

20/06/03

IMPROVING TEACHING AND LEARNING

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.00HRS 25 JUNE 2003

Today the Economic and Social Research Council's Teaching and Learning Research Programme moves to a new level with the launch of 18 research projects on key topics in post-16, further, higher, workplace, continuing and lifelong education.

Professor Andrew Pollard from Cambridge University, Director of TLRP, said:

"Is education policy based on what we actually know about teaching and learning? That sometimes seems doubtful. TLRP will provide evidence, breakthroughs and innovative suggestions. The rapid expansion of further and higher education, combined with shortages in workplace skills, point to the political and economic importance of TLRP's work."

The research is independent, has cross-party support, and is carried out across the United Kingdom. Speakers at the launch include:

Barry Sheerman, MP, Labour, Chair of the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee

Tim Boswell, MP, Conservative, Shadow Minister for Education and Skills

Baroness Sharp, Liberal Democrat, Spokesperson on Education, House of Lords

In addition to the post-compulsory projects seen at this event, TLRP funds a further 12 projects on teaching and learning in schools. TLRP involves some 300 researchers and has partnerships with many research user organisations. It is the largest coordinated programme of educational research in the UK. The new projects announced today mark Phase Three of the Programme.

PR71a/03

A full list of the research projects featured at the event is appended, with contact information.

Journalists are welcome to attend this event or request an interview with Andrew Pollard or individual TLRP researchers. Contact Iain Stewart at ESRC (01793 413032) or TLRP media fellow, Martin Ince (0771 939 0958).

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The ESRC is the UK's largest funding agency for research and postgraduate training relating to social and economic issues. It provides independent, high-quality, relevant research to business, the public sector and Government. The ESRC invests more than £76 million every year in social science and at any time is supporting some 2,000 researchers in academic institutions and research policy institutes. It also funds postgraduate training within the social sciences to nurture the researchers of tomorrow. More at <http://www.esrc.ac.uk>

2. TLRP began in 2000, and its projects will deliver findings from mid-2003 to 2008 and beyond. TLRP aspires to combine high quality social science with high levels of relevance and user engagement – thus contributing to evidence-informed policy and practice.

TLRP is funded by a consortium of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Executive and the Department for Education and Skills. Total funding is some £26m. TLRP is managed by the ESRC.

3. Teaching and Learning – could we do better? will be held at One Great George Street, Westminster on Wednesday, 25th June from 11.00 am to 3.15 pm. This event is part of ESRC's Social Science Week. For further information contact Lynne Blanchfield on 01223 369631.

4. Also speaking at the event are: Professor Ian Diamond (Chief Executive, ESRC); Paul Johnson (Chief Economist and Director of Analytical Services, DfES); Professor Sir David Watson (Vice-Chancellor, University of Brighton and Chair of the TLRP Steering Committee); Professor Andrew Pollard (Director, TLRP) and Dr Mary James (Deputy Director, TLRP).

5. Projects featured at the event, listed by sector, are:

Further & Post 16 Education

Transforming Learning Cultures in Further Education; Hodkinson, Gleeson, James & Postlethwaite (2001-05); Prof. Phil Hodkinson: p.m.hodkinson@leeds.ac.uk; +44 (0)113 343 3223

Learning in Community-based Further Education; Gallacher, Crossan & Mayes (2003-05); Prof. Jim Gallacher: jwga@gcal.ac.uk; +44 (0)141 582 0346

Learning in Further Education through Informal and Formal Literacies; Ivanič, Barton, Edwards & Breen (2003-06); Prof. Roz Ivanič: r.ivanic@lancs.ac.uk; +44 (0)1524 593032

Policy, Learning and Inclusion in the Learning and Skills System; Coffield, Hodgson & Spours (2003-06); Prof. Frank Coffield: F.J.Coffield@ncl.ac.uk; +44 (0)191 222 6397

Higher Education

The Effectiveness of Problem-Based Learning in Promoting Evidence-Based Practice; Newman (Career Development Associate) (2000-03);

Mr Mark Newman: m.newman@nw.mdx.ac.uk; +44 (0)208 411 6702

Enhancing Teaching-Learning Environments in Undergraduate Courses; Hounsell & Entwistle (2001-04); Prof Dai Hounsell: Dai.Hounsell@ed.ac.uk; +44 (0)131 651 6396

The Social and Organisational Mediation of University Learning; Brennan, Jary, Richardson & Osborne (2004-07); Prof. John Brennan: j.l.brennan@open.ac.uk; +44 (0)20 7447 2506

Disabled Students' Learning in Higher Education; Fuller, Healey, Hurst, Riddell & Wareham (2004-07); Prof. Mary Fuller: mfuller@glos.ac.uk; +44 (0)1242 532212

Learning to Perform: Instrumentalists and Instrumental Teachers; Mills, Williamon, Welch & Hargreaves (2004-07); Dr. Janet Mills: jmills@rcm.ac.uk; +44 (0)20 7591 4392

Workplace Learning

Improving Incentives to Learning in the Workplace; Rainbird, Evans, Hodkinson & Unwin (2000-03); Prof. Helen Rainbird: Helen.Rainbird@northampton.ac.uk; +44 (0)1604 735500

Learning as Work: Teaching and Learning in Contemporary Organisations
Felstead, Ashton, Fuller, Unwin & Walters (2003-07);
Dr. Alan Felstead: alan.felstead@le.ac.uk; +44 (0)116 2525946

Understanding the System: Techno-mathematical Literacies in the Workplace; Hoyles & Noss (2003-07); Prof. Celia Hoyles: c.hoyles@ioe.ac.uk; +44 (0)20 7612 6659

Enhancing 'Skills for Life': Adult Basic Skills and Workplace Learning; Wolf, Evans, Bynner & Jupp (2003-08); Prof. Alison Wolf: a.wolf@ioe.ac.uk; +44 (0)7612 6661

Continuing Professional Development

Learning During the First Three Years of Postgraduate Employment

Eraut, Maillardet, Miller & Steadman (2001-04); Prof. Michael Eraut: m.eraut@sussex.ac.uk; +44 (0)1273 877794

Competence-based Learning in the Early Professional Development of Teachers; McNally, Boreham, Cope & Stronach (2003-07); Prof. Jim McNally: j.g.mcnally@stir.ac.uk; +44 (0)1786 466265

Vicarious Learning and Teaching of Clinical Reasoning Skills; Cox, Lee, Varley & Morris (2004-06); Dr. Richard Cox: richc@cogs.susx.ac.uk; +44 (0)1273 678605

Learning in and for Interagency Working; Daniels, Edwards, Creese, Leadbetter & Martin (2004-07); Prof. Harry Daniels: h.r.j.daniels@bham.ac.uk; +44 (0)121 414 6482

Lifelong Learning

Learning Lives: Identity and Agency in the Lifecourse; Biesta, Field, Goodson, Hodkinson & MacLeod (2003-07); Prof. Gert Biesta: g.biesta@ex.ac.uk; +44 (0)1392 264750