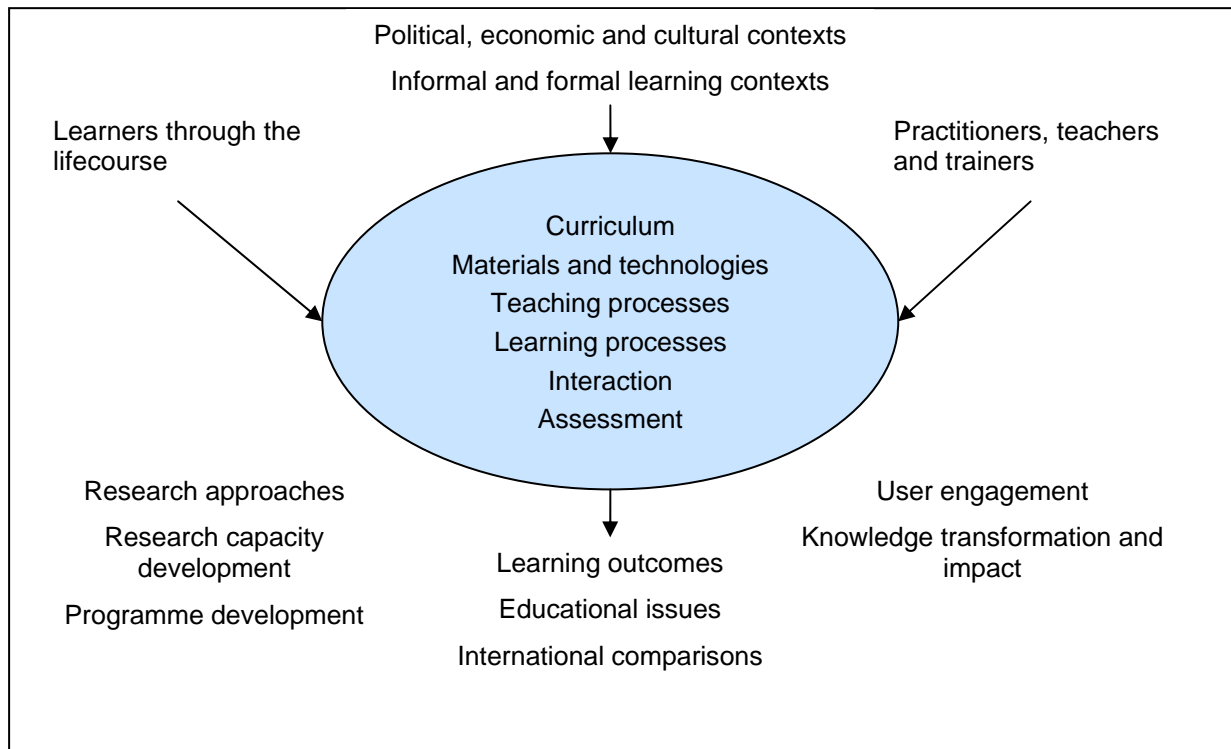


## TLRPs Strategy for Thematic Development

Thematic integration is intended to *add value* to TLRP's numerous substantive research projects.

TLRP is characterised by sequential project phases and successive thematic initiatives. As a coordinated programme, we attempt to maximise the extent to which each individual element can contribute to the whole.

This framework, and its categorisation of cross-Programme issues, is being used in various ways to classify and manage the knowledge which TLRP is generating. Meta-tagging of outputs is being developed to enable simple, web-based retrieval.



The main purposes of thematic work are to synthesise work within the Programme and to progressively deepen understanding of key issues. TLRP's thematic development is shaped by a conceptual framework focused on teaching and learning.

As the Programme moves forward, various strategies have been, and will be, used to maximise cross-Programme analysis and learning. Some of these specific strategies are reviewed overleaf.

**For more information:** contact TLRP's Director, Professor Andrew Pollard, [a.pollard@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:a.pollard@ioe.ac.uk) or visit [www.tlrp.org](http://www.tlrp.org)

### **Commissioning**

Four scoping studies were commissioned early in TLRP. These focused on: *capacity building; neuroscience; pedagogy in post-compulsory education; and international benchmarking of research programmes*. Further work will be commissioned on such themes as domain-specific teaching and learning.

### **Conferences**

TLRP's annual conferences focus on cross-Programme issues and themes. In 2002, discussion led to the initial identification of some 21 themes associated with Programme aims. These were subsequently refined to produce the TLRP conceptual framework. The 2003 event addressed models of learning being used. In 2004, projects reported substantive work to enable review and synthesis. The 2005 conference will focus on thematic work within sectors and twelve identified themes across sectors.

### **Thematic Groups**

Five groups met during 2003 and 2004. Those on *communication and impact, ICT and research development* and on *international synergies* had a major impact on TLRP provision, whilst those on *learning outcomes* and *learning through the lifecourse* tackled more substantive academic concerns. Publications and other outputs have emerged from these e.g. a special issue of the Curriculum Journal 16 (1) on Learning Outcomes.

### **Thematic Seminar Series**

Through 2005 and 2006, these will draw further expertise into the Programme and locate TLRP's work in broader contexts. Topics being addressed include: *contexts, communities and networks; transitions through the lifecourse; education and neuroscience; changing teacher roles; quality in educational research; and collaborating with users to develop educational research*.

### **Workshops**

An academic consultation strategy when specific needs arise. For example, during 2003 a workshop on the meaning and use of the concept of '*warrant*' in educational

research was held, leading to a published article in The Curriculum Journal 16 (1).

### **Policy Task Groups**

Quick-response initiatives in relation to contemporary policy issues on which TLRP may be able to make a worthwhile, and formative, contribution. In 2004, the Programme's first such group focused on *personalised learning* and published a booklet. A second was on 14-19 provision.

### **Directors' Team portfolios**

Each member of the TLRP team has responsibility for selected cross-Programme issues and themes. Additionally, core themes are addressed collectively. The Directors' Team also liaise with a wide range of UK government agencies and user organisations to support constructive developments in the field of research on teaching and learning.

### **Sectoral Overviews**

At appropriate points in the Programme, we intend to take stock of the contributions made within particular sectors – early, primary and secondary education, further, higher, workplace, etc. School-section thematic work will be a focus in 2006.

### **Northern Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English Overviews**

At appropriate points in the Programme, we aim to take stock of the contributions made in relation to specific UK policy-making environments. Work on this will be commissioned in 2006.

### **Major, integrative products**

By the end of TLRP, we intend to make public contributions in relation to three overarching themes.

1. Key findings and principles of teaching and learning across the lifecourse
2. The application of research on teaching and learning for policy and practice
3. The development of teaching and learning research within the field of education