

## BULLETIN

### Spring Term 2007

#### Actions Requested

- Look out for the Schools Teachers' Guide and DVD being distributed next term
- Acknowledge Steve Baron's contribution to TLRP
- Welcome the new Technology Enhance Learning projects
- Consider interdisciplinary work for the second round of TEL funding
- Note the Meetings of Minds fellowship scheme is still open
- Send Andrew Pollard ideas on possible topics for international reviews
- Diarise forthcoming events
- Contact James O'Toole to confirm your representation at the Directors' Forum in May
- Make a note of Mary James' Professorial lecture to be held in October
- Keep an eye on the changes happening to the TLRP website
- Take a look at the new Capacity section on TLRP's website
- Distribute the new TLRP Programme leaflet to interested parties
- Visit the TLRP and Routledge websites for details of new publications
- Keep Sarah Douglas informed of any planned or completed outputs
- Welcome Mabel Encinas to the TLRP Programme Office
- Send any news and events items for the web site to James O'Toole

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## Mailing our key 500

You will be interested to know that a complete set of all TLRP Research Briefings relating to Schools is to be mailed out in mid May to over 500 key opinion leaders and policy makers in all four countries of the UK – and also to selected contacts internationally. We hope that recipients will be able to see the relevance and quality of the projects and their findings – and also to begin to appreciate the Programme's school portfolio as a whole. In due course, similar mailings will be prepared for opinion leaders in other sectors.

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## Magazine and DVD on school findings



A major initiative to disseminate the findings of schools projects is also about to take off. The 'Video-assets' project, based at Bristol, refocused its energy a while back and has now produced an excellent DVD illustrating some of TLRP ten 'principles of teaching and learning'. Our thanks go, in particular, to Federica Olivero and Available Light for this. At the same time, a magazine has been produced under the guidance of Diane Hofkins which presents findings and principles in a more expansive way – you can also pull out your very own poster! Thanks to the support of ESRC and DfES, we are going to be able to provide a DVD, magazine and poster for every UK school. These will go out in mid May.

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## Steve Baron

Balancing the demands of AERA and TLRP was never an easy prospect and Steve finally opted to improve his quality of life! We will miss him 'down south' – though fortunately he has agreed to continue to assist TLRP in liaison in Scotland. We'd like to thank Steve for everything he has done for TLRP. Alan Brown and Miriam David have taken on some of Steve's project-liaison work, whilst Mary James now leads on Capacity Building issues.

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## TLRP's Technology-Enhanced Learning initiative: three projects funded in first round



Three research projects which will use advanced technologies to improve learning were approved for funding in March 2007. The three are the first major projects supported by the TLRP's Technology-Enhanced Learning initiative (seven projects received small scale development funding last year). They will each receive funding of about £1.5 million spread over the next three or four years. The three projects will be focusing in three different subject areas: science, mathematics and dentistry.

In science, Professor Mike Sharples of the University of Nottingham and Professor Eileen Scanlon of the Open University will lead a project to develop new ways of teaching 11-14 year olds. It will involve developing, testing and improving new designs for personal computers that support science learning between schools, homes and discovery centres. Mike Sharples says: "The learning of science involves much more than acquiring facts and interpreting data. It is important for children to engage with science that affects their everyday lives. They need to assess evidence from many sources, take part in debates on topics of major public concern, and use new technologies to find, visualise and share knowledge."

In mathematics, a group led by Professor Richard Noss at the London Knowledge Lab (Institute of Education and Birkbeck) will be using technology to support teachers in encouraging 11-14 year-old students to create mathematical generalisations. The idea of generalisation is notoriously difficult for students, with the result that students routinely find themselves unable to understand what mathematics is about. The project aims to address this by building - together with teachers - computer tools that simultaneously support mathematical expression and collaboration. Richard Noss says: "We are going to create computer systems that will let students build mathematical models of patterns, so that they see a point in expressing and sharing their ideas about generalisation online". The systems will produce an intelligent learning environment for students alongside adaptive pedagogical support for teachers.

In dentistry, a group led by Professor Margaret Cox of King's College London's Dental Institute (and Department of Education and Professional Studies) will be using IT to improve the skills of future dentists, dental hygienists and dental nurses - with no trauma to patients who are being practised upon. Instead, the team will develop haptic, or touch-based, methods using a "virtual mouth." At first it will be a real structure, which students work on with a robotic arm in front of a computer screen which provides feedback to their actions. Later on, the actions will be simulated through the use of the mouse and a Web-based environment so that more students can benefit from this innovative learning experience. Margaret Cox says: "As well as not needing patients in the earlier stages of training, this approach allows students to practise a technique as often as they need without embarrassment and apprehension when treating real patients. We will refine the methods as the project proceeds and similar haptic technology will also be able to be used in the future to help train doctors and veterinary surgeons."

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## TLRP TEL 2

The latest round of TLRP commissioning is scheduled for an announcement in May, with an advertisement for an Associate Director to lead this work coming at about the same time. The commissioning will be in two stages – outline and full – and should result in a new group of projects starting in the Autumn of 2008. It is possible that these could be up to 5 years in duration so the TLRP TEL phase may extend as far as 2013!

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## 2006 annual report feedback

The Steering Committee received annual reports at its meeting in February and expressed its gratitude to those investments which submitted. Feedback has been drafted by members of the Directors' Team and is expected to be circulated before the end of April. As usual, a CD containing appropriately edited versions of all reports will be distributed for colleagues to see what is going on elsewhere within TLRP.

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## Meeting of Minds Fellowships

Please note that the second round of Meetings of Minds funding is still open until 30<sup>th</sup> April. The scheme supports prospective principal investigators in gaining support and advice about funding applications and career development from a more experienced colleague, usually beyond the applicant's home institution. For full details and to apply see:

<http://www.tlrp.org/manage/fund.html>

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## International Review Commissioning

The Steering Committee has agreed in principle to commission international reviews associated with major TLRP findings. Andrew Pollard will be exploring possibilities at AERA and would welcome ideas for topics and reviewers. Decisions are expected in July.

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## Miriam David in the USA



Miriam David has been visiting North America on a fellowship funded by both the ESRC and the US's Social Science Research Council to disseminate findings from across the TLRP and to develop a comparative and conceptual framework for thinking about social diversity and difference as aspects of inequalities in teaching and learning. She has visited a range of institutions in the US and Canada, including Harvard Graduate School of Education (GSE), the School of Education of Boston College, York University, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto and University of Wisconsin at Madison. All in all, Miriam found this comparative and conceptual fact-finding mission to be amazingly fruitful and a full report will be developed when she returns after presenting at AERA.

An interim report of Miriam's visit to date can be found here: [http://www.tlrp-archive.org/cgi-bin/tlrp/news/news\\_log.pl?display=1175512378](http://www.tlrp-archive.org/cgi-bin/tlrp/news/news_log.pl?display=1175512378)

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## Forthcoming events

Numerous events are in the planning stage for the period between now and the end of 2008 with larger events detailed below.

In particular, TLRP's 2007 Annual Conference in November will be focused on methodological development - 'Taking Stock of Educational Research' through the years of TLRP's existence. Complementing this, will be a number of thematic and sector-focused events, for instance, for FE, HE and Workplace projects.

### EVENTS IN 2007

#### ***American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference***

Members of the TLRP Directors Team and other TLRP colleagues will be present at the annual event in Chicago 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April.

#### ***TLRP Director's Forum***

The 2007 Forum will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the Institute of Education and a senior representative (normally an award holder) from each TLRP investment will be expected. This is the annual opportunity to discuss and influence the Programme's overall strategy. There is a great deal to consider at present affecting not only TLRP but also the future of the field as a whole. Post-2008 initiatives on capacity building, substantive research on pedagogy and maximizing TLRP impact are being actively considered and the views of colleagues would be appreciated. Please consider who will represent your project or thematic initiative this year.

#### ***FE & Widening Participation in HE event***

Members of TLRP's Further Education and Widening Participation in Higher Education projects will convene in Cardiff on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June for two days of sector focused work.

#### ***British Educational Research Association (BERA) Conference***

This year's BERA conference will run from 5-8<sup>th</sup> September at IOE London, also the location of the TLRP central office. As usual TLRP will have an exhibition stand and will collate TLRP projects' presentations at the conference so please keep us posted with abstracts and any special plans.

#### ***FE Autumn conference***

A conference at IOE London in autumn is in the early stages of planning which will involve a number of TLRP's Further Education projects in association with the Learning and Skills Development Network. Further details will appear on the website in due course.

### ***'Taking Stock of Educational Research' TLRP Annual Conference***

26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November will see a conference in Cardiff focused on methodological issues and developments since 2000 – with a particular attempt to consider TLRP contributions. Major inputs will be expected from each of TLRP's thematic investments on methodological issues and representatives from projects and other thematic work will also be invited to participate. This is an important event in terms of our collective learning and proposals will be up for discussion at the Directors' Forum. Final information will be circulated in June.

### ***TLRP at SHRE***

A call is about to be made for the annual Society for Research Into Higher Education (SRHE) annual conference on December 11th-13th in Cardiff which will feature a strong TLRP presence. A TLRP led research capacity building day for doctoral students and early career researchers will be held on Monday December 10<sup>th</sup> and we hope that all HE and Lifelong Learning projects will contribute.

### ***Researching Work and Learning Conference***

The Researching Work and Learning Conference (RWL5) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from 2 – 5 December 2007.

