

LSRN Annual Conference



Learning and Skills Research Network Conference

Travelling together:
Evidence for practice in the Learning and Skills Sector

Thursday 25 November 2010
Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Background

Changes following the general election on 6 May have affected the landscape of the Learning and Skills Sector in many ways – with increases in apprenticeships, cutbacks in higher education and the abolition of key organisations for example. The role of evidence for education, and of the research on which it is based, grows steadily in importance. As decision-making becomes more distributed, reliable knowledge needs to be created and used in every locality.

A promising sign is the continuing development of resources to support practice-based research. The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) Research Development Fellowships and Institute for Learning (IFL) Hewett-Driver bursaries are continuing in 2010 and the research area on the Excellence Gateway is developing steadily. The Learning and Skills Research Network (LSRN) is gaining strength, with convenors now in place in every region; and formal recognition for research engaged colleges is being provided by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER).

The Learning and Skills Research Network represents a focus on research in the sector by those who work in the sector and its main aim is to help foster, disseminate and encourage use of research which will make a difference to professional practice, management and leadership. Its independence enables people from all communities – in research, policy and practice – to meet together and exchange ideas freely.

Aims

In this, our fourth conference with NIACE, we are building on the format of the last conference to showcase practice-based research and to provide opportunities for all those interested in research or Research and

Development (R&D) in this large and varied sector to engage with each other. In addition to keynote presentations, we have ensured that there will be time to hear from major research centres as well as practice-based projects and a strand of workshops on engaging with research.

The conference includes three slots of parallel presentations designed to offer practitioners the opportunity to present their research and to share the outcomes of their scholarly activity.

Audience

The event will be of interest to all those working in the Learning and Skills Sector, particularly:

- teachers, learning support staff
- tutors, trainers and other practitioners
- managers, researchers and policy developers.

Programme

Chair: Andrew Morris, Member of LSRN conference planning group

- 09:30** Arrival and registration (tea/coffee available)
- 10:00** Introduction to the day from the Chair
- 10:05** Welcome
Peter Lavender, Deputy Chief Executive, NIACE
- 10:15** Keynote Address:
Anna Vignoles, Professor of the Economics of Education at the Institute of Education,
University of London and Deputy Director of the DfE Centre for the Analysis of Youth Transitions
- 10:40** move to workshops
- 10:45** Syndicates - Session 1 (Please indicate your choices on the application form)
Six parallel presentations on research and R&D in the Learning and Skills Sector
- 11:45** Tea/coffee break
- 12:00** Syndicates - Session 2 (Please indicate your choices on the application form)
Six parallel presentations on research and R&D in the Learning and Skills Sector
- 13:00** Lunch
- 14:00** Interactive workshops on how to engage with research
- 14:30** move to presentations
- 14:35** Presentations from major research projects and centres
- 15:20** Move to workshops
- 15:25** Syndicates - Session 3 (Please indicate your choices on the application form)
Six parallel presentations on research and R&D in the Learning and Skills Sector
- 15:55** Move to plenary
- 16:00** Keynote Address:
David Collins, Chief Executive, Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS)
- 16:20** Presentation of awards
Chaired by Yvonne Hillier, University of Brighton, Education Research Centre
- 16:30** Close of Conference (tea/coffee available)

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Syndicates – Session 1					
Parallel Presentations (10:45 – 11:45)					
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rebecca Petley and Guy Parker LSN (Formerly the Learning and Skills Network)	Ian Jasper Canterbury Christ Church University	Stephen Miller and Trish Land Community Development Foundation (CDF) Workers Educational Association (WEA)	Julie Swain University of Plymouth	Julie Osborn City of Bristol College	Matt O'Leary University of Wolverhampton
Practitioner feedback and recommendations on promoting change through practitioner led action research in the field of mobile learning	Skills for Life as lives lived	The Take Part approach to active citizenship learning	'Joined up working' – A collaborative approach using University tools to support HE in FE practitioners and their learners	Would the first witness please take the stand: Experiences of Disabled People in Education	Surveillance and normalised practice: the use and impact of graded lesson observations in Further Education colleges
and	and	and	and	and	and
Joanne Miles Learning and Skills Network	Sai Loo Institute of Education, University of London	Bert Clough Unionlearn, TUC	John Fitzsimons Exeter College	Sarah Freeman Sutton College of Learning for Adults	Claire Gray University of Plymouth
Making it happen: the benefits of project management for action research	FE teacher identities: what are they, why do we care, and how do we use this knowledge?	Making Workplace Learning Affordable Outcomes from the Collective Learning Fund pilots	Developing Employability Skills with Web 2 Technologies	Unwrapping the Equality Act 2010 through action research	The powers of numbers – making judgments on HE in FE teachers the Ofsted way
FULL					FULL
Movement – mid morning tea break 11:45					

