

BULLETIN

Spring Term 2007

Actions Requested

- Note the value placed on consultation at the recent Directors' Forum**
- Diarise upcoming events, including TLRP's November 2007 conference and TLRP's Synoptic Conference on 24th-25th November 2008**
- Affirm the collaborative impact plans from the Widening Participation in HE projects**
- Send in your abstracts if presenting at the BERA Conference**
- Register if you wish to attend the 'TLRP and Methodology' conference and event on 'Enhancing Disabled Students' Learning in HE'**
- Read the background paper about the new Strategic Forum for Research in Education**
- Note new capacity building initiatives, including the 'Mapping the Ripples' project, and visit the demo resources on the website**
- Be amazed at the new funding opportunity for international collaboration**
- Begin submitting your 2007 publications into DSpace**
- Note the latest impact activities for school findings and the growing number of books and other publications**
- Consider how you can now self-post your 'News' on the TLRP website**
- Keep us informed of any special issue journals you're producing**
- Note to explore, when they come round, the ATLAS.ti coded annual reports for thematic analysis**
- Visit the publications section of the website download new project and Programme outputs**
- Note the change of roles at ESRC and welcome Gary Williams**

Programme office contacts

| Name: | Tel: | Email: |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| Programme Office General | 020 7911 5577 | tlrp@ioe.ac.uk |
| Sarah Douglas | 020 7911 5578 | sarah.douglas@ioe.ac.uk |
| Mabel Encinas | 020 7911 5576 | LEncinas-Sanchez@ioe.ac.uk |
| James O'Toole | 020 7911 5577 | j.o'toole@ioe.ac.uk |
| Joanna Penty | 020 7911 5576 | j.penty@ioe.ac.uk |
| Jehan Saleh | 020 7911 5311 | j.saleh@ioe.ac.uk |

TLRP, Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1H 0AL

Previous issues of the TLRP Bulletin can be downloaded here: <http://www.tlrp.org/pub/bulletin.html>

Directors' Forum



Approximately 40 TLRP colleagues met in May to discuss the Programme's progress and future. The focus was, in particular, on the most appropriate strategies for managing the final eighteen months of the large-scale, generic phase of TLRP and the transition into the more focused TLRP TEL phase. There was agreement that the field was very fortunate to have the interdisciplinary opportunity which the new funding for technology enhanced learning offered.

The Directors' Team plans for sustainability and transition were reviewed. In particular, a proposed programme of events and schedule of milestones leading up to the end of 2008 was considered in the context of the need to present the achievements of educational research in its best possible light.

These proposals were subsequently developed and were recently endorsed by the TLRP Steering Committee. They are reflected in the event arrangements which are described in this Bulletin.

Two specific initiatives which also came from the Forum are the new supplementary support for international collaboration and the facility for colleagues to post new News directly into the TLRP website system. Please see these items below.

Upcoming events:

Autumn 2007

- British Educational Research Association (BERA) Conference (5-8 September, London) will be held at TLRP's headquarters, IOE London, and four of the six keynote symposia will be convened by TLRP colleagues (Helen Colley, Gill Crozier, Ian Finlay and Ian Menter). It is anticipated that many other TLRP colleagues will attend and as usual a booklet of all contributions will be produced.
- TLRP Annual Conference on 'TLRP and Methodology: What Learned? What Next?' (26-27 November, Cardiff). See item below.
- Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE) Annual Conference (11-13 December, Brighton) will be chaired by TLRP Associate Director Miriam David and will feature a strong TLRP HE presence. A TLRP-led research capacity building day for doctoral students and early career researchers will be held on Monday December 10th and we hope that all HE and Lifelong Learning projects will contribute.
- Researching Work and Learning Conference (RWL5) (2-5 December 2007, Cape Town) will be attended by TLRP Associate Director Alan Brown.

2008

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

- Capacity Building conference (28th February 2008) is again expected to focus on contract research colleagues and is likely to be linked into the new project on the impact of capacity building activities on researchers' intellectual ideas, lives and careers.

- Asia Pacific Educational Research Association (APERA) conference (spring 2008): 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 APERA.
- Widening Participation in HE conference (spring 2008) This will be a special TLRP led event designed to raise the profile of the HE sector as a whole.
- Belfast event (spring/summer 2008) Plans are in progress for a TLRP event in Belfast in late spring / early summer focusing on the major outcomes of schools projects.
- TLRP Directors' Forum (28 May, London) Please make a note in your diaries of the annual meeting of project leaders.
- TLRP Synoptic Conference / Exhibition (24th-25th November 2008, London): The Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, Westminster, has been secured for a major two day TLRP event designed to showcase outcomes to leading practitioners, policy makers and colleagues in other educational organisations. It is envisaged the non-residential conference 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.

Other events

The above represent some highlights of the programme as a whole in the next year and a half, there will of course be many other project and sector based seminars, conferences and meetings over the same period. As usual we will be more than happy to hear about them and help promote them.

Event report: FE and HE conference



This two day event at which many of the FE projects presented their outcomes/outputs as papers and presentations, was inspiring and influential, and involved all seven Widening Participation in HE projects. They all felt inspired both to work more closely together and to present work in progress, and also to plan on their outputs being jointly presented. The presence of some policy makers in and from Wales as well as other stakeholders led us to think more clearly about the stakeholders in relation to FE/HE.

All seven projects agreed to present interim research findings for a mini-publication to be assembled after the second Social Diversity and difference: researching educational inequalities seminar on July 18th/19th. All the WPinHE projects will present on their conceptual approaches and understandings at this seminar, at which John Brennan and Yann Lebeau will also present on diversity from the SOMUL project. There will also be a presentation from an international project on Widening Participation to HE in Africa, led by Professor Louise Morley of Sussex University.

All HE projects are encouraged to submit abstracts for the SRHE conference taking place in Brighton in December 11th-13th, with the prospects of publications in a special issue of Research Papers in Education.

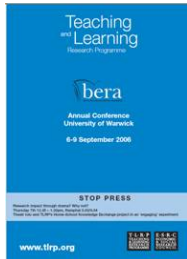
Some of the projects are presenting at BERA in September, ECER also in September and are encouraged to submit to AERA in New York March 2008.



Miriam David is also organising an international symposium on Equity and Social Diversity in HE at AERA in New York in March 2008, with links to other TLRP symposia on similar themes,

especially from the WPinHE projects. Contributors include Adam Gamoran of Wisconsin, Madison and Frinde Maher of Wheaton College, George Dei of OISE Toronto.

Forthcoming conference: TLRP at BERA



As with previous years, we will be promoting all TLRP projects presenting at BERA through a booklet of abstracts. Last year's version of the booklet can be found here: http://www.tlrp-archive.org/cgi-bin/tlrp/events/events_log.pl?display=1150974199

To ensure inclusion of your abstract, please email it to Jehan Saleh j.saleh@ioe.ac.uk, by **31st July 2007**, along with date, time and venue of your presentation.

If you are attending BERA this year, please do come and visit us at TLRP's stand, where we will have a selection of new publications to view. Members of the office team will be on hand to answer queries about events, publications, DSpace, or any other administrative matters.

Forthcoming conference: TLRP and Methodology: What learned? What next?

As you may be aware, this year's TLRP Annual conference in Cardiff will focus on the rationale/s, philosophical assumptions and social practices which characterise the evolving research effort which TLRP represents.

We aspire to being both reflexive (What learned?) and pro-active (What next?). We hope that key researchers who have been involved with TLRP since 2000 will come together to share experiences and engage in some collective reflection.

Notwithstanding the importance of the topic, it is anticipated that this may be a smaller and more focused event than usual. In particular, it will showcase the work of TLRP's various thematic investments on methodological issues, and such colleagues have already agreed to present their insights in plenary sessions. Topics addressed in this way will include: epistemological framing and its consequences, interdisciplinary research, knowledge accumulation and the role of theory, user engagement, challenges of operationalising learning outcomes, research design including mixed-methods and warrants, use of large-scale datasets, and the experiences of award holders and contract researchers on large projects.

As in previous years, colleagues from *all* projects are warmly invited to attend but unlike previous years, project representation is not obligatory. In the first instance we are taking registrations openly from all interested colleagues. Please note however, that if demand is very high, we may need to negotiate how many come from each project. It is anticipated that each of those attending would make a contribution and this will be individually negotiated once attendance is clear. Such contributions may include case studies of project experiences, insights in respect of a particular issue, etc, - and suggestions will be welcome.

