

# CONFIDENTIAL

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## New Director of the ESRC's £24million Teaching and Learning Research Programme Announced

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has announced today the appointment of **Professor Andrew Pollard**, from the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge, as the new Director of its Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP).

Professor Pollard will be responsible for leading the largest co-ordinated programme of research in education and training in the United Kingdom with a budget in excess of £24 million. The Programme aims to deliver high-quality research which leads to improvements in the achievement of learners of all ages, in all sectors and contexts of education, training and lifelong learning throughout the UK.

He succeeds the current Programme Director, Professor Charles Desforges who reaches the end of his term of appointment in February 2002. Professor Pollard will take on responsibility for co-ordinating the current portfolio of research projects, fellowships and capacity building activities under Phases I and II of the Programme, involving almost 150 researchers spread across 27 UK Higher Education Institutions and a wide array of policy and practitioner partners. He will also play a leading role in the development of Phase III of the Programme focused upon post-compulsory education and lifelong learning, commissioning of which begins in January 2002.

Professor Pollard said: "I look forward to the challenges of TLRP, building on the strong foundations that have been established by Professor Desforges. The Programme represents a unique opportunity for the research community to develop new partnerships with research users and to impact on policy and practice in educational

institutions, workplaces and beyond. We aim to identify both immediate ways of increasing learner achievements and methods for enhancing the self-confidence of learners across the life-course”.

Professor Sir David Watson, Director of the University of Brighton and Chair of the TLRP Steering Committee, said: ‘I am delighted to welcome Andrew Pollard to the Directorship of the Programme. His experience, skills and vision will be invaluable as we build on the research emerging from our first two phases of inquiry and move into commissioning new and important work in the post-compulsory sector.”

For further information, please contact **Professor Andrew Pollard (Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge)**, telephone 01223 369631, mobile 07974 963439 email: [ajp67@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ajp67@cam.ac.uk) or

**Julie Robertson, Lesley Lilley or Karen Emerton, ESRC External Relations Division, telephone 01793 413032, 413119, 413122.**

### **Professor Andrew Pollard - Biographical Details**

Professor Pollard is Professor of Education in the Faculty of Education at University of Cambridge.

He began his working life as a sales representative in the print industry before embarking on an educational career in Yorkshire. He has been a teacher in infant, primary and middle schools, an adult education tutor and a lecturer at four higher education institutions.

Following a PhD in the Sociology of Education at the University of Sheffield, in 1981 he took up a post as Senior Lecturer in Education at Oxford Polytechnic before moving to Bristol Polytechnic as a Reader in 1985. He was appointed Professor of Education in 1990 and Associate Dean in the Faculty of Education at the University of the West of England in 1992. In 1996 he moved to take up a Chair in Education at the University of Bristol, where he was Director of Research in the Graduate School of Education between 1996 and 1998. He took up his current post at the University of Cambridge in 2000. He is a Fellow of Wolfson College.

Since 1998 Professor Pollard has also been Chair of the Board of Directors of William Pollard & Co Ltd., a family-employee partnership in the printing industry founded in 1781, having been a non-Executive Director since 1992. He has served on the Education and Training Committee of the British Print Industry Federation.

Professor Pollard has led more than twenty major research projects, many funded by ESRC. These include three stages of the *Primary Assessment, Curriculum and Experience* (PACE) project, with Professor Patricia Broadfoot, examining the impact of the National Curriculum and assessment procedures on the experiences of teachers and pupils, and also five stages of the *Identity and Learning Programme* (ILP), with Ann Filer, based on longitudinal studies of primary and secondary pupil careers.

He is currently co-directing a Phase II project under the Teaching and Learning Programme on *Home and School Knowledge Exchange and Transformation in Primary Education*.

His publications include:

- *Reflective Teaching: A Handbook for Evidence-informed Practice* (fifth edition to be published in 2002) (with Janet Collins, Neil Simco, Sue Swaffield and Paul Warwick)
- *Present Tense, Future Perfect? The Challenge for Employment, Education and Development in the Greater Bristol Region* (2001) (with Marion Anderson and Roger White)
- *What Pupils Say: Changing Policy and Practice in Primary Education* (2000) (with Pat Triggs, Elizabeth McNess, Marilyn Osborn and Patricia Broadfoot)
- *The Social World of Children's Learning* (1996) (with Ann Filer)
- *Education, Training and the New Vocationalism* (1988) (with June Purvis and Geoffrey Walford)
- *The Social World of the Primary School* (1985)

## Notes to Editors

1. The TLRP is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) with contributions from the Scottish Executive, National Assembly for Wales, Northern Ireland Executive and the Department for Education and Skills, and is managed by the ESRC. The Programme was launched in 1999. Strategic management of the Programme rests with a Steering Committee chaired by Professor Sir David Watson, Director, University of Brighton, and comprising practitioners, other users and academics from a wide range of UK institutions. Full details of the membership, together with other information about the Programme and its projects, is provided on the Programme website: [www.ex.ac.uk/ESRC-TLRP](http://www.ex.ac.uk/ESRC-TLRP).

2. Professor Pollard will formally take up the post of Programme Director on 1 March 2002 and is expected to lead the Programme up to its current conclusion in 2008. He will be establishing a new support team and Director's Office based in the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge. There will, however, be a period of managed transition between the two Programme Office teams, to ensure the service given to Programme stakeholders is not affected and in particular that the support for Phase III commissioning is seamless.

3. The call for applications under Phase III of the Programme will be formally announced in the second week in January 2002. The focus of this Phase will be on teaching and learning in post-compulsory education and training including higher and further education, community education, work-based learning (including continuing professional development) and lifelong / adult learning. Developing research capacity in these fields is also a key objective of this Phase. The remit also covers people moving between different sectors (including transitions from school) and teacher / trainer education. Approximately £8 million will be allocated through this call for proposals with projects due to commence from the summer of 2003 and run for up to 5 years up to the end of the Programme in 2008.

4. The ESRC is the UK's largest funding agency for research and postgraduate training relating to social and economic issues. It has a track record of providing high-

quality, relevant research to business, the public sector and government. The ESRC invests around £46 million every year in social science research. At any time, its range of funding schemes may be supporting 2,000 researchers within academic institutions and research policy institutes. It also funds postgraduate training within the social sciences, thereby nurturing the researchers of tomorrow. The ESRC website address is: [www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk).