

The Teaching and Learning Research Programme

TLRP/2

1st September 2000

NEW RESEARCH in TEACHING AND LEARNING

Nine major research projects in teaching and learning funded at £7.5 million are announced today (1st September) under Phase II of the ESRC Teaching and Learning Research Programme.

Based in universities throughout the UK, the projects are part of a Programme which will lead to improvements in the achievement of learners over a wide range of settings from primary schools to professional training. Individual projects will run for 3-5 years. All involve partnerships between researchers and practitioners, managers and other users, from the design and conduct of the research to communicating the results to the teachers and trainers who can use them to make a difference in practice.

Today's announcement is the culmination of an intensive 9 month competition, for which 95 applications were received. Including the four Research Networks already in progress and other work in support of communicating research findings and training for researchers, the Programme represents the largest and most coordinated investment made to date in developing the evidence base for effective learning and teaching in the UK.

Professor Sir David Watson, Chair of the Programme Steering Committee, said: "The nine projects announced today, selected from a very strong field, represent an important investment in high quality research and will make a major contribution to improving outcomes for learners. With the other work of the Programme, they signify the commitment of the whole teaching and learning community to increasing attainment across all sectors of learning."

The Programme Director, Professor Charles Desforges, said:

"Our aim is to ensure that we deliver excellent research which is relevant to the needs of learners, teachers and other users. This will be transformed in partnership with them into practical action to secure the maximum impact on learning."

The successful Phase II Projects are:

Primary

- Peter Blatchford (Institute of Education), Maurice Galton (Cambridge) and Peter Kutnick (Brighton), ***Improving Effectiveness of Pupil Groups in Classrooms*** (Improving learning through groupwork at Key Stages 1-3) (partly in secondary schools)
- Martin Hughes (Bristol), Andrew Pollard (Cambridge), Guy Claxton, David Johnson and Jan Winter (all Bristol), ***Home-School Knowledge Exchange and Transformation in Primary Education*** (Increasing attainment through better home-school cooperation)
- Carol McGuinness and Noel Sheehy (both Queen's, Belfast), ***Sustainable Thinking Classrooms*** (New teaching methods which will lead to improved thinking skills for pupils)
- Terezinha Nunes (Oxford Brookes), Peter Bryant (Oxford) and Jane Hurry (Institute of Education), ***The Role of Awareness in the Teaching and Learning of Literacy and Numeracy in Key Stage 2*** (Better results through using knowledge about how pupils develop numeracy and literacy skills)

Secondary

- Mary James (Cambridge), Dylan Wiliam (King's College London) and Geoff Southworth (Reading), ***Learning How to Learn - in Classrooms, Schools and Networks*** (Improving the ways teachers help pupils to learn more effectively) (partly in primary schools)
- Ros Sutherland, Susan Robertson and Terry Atkinson (all Bristol), ***InterActive Education: Teaching and Learning in the Information Age*** (Using new technologies to improve learning in schools and colleges)

Post-Compulsory Education

- Martin Bloomer (Exeter), Denis Gleeson (Warwick), Phil Hodgkinson (Leeds), David James (West of England) and Keith Postlethwaite (Exeter), ***Transforming Learning Cultures in Further Education*** (Enhancing attainment in FE colleges by providing evidence of effective teaching and learning)
- Noel Entwistle, Dai Hounsell (both Edinburgh), Erik Meyer (Durham), Liz Beaty (Coventry), Hilary Tait (Napier), Charles Anderson, Katherine Day and Ray Land (all Edinburgh), ***Enhancing Teaching-Learning Environments in Undergraduate Courses*** (Improving student learning through research evidence on effective teaching practices)
- Michael Eraut (Sussex), Frederick Maillardet, Carolyn Miller (both Brighton) and Stephen Steadman (Sussex), ***Learning During the First Three Years of Postgraduate Employment*** (Better continuing professional development for newly graduated professionals)

Summaries of these projects on the Programme Website at <http://www.ex.ac.uk/ESRC-TLRP/>, or can be obtained from the Programme Office.

Notes for Editors:

(a) Background on the Programme

The ESRC Teaching and Learning Research Programme has been commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) with funding of £12.5 m. from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly and the Department for Education and Employment. It supports research designed to improve the achievement of learners of all ages throughout the UK. The Programme comprises a number of large-scale research projects and other related activities designed to achieve that aim, and is investing £0.5 m. in developing training for UK teaching and learning researchers.

The Programme features partnership between researchers and practitioners in contributing to and using research, and fosters collaborative work between disciplines and across sectors. Teachers, trainers and other users have a strong voice in ensuring that the research is relevant and accessible, so their peers can use its findings to make significant advances in learners' attainment.

The Programme has two main phases. Phase I (see below) has already commenced. Phase II involves three main themes (motivation

and learner engagement; transforming research findings to promote learners' achievement; and developing learning communities with a capacity for continuous improvement). These themes were developed through extensive consultation with researchers, teachers and other stakeholders. A Call for Proposals was issued in October 1999 and 95 applications totalling over £62 m. were received in January 2000. 30 of these were shortlisted in March and after extensive peer review the final 9 were chosen from a very strong field.

The Phase II Projects announced today will start in late 2000 / early 2001 and will last 3-5 years each.

(b) Programme Conference

The Phase II projects are being formally launched on Thursday 9th November at the first Programme Conference at Leicester University - website: <http://www.ex.ac.uk/ESRC-TLRP/confframe.htm>

(c) Phase I Networks and Associates

The Phase I Networks announced in November 1999 started in early 2000 and will run for 3 years. These are researching in the areas of:

- ***Inclusive Practices in Schools*** - Mel Ainscow (Manchester), Tony Booth (Canterbury Christ Church College) and Alan Dyson (Newcastle Upon Tyne);
- ***Evidence Based Practice in Science Education*** - Robin Millar (York), John Leach (Leeds), Jonathan Osborne (King's College London) and Mary Ratcliffe (Southampton);
- ***Improving Incentives to Learning in the Workplace*** - Helen Rainbird (University College Northampton), Karen Evans (Surrey), Phil Hodgkinson (Leeds) and Lorna Unwin (Sheffield); and
- ***Consulting Students about Teaching and Learning*** - Jean Rudduck (Homerton College, Cambridge), Madeleine Arnot (Cambridge), Michael Fielding (Sussex), John MacBeath (Cambridge), Donald McIntyre (Cambridge), Kate Myers (Keele) and Diane Reay (King's College London)

There are also two Career Development Associates (research fellows):

- ***Pupil Voice*** - Julia Flutter (Homerton College, Cambridge) - linked to the network on ***Consulting Students***) and
- ***The Effectiveness of Problem-Based Learning*** - Mark Newman (Middlesex) (nursing education).

(d) Programme Steering Committee

Strategic management of the Programme rests with a Steering Committee of practitioners, other users and academics from a wide range of UK institutions. The Committee are:-

Chair: Prof. Sir David Watson, University of Brighton; Vice-Chair: Prof. Sally Brown, University of Stirling; Members: Ms. Patricia Clark, Avondale Park Primary School, London; Mr. Keith Davies, Careers

and Education Business Partnership; Prof. Carol Fitz-Gibbon, University of Durham; Prof. Caroline Gipps, Kingston University; Prof. Ken Mayhew, Pembroke College, Oxford; Miss Gill Newton, Prison Service College; Prof. David Raffe, University of Edinburgh; Prof. Jim Ridgway, University of Durham; Mr. Dominic Savage, OBE, British Educational Suppliers Association; Ms. Jenny Shackleton, Prince's Trust; Mrs. Margaret Threadgold, Swanshurst School, Birmingham; Prof. Geoff Whitty, Institute of Education; and Prof. David Wood, University of Nottingham. Non-voting Members are Dr. Derek Adams, Welsh Assembly; Ms. Judy Sebba, Department for Education and Employment; and Dr. Fiona Spencer, Scottish Executive.

(e) Contacts

- **Dr John Kanefsky, Assistant Director, Teaching and Learning Research Programme**

Tel: 01392 264978 E-mail: J.W.Kanefsky@exeter.ac.uk

- **Prof Charles Desforges, Director, Teaching and Learning Research Programme**

Tel: 01392 264845 E-mail: C.W.Desforges@exeter.ac.uk

- **Ms Kathy Ham, Director of External Relations, ESRC**

Tel: 01793 413115 E-mail: Kathy.Ham@esrc.ac.uk

Individual Project Directors will be happy to discuss their particular research. Contacts are as follows:

Prof Peter Blatchford (Institute of Education, London) - Tel: 0207 612 6268, E-Mail: p.blatchford@ioe.ac.uk

Prof Martin Bloomer (Exeter) - Tel: 01392 264848, E-Mail: J.M.Bloomer@ex.ac.uk

Prof Noel Entwistle (Edinburgh) - Tel: 0131 651 6396, E-Mail: Noel.Entwistle@ed.ac.uk

Prof Michael Eraut (Sussex) - Tel: 01273 877794, E-Mail: m.eraut@sussex.ac.uk

Prof Martin Hughes (Bristol) - Tel: 0117 928 7007, E-Mail: Martin.Hughes@bristol.ac.uk

Dr Mary James (Cambridge) - Tel: 01223 369631, E-Mail: mej1002@cam.ac.uk

Dr Carol McGuinness (Queen's Belfast) - Tel: 028 90274373, E-Mail: c.mcguinness@qub.ac.uk

Prof Terezinha Nunes (Oxford Brookes) - Tel: 01865 483770 E-Mail: tnunes@brookes.ac.uk

Prof Ros Sutherland (Bristol) - Tel: 0117 928 7108, E-Mail: Ros.Sutherland@bristol.ac.uk

Programme Website: <http://www.ex.ac.uk/ESRC-TLRP/>

ESRC Website: <http://www.esrc.ac.uk>