Department’s inspectorate in 1998 and held a number of senior positions within the organization. He has been closely involved in the development of the Department’s National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, published in July 2011. Before joining the Inspectorate, he held a wide range of positions at various levels of the educational system. He was a primary school principal and a lecturer in education at Trinity College, Dublin. He worked as an education and development officer at the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment during the development of the Primary School Curriculum and served as General Secretary of the Church of Ireland Board of Education, where he was responsible for management policy for primary and second-level schools.

Professor Jackie Marsh is currently Head of the School of Education at the University of Sheffield. Her research focuses on the way in which young children’s literacy practices are changing in the digital age. She has led and participated as a co-investigator in a number of research projects that have analysed children’s engagement with popular culture, media and new technologies in homes, communities and schools, including the recent AHRC Beyond Text Project ‘Children’s playground games and songs in the new media age’. Professor Marsh served as president of the United Kingdom
Literacy Association from 2005-7. She is a founding editor of the *Journal of Early Childhood Literacy*. She has published a range of books, chapters and papers on topics relating to early literacy, including a co-edited review of international research in the field, *The Handbook of Early Childhood Literacy* (Sage).

**Professor John O’Donoghue** is a professional mathematics educator employed by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Limerick. His current position is Co-Director of the National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning (NCE-MSTL). His main areas of interest are: mathematics teacher education (secondary); adult mathematics education/numeracy; service mathematics teaching, and mathematics support (higher education).

**Dr Eithne Kennedy** is a teacher educator at St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Dublin, where she teaches on a range of literacy courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Her doctoral research, which focused on raising literacy achievement in disadvantaged schools, won international recognition in 2010 when it was awarded the International Reading Association’s Outstanding Dissertation Award. Through the ‘Write to Read’ research initiative (at St. Patrick’s College project), she works collaboratively with schools and communities to design and implement research-based programmes to address ‘closing the gap’, while also motivating and engaging children as readers, writers, and thinkers. She has authored several publications in the field and regularly presents at national and international conferences. She is a past president and current executive committee member of the Reading Association of Ireland.

**Ms Deirdre Robson** is Head of Art in St. Mary's University College, Belfast. Prior to this, she spent 10 years as a teacher and Head of Art in the post-primary school sector, working predominantly with teenage boys. Since moving into teacher education, she has worked in curriculum design and development, leading to the acquisition of five research grants in collaboration with her colleague in the Science Department, Mr Hickey. Also in collaboration with Mr Hickey, she developed the Leonardo Effect, an interdisciplinary teaching methodology built on the exploration of ideas, skills and processes common to art and science. This has been tested in a national pilot and found to boost pupils’ commitment to learning and attainment across ability levels, in particular in the area of literacy. The approach is now being piloted in post-primary schools. With Mr Hickey she is writing a book entitled *The Leonardo Effect: Improving Learning Outcomes in Schools* (forthcoming from Routledge).

**Dr Sean Delaney** is currently interim Registrar at the Marino Institute of Education in Dublin, where he is also a mathematics educator. Before becoming a teacher educator, he spent 11 years teaching, mostly in the Kilkenny School Project National School, where he spent a year as principal. His research interests include teachers’ mathematical knowledge, the teaching of mathematics in primary school, the quality of mathematics textbooks, and approaches to teacher education. He has studied at Harvard University, where he was awarded a Masters in Education (Technology in Education) and at the University of Michigan, where he received a PhD (Teaching and Teacher Education) in 2005. He is on the Board of Studies of Project Maths. He presents and produces *Inside Education*, a weekly programme about education, on the 103.2 Dublin City FM radio station. His blog can be read at seandelaney.com.

**Ms Michele Long** has been coordinator of the ‘Sparking the Imagination’ project since 2009 – this explores the effects of the creative arts in raising self-esteem and confidence in the Foundation Stage of learning. She is a trained primary teacher who taught the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One both in England and Northern Ireland for 6 years. She is currently coordinating a new project – ‘Creative Change: Fostering Personal Development and Mutual Understanding through Creativity’ – which brings schools and communities from Catholic, Protestant, and Integrated schools in Northern Ireland together to learn about each other and foster attitudes of understanding and respect.