## **EVENTS IN 2008**

As usual, TLRP expects to be well represented at AERA, BERA and EERA conferences. Additionally:

### ***APERA in the Spring?***

Negotiations are underway with colleagues in Hong Kong in the hope that it may be possible to organize a focused international conference with members of the Asian-Pacific Educational Research Association.

### ***Belfast in the Summer?***

Plans are in progress for a TLRP event in Belfast in late Spring / early Summer focusing on the major outcomes of schools projects.

### ***2008 Annual Conference / Exhibition***

Venues are currently under consideration in central London for a major two day TLRP event designed to showcase TLRP outcomes to policy makers. It is envisaged the non-residential conference (24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Nov tbc) will include a poster exhibition of many TLRP investments as well as keynotes and seminars. It is expected that the first day will focus on schools projects and the second on post-compulsory work.

### ***Widening Participation in HE***

This will be a special event designed to raise the profile of the HE sector as a whole.

### ***Other events***

There are likely to be a number of other events as part of TLRP's impact strategy. Our goal is to showcase and promote the quality of the research which has been conducted – without putting too much strain on colleagues' time! Nevertheless, this is a pivotal time for investment in educational research and it is not in the interests of the field as a whole for us to be shy!

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## **Mary James' lecture**

Mary James will be giving a Professorial Lecture on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October in the Jeffrey Hall, IOE. The title is 'Improving Teaching and Learning in Schools – towards coherence in a complex field'. It will be based on Mary's ESRC TLRP Director's Fellowship work.

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## Four new website developments



Also in mid May, the TLRP website will undergo a further front page redesign. First, there will be a new feature on 'outcomes' which will present significant achievements and impacts by projects. We are using end of award report information and such like to compile these. Second, there will be a feature guiding different groups of visitors on how they might use the site – teachers, journalists, civil servants, academics, etc. Third, the functions of the Search facility will be fully available – including the ability to select only user-friendly and accessibly written material from DSpace. Fourth, we will be foregrounding the new 'practitioner applications' section, created by CUREE to enable teachers to engage with project findings through practical classroom enquiries. There are now some 170 of these on the website, drawing on the structure of activities in Andrew Pollard's Reflective Teaching. You can see these now through the Search facility.

Together, these changes represent a major effort to make our complex site more user friendly.

If you have any suggestions for ways in which we could improve our website, please contact James O'Toole or Sarah Douglas in the Programme Office

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## New development in the leadership of TLRP's provision for capacity building.

As noted elsewhere in this bulletin, Steve Baron has now left TLRP in order to focus his efforts on the Scottish scene and on AERS. Following this development, some aspects of TLRP's capacity building provision are being reorganized – though there will be continuity in the basic overall strategy. From April until the end of 2008, the overall provision will be led by Mary James. She will devote two thirds of her time to this in 2007 and just over a day a week in 2008. In order to do this her ESRC Fellowship will be extended (subject to approval) to the end of 2008, but take one third of her time, rather than full-time.

Much of her work will focus on coordinating the development, then promoting the use, of the 'Capacity' area of the TLRP website. The prime purpose of this is to provide resources to help grow capacity for educational research across the system, especially in the light of Demographic Review that indicated over 50% of experienced educational researchers are over 50!

We intend to:

- *Harvest* – we will build on the Strathclyde legacy to collect material together that is already available on the web or can easily be placed on the web. Such resources range from whole websites to single documents, so judicious selection is necessary.
- *Moderate and select* – we will ask individuals and groups, most of whom have already been approached, to take a view on the quality of the material harvested, to add to it, and decide whether it deserves to be included at all or perhaps highlighted as a key text
- *Provide 'Walk-throughs' and commentaries* – we will ask people to help us to provide short 'up front' guides to the themes and contents of the site, with hyperlinks to other resources. Alan Brown has drafted a dummy so that you can see what these might look like, see: [http://www.tlrp.org/capacity/resources\\_AB\\_1.html](http://www.tlrp.org/capacity/resources_AB_1.html). We want to offer TLRP project illustrations. For this reasons, links to TLRP projects will be partly embedded and with particular items 'showcased'. As you will see, these walkthroughs do not have to be long but they provide a narrative to frame the links to other resources.

We will also seek where possible to include pedagogic material, e.g. outlines of courses designed for the teaching of this material, study guides, and possibly 'cleared' data that can be analysed or re-analysed.

The material will need to be updated and we are considering adopting an approach to the development of these resources based on a moderated Wikipedia principle. This would allow materials to be edited and extended by any reader though with some academic control over this editing.

In April, after AERA, Mary will be contacting those people, to whom Steve has already spoken, to discuss further their possible contribution. If there are others who would be interested in being involved in such work, in an area of particular expertise, please let Mary know. She would be delighted to hear from you.

