

UKFIET

UKFIET NEWSLETTER

produced by Caroline Dyer, Newsletter Editor c.dyer@leeds.ac.uk

UKFIET aims to share ideas, knowledge and expertise among all who work in International Education matters by linking organisations both public and voluntary, commercial and non-commercial and providing a network accessible to individuals working in the field.

UKFIET OFFICERS

David Theobald - Chair

Caroline Dyer - Newsletter Editor

Rosemary Preston - Hon. Treasurer

Felicity Binns - Company Secretary

Fiona Leach - Conference Convenor

Steffi Wies - Secretary

Jo Heslop - Membership Secretary

Jawaad Vohra - Finance Officer

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Peter Williams*

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR - DAVID THEOBALD

I would like to welcome our three new Officers, Steffi Wies (Secretary), Jo Heslop (Membership Secretary) and Jawaad Vohra (Finance Officer). They are dynamic, young people at the early stages of their professional careers and I am confident they will be a great asset to the organisation. You can read more about them on pages 7 and 8.

I am grateful that Flic Binns has agreed to stay on as Company Secretary, Caroline Dyer continues as Newsletter Editor, and Rosemary Preston has agreed to act as Hon Treasurer. I am sure that all of you will realise that we still do not have a Deputy Chair. This is a real job, as the Trustees are looking at ways in which this post will become the chief executive of UKFIET, with the Chair co-ordinating the work of the Board of Trustees. Please get in contact with me, or any member of the Board, if you are interested in leading this organisation into the next decade.

After many years of service to UKFIET as Secretary and more recently Colloquium Convenor, Thelma Henderson has decided to step down from her active involvement in the organisation. Thelma has been a bedrock of support and advice over many years and we are grateful for her contribution to the life of UKFIET.

This means that we are looking for a Colloquium Convenor to lead the arrangement of both small and the larger annual EFA GMR colloquium. Thelma is ready to provide mentoring support to anyone interested in the job, so please contact her or myself.

We also have to say goodbye to Claire Bastin, UKFIET Support Officer, who has been with us only since September 2008, as her teaching and research demands have grown. In that time she has reorganised our administration and supported the EFA GMR colloquium. Claire, many thanks.

The regular EFA GMR colloquium on 16 January was another well attended and stimulating event and we are grateful for the partnership with the UK National Commission for UNESCO and Institute for Education. We look forward to another interesting event in January 2010.

Our next big event will be the biennial conference in Oxford from 15-17 September. Through DFID support we have been able to hold the fees at the same rates as 2007 and more on the conference can be found on pages 2-4. I look forward to meeting you again at Oxford.

UKFIET

UKFIET'S NEW OFFICERS**Steffi Wies - Secretary**

Originally from Luxembourg, I moved to the UK in September 2004. After completing a BA in Development Studies (with Overseas Experience) at the University of East Anglia and a MA in International Education and Development at the University of Sussex, I joined CfBT Education Trust as Business Development Manager in September 2008. My current post entails identifying new business opportunities, quality assuring and providing input to large scale competitive tenders for various education projects in the UK and internationally as well as liaising with clients and partners.

I bring to UKFIET a good understanding of the education sector and issues in the UK and in developing countries; involvement and work experience in the not-for profit sector; and administrative experience. I am very excited to get involved with UKFIET, which I think is an exceptional organisation in that it promotes and adds to the current debate on international educational issues, which is reflected in events such as the annual GMR colloquium and the biennial International Conference on Education and Development.

Jo Heslop – Membership Secretary

I have recently taken up a post as a Research Officer at the Institute of Education, University of London, where I am working on two international projects in partnership with ActionAid International and other partners: 'Stop Violence Against Girls in Schools in Kenya, Ghana and Mozambique' and 'Transforming Girls' Education in Nigeria and Tanzania', as well as supporting teaching on the MA in Gender, Education and International Development. My NGO background has focused on participatory approaches, training, and monitoring and evaluation in programmes with young people and other marginalised groups addressing education, gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

I believe UKFIET to be playing a vital role in promoting knowledge sharing, learning and collaboration between organisations working towards Education for All, and in particular bringing together organisations that might not normally talk to each other. The projects I currently work on show me how much educational institutions and NGOs can learn from each other, for example. I hope to use this experience in my role as Membership Secretary to promote sharing between different organisations and particularly encourage membership in the NGO sector.

The logo for UKFIET, consisting of the letters 'UKFIET' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a rectangular orange box with a white border.**Jawaad Vohra – Finance Officer**

I am an Assistant Education Adviser for Cambridge Education with as special area of interest in Public Financial Management. I hold an MA in Economics of Education from the Institute of Education, University London and a BSc in Accounting and Finance from the LSE. I have recently returned from Nigeria, where I was helping one of the states prepare their Education Sector Budget. Prior to joining Cambridge Education, I was the Head of Economics in a school in Essex.

REPORTS ON UKFIET COLLOQUIA

Education: challenging and (re) producing chronic poverty?**University of Leeds, 15th December, 2008****Caroline Dyer**

Basic education is widely promoted as central to poverty reduction, and is viewed simultaneously as part of the definition of poverty and as a means of escaping from it. Yet basic education is also a source of learning known to (re)produce poverty, a view that raises questions about its capacity to serve as an instrument of change.

This one-day colloquium brought poverty and education theorists together to examine the role of education in interrupting life course and inter-generational transmission of poverty. It began to develop interdisciplinary dialogue and addressed policy approaches, quality of the evidence base, methodological issues and questions of social justice. Two keynote presentations were made and discussed; participants then shared key points in the afternoon forum.

The Colloquium was convened by Caroline Dyer on behalf of UKFIET, in association with the Chronic Poverty Research Centre and the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Leeds. Proceedings are available on the UKFIET website; Chronic Poverty and Education: A review of the literature by Pauline Rose and Caroline Dyer is published as a Chronic Poverty Research Centre Working Paper:

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/publications.php>

and The Chronic Poverty Report 2008-09 Escaping Poverty Traps is available at:

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/cpra-report-0809.php>

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GMR Colloquium: Overcoming Inequality, Why Governance Matters. A critical reflection on the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009

The Institute of Education, London, 26th January 2009

Co-organised by UKFIET and the UK National Commission for UNESCO

Caroline Dyer

Overcoming Inequality - why governance matters is the seventh annual Education for All Global Monitoring Report. It maps the complex and multiple facets of inequality and examines some of the key questions that national governments and donors must address in attempting to ensure that the benefits of education are shared by the poor and by disadvantaged groups and regions that are being left behind. It shows that public policy and governance reform, together with sustained financial commitment, can break the cycle of disadvantage, improve access, raise quality and enhance participation and accountability.

The colloquium provided an opportunity to present the report and its findings; to subject the report and the specific themes within it to critical review and discussion; and to identify how UK-based stakeholders can support progress in the areas covered by the report towards EFA by 2015.

This new colloquium was another highly successful event in the annual GMR series – it filled the Jeffery Hall at the Institute and brought together a wide range of critical thinkers, including seniormost international agency and NGO representatives, academics and students at both Master's and PhD levels.

Delegates were welcomed by Professor Seamus Hegarty, Chair EFA Committee, UK National Commission for UNESCO and Dr Yusuf Sayed, University of Sussex. The first session (chaired by Dr Caroline Dyer, UKFIET Deputy Chair) was a detailed presentation on Monitoring Progress towards the EFA Goals by Kevin Watkins, Director of the GMR team. Dr. Jo Bourne, Acting Head of Profession, Education, DFID responded, followed by questions from the floor. Governance: promoting equity and enhancing quality was the theme of the second session (chaired by Dr. Mary Stiasny, Education Committee, UK National Commission for UNESCO and Assistant Director at the Institute of Education) presented by Pauline Rose and Samer Al-Samarrai (GMR team). David Archer, Head of Education, Actionaid International and Professor Frances Stewart, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford responded, followed by questions from the floor. In the afternoon session, break-out groups considered the themes of Governance and Equity, Governance and Quality and Governance and Aid. David Theobald (Chair, UKFIET) chaired the concluding session on Ways forward and Final Reflections, which was led by Kevin Watkins, Jo Bourne and Carew Treffgarne (DFID) and Caroline Pontefract, Commonwealth Secretariat.

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Many thanks to speakers, Chairs and facilitators; but particularly also to Thelma Henderson (UKFIET), Alba de Souza (UK UNESCO), Yusuf Sayed (University of Sussex) and other members of the colloquium organising committee for all their hard work in putting it together; to DFID for its financial support for the event; and to the Institute of Education for making available the Jeffery Hall.

Conference on Teacher Development and Management

Udaipur, India, 23-25 February, 2009

Geeta Kingdon, Institute of Education

Quality of schooling has become increasingly important as access gets closer to universality and as it is appreciated that quantity and quality may be complements rather than substitutes, since good quality generates greater demand for education. While there are many reasons why school quality may be deficient, central to all efforts to improve quality is the role played by teachers and head teachers.