**Dr Brian Murphy** lectures in the School of Education in University College Cork in the areas of language teaching methodology, literacy and teaching studies and is also course leader for the M.Ed. programme. His current areas of research interest include the pedagogy of language and literacy development, second language teaching and learning, gender and language learning, language policy issues and teacher education. He is a member of the OECD PISA National Advisory Committee for Ireland and the Executive Committee of the Reading Association of Ireland.
Dr Aisling Leavy is a Lecturer in Mathematics Education at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick. She received her PhD from Arizona State University following graduate and undergraduate studies at California State University, St Patrick’s College Drumcondra and University College Dublin. Her interests are children’s mathematical thinking; the development of statistical reasoning; the preparation of pre-service teachers; and use of teaching and research methodologies to support the development of conceptual understanding of mathematics in primary classrooms. Aisling is active at international, national, and local levels through a variety of education and mathematics education organisations including the International Association for Statistical Education, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the American Educational Research Association, and Educational Studies Association of Ireland. Since 2008, she has held the position of co-editor of Irish Educational Studies.

Mr Jim Mullan taught mathematics and ICT in a large secondary school in Belfast for many years and was a head of department. During this time, he also taught maths to adults attending evening classes. He then moved into teaching adults full time, working in a training organisation teaching numeracy and literacy to vocational learners and unemployed groups. He is now involved in the tutor education programme at Queen’s University Belfast for adult literacy and numeracy tutors with responsibility for the Certificate and Diploma Adult Numeracy course. His research interests include ‘active learning’ approaches to teaching numeracy, the role of technology enhanced learning (TEL) to support teaching and learning, and initiatives across Europe to address the literacy agenda. Jim is a member of RePAL (Research and Practice in Adult Literacy), an independent network of learners, teachers, managers and researchers in adult basic education and until recently was a member of its management group.

Dr Tom Hesketh is Director of the Regional Training Unit which has the responsibility for leadership training across the Northern Ireland Education Service, including the Professional Qualification for Headship. He taught for 11 years before entering the schools’ advice and support services in Northern Ireland, working for two of the five Education and Library Boards. He has chaired a number of departmental working groups on themes such as school development planning, pupils’ emotional health and wellbeing and Specialist Schools. He has also undertaken consultancy work for the Department of Education in Malta and is a visiting fellow with the International Leadership Centre, University of Hull and with the University of Lincoln. He is a regular contributor to the EdD. at Queen’s University Belfast. He is Co-Chair of SCOTENS.

Professor Terezinha Nunes is Professor of Educational Studies at Oxford University and a Fellow of Harris-Manchester College. She started her career as a clinical psychologist in Brazil and moved to a research career by obtaining a Doctorate in Psychology at City University of New York, where she was supported by a Fulbright Scholarship. Her work spans the domains of children’s literacy and numeracy, including both hearing and deaf children’s learning, and her focus of analysis covers cognitive and cultural issues, with a special interest in educational applications. Her work on ‘street mathematics’ in Brazil uncovered many features of children’s and adults’ informal knowledge, and her subsequent work in the UK investigates how this informal knowledge can be used in education. Her literacy research focuses on the connections between morphological awareness, spelling and vocabulary growth.

Ms Ciara O’Donnell is a primary school teacher on secondment from Scoil Naoimh Naoghaile, Clondalkin, Dublin and currently works as a coordinator with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) in the Republic. She was formerly Assistant National Coordinating with the Primary Curriculum Support Service (PCSS) and Deputy Director of the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) with specific responsibility for the provision of curriculum support to primary schools. More recently she has led the team of advisors supporting teachers and principals working in schools with a DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) disadvantaged status. She has extensive knowledge and expertise of the DEIS context, having been seconded from a DEIS school and having worked for six years as a Home-School-Community Liaison Coordinator promoting parents of marginalised families as first educators. Ciara has designed and delivered several courses for teachers in literacy and numeracy, many of them customised for those working in disadvantaged areas.
Ms Mary Irving is principal of St. Catherine's Infant School in Dublin 7, a school that is designated as disadvantaged. The school prides itself on team teaching of mathematics, high levels of collaborative planning by teachers and a virtually workbook-free environment, and recently received an outstanding Whole School Evaluation report. Mary holds a B.Ed. from St. Patrick's College of Education Drumcondra, and a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Psychology from the Open University. She has carried out research on the development of mathematical thinking in four year olds. She is also an associate lecturer with the Open University.