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## EEP and TTRB



The new Educational Evidence Portal (EEP), in which TLRP is a partner, is almost ready for its launch. This is an attempt to make educational research more publicly available for policy making, practice and debate. There have been major contributions from Microsoft and, more recently, BEI - with the latter providing excellent new, integrative tools. CfBT is now underwriting the initiative. The content is partially selected by contributing organisations and TLRP is foregrounding materials which accessibly summarise the work of projects and key findings. We are also working with the Teacher Training Resource Bank (TTRB) to increase the representation of TLRP outputs. TTRB is now recording a very large number of daily visits and we are pleased to cooperate with them.

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## New Programme leaflet



All TLRP investments should by now have received six copies of the new Programme Leaflet, with details of all TLRP investments, including the new TEL projects and thematic initiatives. If you have not received copies, please contact Sarah Douglas. The leaflet can also be downloaded from: <http://www.tlrp.org/pub/index.html>

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## New publications

We are pleased to announce the following new publications:



### Research Briefings:

The following new research briefings are now printed, and available to download from: <http://www.tlrp.org/pub/research.html>:

- ◆ 25: Early Career Learning at Work
- ◆ 23: Education, Schooling and Learning for Life
- ◆ 21: From Black Boxes to Glass Boxes

Two further research Briefings are in press, and will be available shortly:

- ◆ 22: Enhancing Primary Literacy and Mathematics through Home-School Knowledge Exchange
- ◆ 24: Effective Pre-School and Primary Education: Findings from the Pre-School Period



### Books

We have a number of books in press. They are available to pre-order from:

<http://www.routledge.com/>

- ◆ ***Improving Learning Cultures in Further Education*** David James, Gert Biesta,
- ◆ ***Improving Learning How to Learn*** Mary James, Paul Black, Patrick Carmichael, Mary-Jane Drummond, Alison Fox, Leslie Honour, John Macbeath, Robert McCormick, Bethan Marshall, David Pedder, Richard Procter, Sue Swaffield, Joanna Swann, Dylan Wiliam,
- ◆ ***Improving Learning through Consulting Pupils*** Jean Rudduck, Donald McIntyre,
- ◆ ***Improving Primary Literacy*** Anthony Feiler, Jane Andrews, Pamela Greenhough, Martin Hughes, David Johnson, Mary Scanlon, Wan Ching Yee
- ◆ ***Improving Primary Mathematics*** Martin Hughes, Jane Andrews, Pamela Greenhough, Leida Salway, Jan Winter, Wan Ching Yee

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## Planned publications

Please continue to let Sarah Douglas know of any Special Issues your project has either published, or plans to publish.

It is important for us to maintain an accurate record of all project outputs. This allows us to promote the work of your project through Programme activities, mailings and events.

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## Outcomes posters

Colleagues will be interested to know that a selection of posters are to be produced to communicate major project, thematic and overarching TLRP findings to be at events where researchers may, or may not, be present. This will occur over the next six months and as further results come through. It will substantially increase our capacity to promote the findings of the Programme in the future. As appropriate, draft material will be offered for validation!

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## D-Space Researcher



Please welcome TLRP's new D-Space Researcher, Mabel Encinas. Mabel is a PhD student at the IOE investigating *A sociocultural study of emotionality and cognition as features of teachers' knowledge and practice*. Her specific role at TLRP involves managing the D-Space deposition of publications from Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects. She can be contacted on [LEncinas-Sanchez@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:LEncinas-Sanchez@ioe.ac.uk)

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## News and Events

Please keep an eye on our news and events pages at [www.tlrp.org](http://www.tlrp.org) to find out about the latest developments of the programme.

We will be delighted to receive information about any news, events, media coverage etc from TLRP initiatives to post on the site, and are always keen to hear your ideas and suggestions for what should be on the website.

We especially welcome any photographs of meetings and events, copies of press cuttings or any other TLRP related activities. They are very useful for our archives and for decorating our web pages. Any group photos of project teams are particularly useful.

Photos can be submitted electronically by email to [j.o'toole@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:j.o'toole@ioe.ac.uk) or feel free to send hard copies and we will digitise them.

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**Item Contributed by:**  
**SAGE Publications/ British Educational Research Association**  
**Awards**

Supporting and encouraging excellence in the application of research in practice.

We are looking for examples of excellence in putting research into practice in an educational, social care or health setting in the UK. The authors of the two best accounts, one from a schools/early years/health/social care setting and one from a 16+ setting, will each receive £500 each plus a selection of SAGE publications books. SAGE will also supply publishing advice to the authors of the best accounts.

The awards will be presented at the Practitioner Conference, which forms part of the BERA Annual conference, in September 2007.

Entries should be submitted by 30 June. For more details visit [www.bera.ac.uk](http://www.bera.ac.uk)