At the request of the Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), several development partners – namely the World Bank, DFID, the European Commission, UNICEF and UNESCO – organized a regional conference on ‘Teacher Development and Management’ from 23rd to 25th February 2009, in consultation with Indian education institutions such as the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA). The event was hosted by the educational NGO Vidya Bhawan Society in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Teacher union leaders were present, together with practitioners, academics, educational NGOs and senior education policy makers, including senior personnel from the MHRD, NCERT and the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE).

The conference consisted largely of three parallel sessions on ‘In-service teacher education and training’, ‘Pre-service teacher education’ and ‘Teacher recruitment and management’. The objective was to encourage reflection on how to enable and encourage teachers to perform optimally in the classroom and to be more conscientious, motivated and eager to seek professional development on a regular basis. Scholars and experts were invited from a large number of countries (Nepal, South Africa, Hong Kong, Thailand, France, Netherlands, Austria, UK, Germany, Indonesia, Korea, Bangladesh, Australia, Tanzania and New Zealand) to share international experience. It was attended by three UKFIET members - Caroline Dyer, Angela Little and Geeta Kingdon.

This first major conference focusing on teachers in the region was greatly applauded as it facilitated dialogue on successful approaches to attract, develop and retain effective teachers. It led to a greater appreciation of the challenges and opportunities, and to the start of building a systematic knowledge base on issues pertaining to teachers and their effective resolution.

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BALID seminar Literacy, Marginalisation and Inequality

On 23rd April BALID hosted a seminar entitled 'Literacy, Marginalisation and Inequality' with Bryan Maddox and Juliet McCaffery as key speakers. The seminar was an opportunity to keep up to date with work in the field, share experience and hear from leading experts. For more detail, see the BALID website: www.balid.org.uk. This event is linked to the forthcoming conference on Literacy Inequalities at the University of East Anglia in September.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Policy, Politics and Progress: UKFIET conference, Oxford

15-17 September 2009

Fiona Leach, conference convenor

The 10th biennial International Conference on Education and Development will be held in Oxford on 15-17 September 2009. This year, the theme is 'Policy, Politics and Progress' and once again we have selected a number of sub-themes around which to organise the programme. Details can be found on the conference website at www.cfbt.com/ukfiet. Fee rates and on-line registration will be available shortly. With the generous support of DFID and the Jeremy Greenland Bursaries Trust, we will be offering a number of bursaries to support participants from low-income countries and research students in the UK. If you wish to receive notification about the application process, please send an email to Sarah Jeffery (sjeffery@cfbt.com). We are delighted that once again Sarah will be managing the event – her sixth!

The conference will offer 17 sub-themes on a wide range of topics related to the overall conference theme. In addition, there will be 13 symposia on topics which address the policy-politics dynamic in educational development, bringing together well-known academics with policy-makers and professionals in the field. Details of the sub-themes and symposia are on the website.

The deadline for abstracts was 3 April but, if you have missed this, you may still be able to submit an abstract if you email me on f.e.leach@sussex.ac.uk. Please note that, in the interest of producing a less cumbersome book of abstracts for delegates and of saving paper, we are asking for much shorter submissions this year – a mere 250 words!

I hope you will join us, whether for the first or the tenth time, in Oxford in September!

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Literacy and numeracy learning and world wide development

St Bride's Foundation, London, July 1st 2009

Organised by NIACE in collaboration with UKFIET

UKFIET is linking with the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education to host this day conference. It will be held on July 1st at the St. Bride's Foundation, London and is organised by the Literacy Working Group, chaired by Jan Eldred. This event is planned as a knowledge café (see box). For further information please contact Jan Eldred (jan.eldred@niace.org.uk) or Caroline Dyer (c.dyer@leeds.ac.uk) or visit the UKFIET or NIACE website:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/>

where information will soon be posted.

We carried a piece on the LWG in the 6th UKFIET newsletter:

<http://www.ukfiet.org/documents/ukfiet%206.pdf>

What's a knowledge café?

Katy Newell-Jones

At a typical knowledge café there will be an overall question (or topic) with which people have been invited to engage. A series of round tables will be available offering different sub-questions relating to the overall topic, often these tables will be covered with white tablecloths and pens for scribbling. Each table will have a facilitator, whose role is to engage those who come to the table in dialogue and debate around the question (or topic). Knowledge cafés are grounded in Communities of Practice (Lave & Wenger 1991) underpinned by the principle that:

- collaborative learning is most creative and effective when
- individuals come together with a shared interest and a range of relevant experiences and knowledges there is no preset 'activity' or 'task' but a question to explore
- the direction, energy, pace and conclusions are determined by, and arise from the group.

