



Learning and
Skills
Research
Network



Newsletter

June 2019

The LSRN newsletter is a channel for all interested in research and use of evidence in the FE & Skills sector. **Items for the next issue should be sent by 16th September** to Andrew Morris a.j.morris@ucl.ac.uk and Paula Jones paulajones1580@gmail.com

Update

◀ Networking the Networks

The working group of *Networking the Networks* is continuing to develop the initiative.

Web presence

The website for [Networking the Networks](#) (NtN) is being further developed in the light of the recent [LSRN workshop](#) on *Resources for Research and Evidence Use*. Ideas were put forward at the workshop about useful guides, tools, training opportunities, networks and repositories. In the coming months links to these resources will begin to appear on the website.

Twitter account

[@LSRNetwork](#) continues to thrive, enabling people to share information on a daily basis about activities across the country.

This Newsletter

This enhanced newsletter, covering an increasing range of bodies concerned with research, is also now available in [e-book form](#) on the NtN website.

Events

Greater Manchester LSRN



REMINDER joint Event with TELL

26th June 2019 11am-4pm at Ashton Sixth Form College, Darnton Rd, OL6 9RL. You are welcome to attend the full day or part of the day.

- 11am -1pm Teacher Educator Focus
- 2pm – 4pm Practitioner Enquiry focus for Teachers and Lecturers

Click here to [book your place](#) or contact: Jo Fletcher-Saxon jo.fletcher-saxon@asfc.ac.uk

Bedford LSRN

FE Researchmeet

Wed 3rd July 2019

Maths education and maths teachers in further education.

Keynote: Diane Dalby: Nottingham University. Diane will take us through her project, research design, and findings.

Guest: David Corke the Director of Education and Skills from the Association of Colleges will be leading a workshop exploring how practitioner research could be used in colleges and to inform sector policy.

To register, visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/feresearchmeet-bedford-2019-tickets-55872740872>

Researchmeets are days FOR FE lecturers BY FE lecturers. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Sam Jones (sjones@bedford.ac.uk).

This year's event has two aims. Firstly, to share and encourage research within the sector. Therefore, all Registration fee: £35- or £50 to include conference dinner.

Abstracts & Papers Submission Closes on 15 June 2019

Research presentations on the day, with the exception from the keynotes, will be from practitioners working in an FE or work based learning environment (WBE). When we say research, we are looking widely at everything from enquiry in your learning environment and action research through to post-graduate and doctoral research. The key is to reflect the breadth and thoughtfulness that exists in the sector. So everyone working in FE is welcome to run a workshop in our 'research' strand.

Our second aim is to support people along their research journey. This is new to the format this year. Here we are looking for those within the sector, or who have worked in the sector, to present on areas that can help others develop. So, we are looking for action researchers to explain their experiences to other and recent master's students to share their experiences and encourage others.

Spotlight

Evidence Informed Practice at the Education and Training Foundation with Anna Douglas and Anne Hudson.

We are excited to be sharing the role of Head of Evidence Informed Practice (EIP) at the ETF at a critical time for improving post 16 education and training.

As we are now constantly reminded, being evidence informed is a moral duty: using evidence is a social justice issue, because the impact of practice is greatest for the most disadvantaged students. As a leader of professional learning and development in the sector, the ETF's role in promoting EIP should be ground-breaking. This means tackling the thorny issues of contested subject specialist pedagogy; the question of boundaries between disciplines; the alleged lack of empirical research in FE and the balance between academic research and insights from experience and local enquiry (Hanley et al 2018).

EIP is essentially a cycle of change involving collaborative planning, testing, implementing and evaluating approaches for improving practice. The literature reveals various factors that facilitate an evidence informed approach, which the ETF's 'wrap around model' of Professional Learning and Development (PLD) embraces.

High quality research and evidence informed learning empowers practitioners to engage with evidence by developing their 'social capital'. Professional learning networks support them in developing their confidence and capacity. ETF programmes and activities include: access to experts; collaborative practice projects; social networking opportunities; specialist training sessions; coaching and mentoring; development pathways and online learning. We aim to ensure that these programmes are underpinned by research and evidence and that they develop capacity to implement changes that will improve teaching and learning in the post 16 sector.

The event is supported by the National Education Union and the Bedford College Group

in touch with: Bryony.Evett@colegsirgar.ac.uk
Teaching and Learning Manager

International collaborative conference

Invitation to attend and present

July 5 and July 6 2019- The Maritime campus - the University of Greenwich

We have the pleasure of inviting you to this collaborative conference jointly hosted by the International Journal of Multidisciplinary Comparative Studies (IJMCS, University of Greenwich), London Learning and Skills Research Network (LLSRN- see Spotlight article below) and Teacher Education in Lifelong Learning (TELL). The main themes include Further and Higher Education, Teacher Educators, Vocational Education, Lifelong Learning, professionalism and other topical issues. The keynote speakers include Professor Karen Evans (UCL), Professor Chris Winch (King's College London) and Dr Sai Loo (UCL).