It is worth noting that evaluations of TLRP's impact on research in education are expected to influence key funders in respect of future, post-RAE investment policy. For the field as a whole, it

is therefore important that we have analysed (and can articulate) developments over time and the nature of contemporary strengths and weaknesses.

To register for the event please enter your details at <http://www.tlrp.org/conference/2007/register.html> and await response from the TLRP office. Please register ASAP and, at the latest, by the end of August. Confirmation of places will be decided during the first week of September and applications received after that time may not be successful.

Please contact j.o'toole@ioe.ac.uk if you have any queries about this event.

Forthcoming project event: Enhancing the quality and outcomes of disabled students' learning in HE conference

Wednesday 24th October 2007 - 10.00am — 4.00pm
Godfrey Thomson Hall, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh

Bookings are now being taken for the above conference. This one-day conference will present the key findings that come from the ESRC TLRP Phase III research project and look to the future by examining the impact of the Disability Equality Schemes in Higher Education. There is no charge for the event.

Highlights include a keynote address from Mike Adams, Disability Rights Commission together with an examination of the following issues:-

- What are disabled students' expectations and experiences in terms of the way institutions are responding to their particular learning needs and making reasonable adjustments for them?
- How do experiences vary by types of impairment, discipline and institution?
- How do academic staff perceive issues around disability, and what are their training needs?
- How do students negotiate a disability identity to suit their self perception, their relationship to their peers and their ability to access support?
- How do people in key positions view the requirement to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students and what are the tensions between meeting legal requirements and providing higher education to an increasing student population with a range of different needs?

Further information and a booking form can be found here:

<http://www.glos.ac.uk/faculties/ehs/education/tlrp/conferenceoct07.cfm>

The Strategic Forum for Research on Education (SFRE)

SFRE, which has developed from TLRP's contacts and infrastructure, has now been formally endorsed by CfBT in addition to ESRC, BERA, SRHE and DfES. BERA and ESRC are to lead the consortium and representatives of other UK bodies will serve on a Planning Group. The first major event is likely to be in the Spring of 2008. For more information on SFRE, please see the conceptualising paper by Andrew Pollard in DSpace at:

www.tlrp.org/dspace/handle/123456789/796

New capacity building resources on website

By the time you receive this, a new Capacity section of the TLRP website will be 'live'. This reflects new work to make resources available for the methodological development of researchers across the UK. It retains some familiar links, for example, to the Research Capacity Journal edited from Cardiff and the Alert Service provided from Strathclyde. It also publicises TLRP's fellowships, career opportunities, events and networks.



The new element is the research resources that are beginning to build up. These draw on TLRP's now extensive network of very experienced researchers to provide showcases of their expertise and to provide links to complementary resources in the social sciences more generally. The resource bank now has three main entry points, labelled 'research approaches', 'research contributors' and 'TLRP showcase'. There are further straightforward subdivisions once you have chosen your entry point, which will lead you to more specific topics. We will be building this

site as we go along, and as materials we have commissioned come in, and it will become more comprehensive over time. If you would like to offer suggestions and help, please get in touch with James O'Toole in the first instance. He is monitoring the development and will pass on your ideas to Mary James who is co-ordinating the work at this stage.

Work in progress: ESRC's future capacity building strategy for education

TLRP's capacity building experience is contributing to new thinking for possible provision by ESRC and co-funders from 2009. Following the Demographic Review and recent consideration of the health of a number of disciplines within the social sciences, ESRC has identified education as one priority area for investment. Over the past year or so, there have been consultations with BERA, SRHE and representatives of UK academic communities and government agencies. Most recently, ESRC commissioned Andrew Pollard to prepare an overview paper identifying major forms of capacity building in education and exploring the implications for improving policy/practice and improving social scientific understanding. Following a consultation meeting convened by ESRC and attended by 13 individuals representing; HEIs in Wales, Scotland and England; SRHE, SERA and BERA; HEFCW and the Scottish Executive, TLRP and ESRC, more specific proposals to ESRC's Training and Development Board were developed with the support of, Rosemary Deem, John Gardner, Pamela Munn and Sue Davies. These proposals included suggestions for:

- A new form of 'academic fellowship' to support the transitional needs of mid-career movers into educational research
- Investment in pilot projects to test the concept of collaborative initiatives between research-intensive nodes and associated institutions for the development and support of social scientific research in education, with tailoring and co-funding to suit for the circumstances of each UK country.