Mr Paul Lawther is an Assistant Senior Education Officer and Head of the Curriculum Support and Advice Service with Belfast Education and Library Board. Before joining BELB he taught economics in Wellington College, Belfast. In 1989 he was seconded to BELB to work on a school improvement project with some of the most challenging schools in Belfast. His current responsibilities include advice and support to all Belfast schools on the implementation of government policy and initiatives including ‘Every School a Good School’, the introduction of the Revised Curriculum; the formal intervention process following inspections, training of Beginning Teachers, and early professional development and training for boards of governors. He is in charge of ‘Achieving Belfast 2008-2010’: a programme of intensive support to 14 primary and four post-primary schools aimed at addressing underachievement, particularly in literacy and numeracy, in the Belfast board area.

Mr Paddy Mackey has over 25 years experience in the Education Service in Northern Ireland in a career that spans nine years as an Adviser, eight years as a Senior Adviser and two years as Assistant Senior Education Officer. For the last five years he has worked as Head of Teaching, Learning, Curriculum and Youth (Senior Education Officer) in the Western Education and Library Board and Southern Education and Library Board. Before joining the WELB in 1987 he taught in a number of schools including a comprehensive school in Hertfordshire, a secondary school in Limavady and a grammar school in Derry. He is responsible for ‘Achieving Derry - Bright Futures’, a long-term approach to eradicating educational underachievement in Derry and thus helping to break the cycle of social deprivation and unfulfilled potential that blights N. Ireland’s second city.

Professor John Gardner took up the role of Head of the School of Education at Queen’s University Belfast in July 2010. He was first appointed to Queen’s in 1981, took up a lectureship in 1984 and became a reader in 1991. He was promoted to a professorship in education in 1995. He is a former Dean of the university’s former Faculty of Legal, Social and Educational Sciences. His main research areas (with over 120 publications) include policy and practice in education, particularly in relation to assessment and new technologies in education (and the combination of the two). His six books include, most recently, Developing Teacher Assessment (McGraw Hill), which draws on the work of the internationally renowned Assessment Reform Group, of which he has been a member since 1994. He is President of the British Educational Research Association; a visiting professor at the University of Oxford’s Centre for Educational Assessment; a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors; a chartered engineer and fellow of the British Computer Society; and a member of the Council of the UK Academy of Social Sciences.

Dr Mary Magee lectures in the Home Economics Department in St Angela’s College, Sligo. Previously head of that department, she is currently Vice-President of the International Federation for Home Economics (European Region) and Chair of the recently established European Association for Home Economics (EAEHE). After completing her B.Ed at Mary Ward College (Nottingham University), she taught at post-primary schools in both UK and Ireland. She holds a Masters in Education and a Ph.D. from the National University of Ireland. Her research interests include developing critical reflection in teacher education and CPD, innovative classroom pedagogies; ICT in home economics; nutrition and health and consumer behaviour. Dr Magee’s doctoral research examined student teachers’ experiences of learning to teach and the challenges of developing critical reflection in pre-service.

Dr Noel Purdy is a Principal Lecturer in Education Studies at Stranmillis University College, Belfast. He began his career as a modern languages teacher in Cookstown High School and the Royal School, Dungannon. He now coordinates Special Educational Needs at Stranmillis and also has a strong interest in pastoral care in schools. He has recently completed a ScoTENS-funded project (with Dr Conor McCruin from Trinity College, Dublin) looking at student teachers’ knowledge and confidence in relation to disablity bullying, and he is the editor of the SEN section of the ScoTENS website.
SCoTENS Committee member with speakers at the 2010 annual conference.

Front row, left to right: Prof. Teresa O’Dohery (Joint Chair), Mr Séan Haughey TD, Irish Minister of State for Lifelong Learning; Prof. Marie Parker Jenkins, Dr Tom Hesketh (Joint Chair), Ms Áine Lawlor.

Back Row, left to right: Ms Geraldine Magennis, Prof. John Coolahan, Mr Paul Sweeney, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education N. Ireland; Prof. John Gardner, Mr Eddie McArdle, Mr Eugene Toolan, Mr Andy Polak, Ms Marie McLoughlin
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Dr Anne Heaslett, Dr Geraldine Magennis, Mr Eugene Toolen, Ms Marie McLoughlin, Professor John Coolahan, Dr Linda Clarke, Professor John Gardner, Professor Marie Parker Jenkins, Dr Kathy Hall, Dr Aidan Mulkeen, Mr Eddie McArdle, Dr Marie Clarke, Ms Áine Lawlor, Mr Andy Pollak

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