Web link for further information and registration:
<http://www.conference2.ijmcs-journal.org>

South West Wales LSRN

Festival of Learning

1st and 2nd July 2019 Campws y Graig Campus

Coleg Sir Gar and Coleg Ceredigion are working together to promote post-compulsory educational research in Wales.



The Network is holding a two-day Teaching and Learning Research Conference. For information about Network activities and if anyone would like to attend then please get

#ReimagineFE

Conference

The #ReimagineFE19 Conference takes place on **Tuesday 2 July 2019 at Birmingham City University** with the theme #FESpeaks. We are positioning #ReimagineFE at the heart of an ongoing programme across the rich diversity of the further education sector. This summer's conference is part of a challenging, raw and much-needed conversation which unites our voices and brings us together in projects, discussions and networks. For further information please see the [website](#):

Free tickets available # ReimagineFE 2019

The Education and Training Foundation (ETF) is funding 20 free places for practitioners teaching or training in either Adult Community Learning or Offender Learning settings. And UCU is sponsoring free tickets for anyone attending the working group on GCSE English and maths resits. There are a further limited number of free places available to any practitioner in the broader FE sector whose employing organisations will not fund them to attend the conference. See our [blogpost](#) for more information on applying for a sponsored place.

AELP annual conference



Monday 24th June and Tuesday 25th June 2019

At Park Plaza, Westminster Bridge, London

“What has happened to the social mobility agenda?”

The Conference will present an opportunity to debate whether all levels of post-16 learning are now truly open to all whatever a person's background.

The issue of stepping into learning at the lower levels and the chances of progression will be explored in a series of plenary sessions that will cover the key programmes such as apprenticeships, traineeships, functional skills, T levels and higher education. With a Spending Review expected to begin in the summer, programme impact on productivity as well as social mobility will be debated.

Quality assurance issues will be fully covered, especially as concerns build on the capacity and consistency surrounding end point assessment in apprenticeship programmes. Support for the individual learner will form one session of discussion. The place of learning will also feature, for example whether it is in a devolved area or opportunities aboard.

Speakers include:

- **Amanda Spielman** Ofsted chief inspector
- **Jules Pipe CBE**, London's deputy mayor for planning, regeneration and skills
- **Keith Smith** ESFA director of apprenticeships

<http://www.aelpanannualconference.org.uk/ehome/annualconference19/863217/>

Learning and Work Institute

Convention

Beyond Brexit: A future that works for all

The L&WI Employment and skills convention 2019 takes place on **10th July 2019 at 30 Euston Square in London**. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP and Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Angela Rayner MP are due to make keynote speeches at the event.

There is also opportunity to share your good practice with leaders and peers through workshop sessions. For full details see [website](#)

International Consortium for STEM education

7 – 8 October 2019, Freiburg , Germany

The International Consortium for STEM education and the project MaSDiV (masdiv-project .eu) are hosting the third conference devoted to the topic of scaling-up teacher professional development in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, mathematics).

Educating the educators III will offer participants from all over the world a platform to explore, discuss and exchange approaches to scaling up professional development (PD) in math and science education. It will bring together representatives of research, practice and policy with the intention of disseminating knowledge, building networks and exchanging ideas and experiences in relation to the topic.

The aim of the conference is to present and discuss different approaches which ensure a high quality of the education of educators:

The conference sessions will use innovative and interactive formats:

- a policy seminar on overcoming challenges in scaling-up teacher PD
- discussion groups with different stakeholder groups
- workshops actively involving participants
- a materials market allowing participants to exhibit interesting professional development materials
- poster sessions to report on projects

Keynote lectures will be delivered by renowned experts in STEM education: Kara Jackson (University of Washington), Susanne Prediger (University of Dortmund) and Jim Ryder (University of Leeds).

Research

Gatsby

Charitable

Foundation



The Gatsby Charitable Foundation is currently calling for proposals for two projects to support the implementation of T Levels:

1. To design, develop, deliver and evaluate an introductory online training module for industry staff who will be overseeing a student's T Level placement.

2. To develop, trial and refine teaching resources for a selection of the first T Levels to be introduced in September 2020.

The closing date for both projects is 11am, 25 June 2019.

Further information is [available here](#)

Skills Commission

The Future of the Skills System inquiry

The latest inquiry of the Skills Commission, will be co-chaired by Conservative MP Sir John Hayes and Labour MP Barry Sheerman.

The Future of the Skills System inquiry will investigate the FE provider base and local employer needs, and the implementation of national policy at a local level.

The Skills Commission will then work with policymakers and local stakeholders to “develop a blueprint for how the ongoing skills and education reforms can be coordinated into a much-needed overarching vision”.