The latter idea builds on TLRP and AERS experience and it is hoped that this will now lead to pilot investments in Wales and England. Indeed, a proposal for an All Wales Research Network for Education has been developed by Sue Davies, including many colleagues from TLRP's extension projects, and is being supported by HEFCW and WAG. Given the scale of activity in England, some creative thinking about forms of collaborative organisation will be required and this is expected to lead to opportunities in the early autumn.

Capacity building impact of TLRP on researchers lives, careers and intellectual development

A major theme within the TLRP has been to develop research capacity: supporting processes through which research activity becomes embedded within the social networks of educational research communities and, thereby, leaving a sustainable legacy. Conceptually, research capacity is grounded in terms of the potential of human and intellectual resources. Unlike material resources, which have a visible audit trail, there is no consistent body of evidence demonstrating how people utilise the research capacity afforded through their involvement with TLRP projects in relation to their careers and the development of their ideas.

Following a successful application to the Supplementary Impact Fund, TLRP is pleased to announce a new project to be undertaken by Zoe Fowler and Richard Procter called 'Mapping the Ripples'.

The overarching aim of this research project is to evaluate the impact of the TLRP upon research capacity within this field: providing evidence of the longer term effects of research capacity building upon the intellectual career journeys of researchers, and leading to recommendations on how TLRP's legacy of research capacity might be further enhanced. Quantitative data from an on-line survey and analysis of existing Dspace digital repository data will provide an overview of the extent of TLRP's influence; qualitative data from interviews will provide a more nuanced understanding of the values and stories of researchers relating to their involvement with the Programme. The project will also deliver a virtual forum within which communications across researchers within the educational research field can be improved. Through rendering the paths of TLRP researchers visible, this project would make a useful contribution to better understanding the state of the field of Educational Research.

International liaison



As part of the effort to maximize the impact of the TLRP's research findings, we are attempting to broaden the Programme's international outreach. Invitations to engage in a web-based knowledge exchange with TLRP are being communicated to a selection of government bodies and other relevant institutions in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America.

To support the evolving international collaboration between national education research associations, launched by AERA in Chicago, TLRP is providing a Virtual Research Environment (VRE) to enable colleagues to share ideas and resources. For the moment, this goes under the title of 'Associating Associations'.

Supplementary funding for international collaboration now available!

Further to the discussion at the recent Directors' Forum, TLRP is pleased to announce the availability of co-funding for international research activities.

We are now able to contribute up to £300 toward travel expenses for international activities. Applicants agree to provide in return a short report (300 words) and photographs as a

contribution to TLRP's international archive by email to j.saleh@ioe.ac.uk within two weeks of their return. This scheme is offered on a trial basis and will be reviewed in December 2007.

International funding application forms can be downloaded from the TLRP website:
<http://www.tlrp.org/manage/documents/internationalconfundform.pdf>

DSpace hits 26,000 per month: are your entries in?



Thank you for all your hard work putting 2006 publications in DSpace, it has paid off! We now have over 700 publications listed and are delighted that DSpace is receiving more than 26,000 hits a month. DSpace presents a great opportunity for publications to reach a world-wide audience and the volume of new TLRP publications is expanding rapidly.

We anticipate a large influx of 2007 publications when approximately 20 TLRP investments complete in December 2007. To ease a potential jam in the Spring of 2008 we would encourage teams to track down their papers, identify key words from the TLRP vocabulary and upload them into DSpace at the earliest possible convenience.

To assist this process we are running a DSpace training day for the uninitiated (or those who would like a refresher) on Mon 8 October at IoE London. Please let us know who will be coming from your team. Alternatively, if your staff have more immediate training needs we can arrange a session at the TLRP office between July and September.

DSpace contact details

j.penty@ioe.ac.uk or 0208 911 5576
m.encinas@ioe.ac.uk, or 0208 911 5577

'500' mailing on school findings



The week beginning 18th June 2007 saw the TLRP office compiling and distributing a school-focused mailing to over 500 of the UK's key opinion leaders in education.