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Literacy Inequalities Conference

**An International Conference on September 1st – 3rd 2009
Literacy and Development Group, University of East Anglia**

Register at: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/ssf/literacy-conference-09>

This conference will examine how literacy as a process might help to challenge educational and social inequalities, as well as how the geo-politics of differentiated and stratified literacy practices and texts provide opportunities for transformation. The conference is particularly timed to support and influence directions in international literacy research and policy during the UN Literacy Decade, following from the University of East Anglia Literacy and Development Group's involvement in the UN Literacy Decade mid-term review of progress. Conference themes are:

1. Literacy Policies and Social Justice
2. Literacy, change and contestation
3. Literacy materials: in and across organisations, communities and classrooms
4. Inequalities and epistemologies: exploring knowledges, oracies and literacies

Contributions are welcome which explore literacy inequalities from wide-ranging contexts and perspectives – including for example, adult literacy teaching, academic literacies, non-ethnocentric literacy practices, gendered literacy practices and digital literacies.

Although the focus of this conference will be on adults, we also encourage papers on schooling and literacy inequalities. Participants will practitioners, teachers, and researchers from NGOs, government institutions, donor agencies and universities. The conference will not only respond to policy concerns (particularly in the context of the UN Literacy Decade) but also facilitate critical and reflective debate across methodological and professional boundaries. Within each of the conference themes outlined above, there is the potential to present papers from any of these varying perspectives.

We propose multiple perspectives on literacy inequalities, including those of rights and social justice, contrasting worldviews and practices, and the methodological and power dimensions of researching and representing literacy inequalities.

Key speakers include:

Prof. Lynn Mario T. Menezes de Souza, Prof. Suresh Canagarajah, Prof. Brian Street, Prof. James Collins, Dr. Cathy Kell.

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CO-EDITOR OF COMPARE

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Editorial Board of Compare is currently looking for a Co-Editor able to take over from Prof. Karen Evans, whose term of office will end in September this year. The appointment will be initially for three years. This can be extended for a further three years by mutual agreement.

The new co-editor responsibilities are, in the main, the promotion of Compare. S/he will be working closely with Dr Anna Robinson-Pant, the other co-editor, who has particular responsibility for the academic side of the editorship (including initial screening of papers, editorial decisions on papers, management of peer review process). The editorial office is based at University of East Anglia, where the editor is supported by a part-time editorial assistant. There is also a Compare Reviews Editor who has responsibility for the book reviews section of the journal.

The new co-editor's area of responsibility will include:

- Journal promotion including representation of the Journal's interests at national and international conferences;
- Presentations at Journal Editors' Panels;
- Working with and through relevant networks and organisations to promote/advance the Journal; consultation with Journal users.
- Liaison with Taylor and Francis with regard to promotion and publicity/marketing;
- Sourcing articles and special issues in new areas (and liaising with guest editors);
- Writing editorials for open issues (alternate issues);
- Reviewing manuscripts in problematic/contentious/urgent cases;
- Responsibilities for Editorial Board membership and communications;
- Setting up Editorial Board meetings;
- Responsibilities for International Advisory Board membership matters and liaison.
- Dealing with the ISI process inputs (with Taylor and Francis)
- Attending BAICE meetings and liaising with the Chair of BAICE who also chairs the Compare Board.

Both Editors receive an Honorarium together with a small grant to cover administrative support and expenses.

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Compare is the official journal of the British Association for International and Comparative Education (BAICE) with currently six issues per year.

Compare publishes high quality research covering a wide range of issues and geographical areas which are of international significance within international and comparative education. . The co- editor, therefore, has a significant role to play in the journal's continuing success, and in maintaining and further enhancing its profile internationally.

If interested, please send your CV together with a statement outlining your area of expertise (including previous editorial experience) and your envisaged contribution to the Journal. Please note that the co-editor should be based in a UK higher educational institution. CVs should be sent to:

Dr Lore Arthur, Chair of BAICE, at e.h.arthur@open.ac.uk; by APRIL 25, 2009
OR AS SOON AS YOU CAN ON READING THIS!

Please note you may be invited for a meeting with the selection panel and/or be asked to give a presentation to the Editorial Board – probably towards the end of June. The appointment will be made by the Compare Board.

If you would like further information before applying please contact the current editors of Compare:

Karen Evans, K.Evans@ioe.ac.uk

Anna Robinson-Pant, A.Robinson-Pant@uea.ac.uk