The Skills Commission is administered by Policy Connect in partnership with the Learning and Work Institute and funded by core sponsors the Edge Foundation, Jisc and the Education and Skills Group, and research funding is granted by the Further Education Trust for Leadership.

Members include many friends of LSRN:

- Dr Fiona Aldridge, director, Learning and Work Institute
- Alice Barnard, chief executive, Edge Foundation
- Mark Dawe, chief executive, AELP

- Professor Andy Green, UCL Institute of Education
- Dr Ewart Keep, director at SKOPE, University of Oxford
- Dr Sue Pember, director of policy and external relations, Hoxex

See [TES news](#)

Publications & communications

Education Policy Institute

New research

The Education Policy Institute (EPI) has published a new report, *16-19 education funding: trends and implications*. The research examines the financial health of sixth forms and colleges in England, revealing the extent of the funding squeeze affecting these institutions.

The report provides the most up to date assessment of funding, revealing the latest figures for 2018/19. It explores the impact on different types of institutions and groups of students across the country, and also considers how funding has affected qualifications, teacher wages and the quality of education on offer.

Key findings from the new report include:

- Real terms funding per student in sixth forms and colleges has fallen sharply by 16% from 2010/11 to 2018/19: twice the decline of schools (8%).
- Sixth forms and colleges are increasingly falling into deficit, with the financial health of providers significantly deteriorating since 2010/11: the proportion of those with in-year deficits has increased across all institutions.
- Student learning hours and staff wages have both deteriorated. Learning hours with a teacher for students in all institutions fell by 9 per cent between 2012/13 and 2016/17.

- The government should urgently review the adequacy of 16-19 education funding ahead of this year's Spending Review.

A digital copy of the full report can be found [here](#)
www.epi.org.uk | [@EduPolicyInst](#)

Gatsby Charitable Foundation

Two reports

Industry placements in technical education programmes: a report of international case studies

Between November 2016 and March 2017, Gatsby, accompanied by college leaders and staff from the Department for Education, undertook study visits to explore how industry placements are structured in six technical education systems – Austria, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. The purpose of these visits was to inform discussions about how industry placements are implemented effectively and identify enabling features to inform expansion of placements in England. This report includes case studies of industry placement practice that we observed. [View full report](#)

The missing middle: higher technical education in England

Against the backdrop of the Post-18 Review of Education and Funding and the Review of Level 4 and 5 Education, this report explores how the higher technical education system in England has developed to date and how current provision compares with other countries. Authored by Simon Field, a leading independent expert on country skills systems, the report draws on history and international comparisons. [View full report](#)

Further Education Trust for Leadership (FETL)

New publication

Ewart Keep, in partnership with the Association of Colleges (AoC), has authored a timely and insightful publication on the marketisation of Further Education (FE) in England.

Scripting the future – exploring potential strategic leadership responses to the marketization of English FE and vocational provision

is funded by the Further Education Trust for Leadership (FETL). It highlights the complex realities of Further Education, considers the issues raised by increased marketisation in FE, and also models potential scenarios for how the marketplace for FE might develop for the future. You can read this publication [here](#).

#ReimagineFE18

You can now share all the inspirational thinking and fresh ideas from #ReimagineFE18 in the special conference edition of the open access CSPACE Journal, produced by Birmingham City University. These articles share the groups' discussions and recommendations and provide valuable suggestions for putting teaching and learning back into the heart of FE. They are available on the [website](#).

Education and Employers



New publication

Motivated to Achieve: How encounters with the world of work can change attitudes and improve academic attainment

This report will be available from 6th June to coincide the [launch event](#) where Geoff Barton (General Secretary of ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders) and Adrian Lyons (Her Majesty's Inspector, National Lead for Economics, Business and Enterprise) will reflect on the findings. A summary is now published [here](#).

The research suggests that encounters with the world of work have a positive impact on young people's GCSE results and that lower achievers and

less engaged learners gain the most. It shows that participation in career talks with volunteers from the world of work can change the attitudes of Key Stage 4 pupils to their education.

The findings of the report have been covered by [BBC News online](#) and [TES](#).
[@Edu_EResearch](#), [@Elnazkashef](#).

LSRN

information

<http://lsrn.wordpress.com>

Spotlight

London LSRN (LLSRN)

We have been going strong since the 1990s, with Sai Loo (UCL Institute of Education, University College London) and Rania Hafez (University of Greenwich) as the current co-conveners.

LLSRN offers a collegiate environment and space for a professional dialogue, where like-minded colleagues meet to discuss research, exchange ideas, and disseminate findings.

The topics relate to the Further Education (and skills) sector, which we see as diverse, multi-disciplinary, and porous in its activities (such as the programme offers). We view this as one of the strengths of this sector, and it opens up opportunities for collaboration with other sectors.

Our free events are hosted in London thanks to the generosity of our members.

If you are interested, please contact Sai (sai.loo@ucl.ac.uk) or Rania (R.Hafez@greenwich.ac.uk)

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