The pack contained numerous TLRP Research Briefings along with the Teachers' Guide to TLRP's overall findings and the recent TLRP Commentary on Neuroscience and Education. Positive feedback has already been forthcoming from numerous recipients.

Teachers' Guide and DVD on school findings



TLRP's previous bulletin mentioned a major initiative to disseminate the findings of schools projects. 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'. At the same time, a Teachers' Guide 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! These materials will be sent as a package to all UK schools.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the mailing has been delayed until the first

week of September. At that time, the material will also be available for download under the 'Findings' section of the TLRP website. Copies will also be distributed around the Programme and at BERA.

Projects to self-post web news items!



As a result of the recent Directors' Forum a new system has been implemented to enable projects and other investments to post their own news items on the TLRP website in order to increase the flow of stories. A simple interface has been set up here <http://www.tlrp-archive.org/cgi-bin/tlrp/news/editor.pl?action=addrdfproj> into which news items can be entered.

Items will then be put on hold to be reviewed, then made live. For an idea of the general format news items normally take please see current items here http://www.tlrp-archive.org/cgi-bin/tlrp/news/news_log.pl Please contact j.o'toole@ioe.ac.uk if you require further information or assistance.

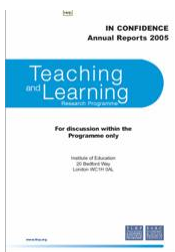
Journal special issues



We are developing the publications section of the website, with particular emphasis on promoting special issues of Journals. We already have an impressive number on our list, and are keen to keep adding to it.

If you are planning, or have already published, a special issue which is not listed on the website, please let Sarah Douglas know so we can ensure we're publicising it.

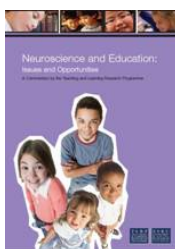
Annual reports



A compendium of projects' Annual and End of Award reports will shortly be circulated around the programme. This will include ATLAS.ti coded reports to enable thematic analysis across the programme.

We hope you will find this interesting and helpful. It is particularly valuable to be able to compare the developments and insights within in a variety of projects. You may find new ideas and possibilities for future collaboration to 'add value'. If you do, don't forget that supplementary funding for inter-project activities remains available.

New publications



Neuroscience and Education: Issues and Opportunities, A Commentary by TLRP

This highly successful Commentary, authored by Dr Paul Howard-Jones as a result of a TLRP Thematic Seminar Series, challenges the 'neuro-myths' and 'folk neuroscience' which are commonplace in contemporary schools.

Since its launch on 15th May at Portcullis House to a group of Peers, MPs, teachers, policy-makers, educational researchers and neuroscientists, the document has been downloaded a record 60,000 times from the TLRP website.

PIs should have received two copies in the post, but if you would like further copies, they can be downloaded from here: <http://www.tlrp.org/pub/commentaries.html> or purchased from the IOE bookshop. For ordering information, please visit: <http://ioewebserver.ioe.ac.uk/ioe/cms/get.asp?cid=7824>



Research Briefings:

The following research briefings will shortly be available to download from: <http://www.tlrp.org/pub/research.html> :

- No. 26 Understanding and Enhancing Learning Cultures in Community-Based Further Education
- No. 28 Policy, learning and inclusion in the learning and skills sector



Improving Learning Series

Books

We have four books out and three in press, with several more moving forward. They are available to pre-order from: www.routledge.com

Those in press are:

- **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 Practice Series

A new book in the Improving Practice series is now available to order from www.routledge.com

Improving Primary literacy: Linking Home and School (Anthony Feeler, Jane Andrews, Pamela Greenhough, Martin Hughes, David Johnson, Mary Scanlan and Wan Ching Yee), draws on research from the TLRP project Home-School Knowledge Exchange and Transformation in Primary Education.

Change of roles at ESRC



Ian Farnden has moved on to a new role within ESRC, and will no longer be working alongside TLRP. We would like to thank Ian for all his help and support over the years, and wish him luck in his new ventures.

We look forward to working with Ian's replacement as Senior Science Officer, Gary Williams. Gary can be contacted on gary.williams@esrc.ac.uk or tel: 01793 413058