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Syndicates – Session 2

Parallel Presentations (12:00 – 13:00)

1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Mary Otiotio University of Greenwich EDd programme</p> <p>Using effective feedback to enhance the achievement of vocational business students in an FE college (Action research)</p> <p align="center">and</p> <p>Noelle Graal, Jane Evershed, and Daniele Mori Calderon Canterbury Christ Church University in consortium</p> <p>Building confidence with digital technology: a collaborative action research project focusing on the use of flipvideo cameras to reflect on practical teaching in the LSS</p> <p align="center">FULL</p>	<p>Bryan Mills Cornwall College</p> <p>Enterprise, action, resistance, reflection</p> <p align="center">and</p> <p>Sarah Housden Norfolk Adult Education Service</p> <p>Improving Skills for Workplace Practice through Mentoring Student Reminiscence Workers in Care Homes</p>	<p>Steve Lambert Research student University of Hull, Centre for Education Studies</p> <p>The role of sustainable leadership as a framework for institutional development within further education colleges</p> <p align="center">and</p> <p>Pip Kings NRDC, Institute of Education</p> <p>Leadership of literacy, language and numeracy learning</p>	<p>Andrew Smith Blackpool and the Fylde College</p> <p>Uncovering Hidden Learning - Informal Learning within Virtual Social Learning Systems</p> <p align="center">and</p> <p>Nicholas Pronger University of Essex and Birkbeck College (UOL)</p> <p>Usage of Skype technology to Improve Dissertation and Project Supervision; A Case Study with Policy Recommendations</p>	<p>Lorraine Palmer Birchwood Access and Training Centre</p> <p>The impact of collaborative working when used to improve Community Cohesion and personal development/ empowerment</p> <p align="center">and</p> <p>Janette Hunter West Suffolk College</p> <p>Students' perception of relevance of the modules on the civil engineering foundation degree course</p>	<p>Jacqueline McFarlane Fraser Independent consultant/ practitioner</p> <p>Stakeholders: Strategies in community (development) teaching and learning</p> <p align="center">and</p> <p>Alan Shepherd and Alex Kendall, and Rob Smith University of Wolverhampton</p> <p>Burning Issues for Prison Educators: Opportunities for change within prison regimes</p>
<p>Movement – lunch 13:00</p>					

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Interactive Workshops					
How to engage with research (14:00 – 14:30)					
1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Sam Alvarez, Sussex Downs College and Anne Taylor, Colchester Institute</p> <p>Building Research Capacity: Investigating the impact of joint practice development (Behind every good student is an even better teacher!)</p> <p>FULL</p>	<p>Gareth Parry, University of Sheffield And Bill Esmond, Chesterfield College</p> <p>EdD or PhD?</p>	<p>Pauline Benefield and Emily Houghton NFER</p> <p>Using the internet to find research</p>	<p>Ian White, Routledge, Taylor and Francis, (publisher of Journal of F and HE)</p> <p>Publishing in journals. Some tips and advice on how to succeed.</p>	<p>Lorraine Casey NIACE</p> <p>Supporting learning providers to undertake research with young people and adults not in education, employment or training (NEET) – reflections on process</p>	<p>Sara Bath and Steve Rose, HEA</p> <p>Higher Education Academy resources to support research and scholarly activity</p>
Movement - to presentations 14:30					

Supporting the Engaging with Research Workshop session					
Presentations from major research projects and centres (14:35 – 15:20)					
1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Fiona Aldridge, NIACE and Sheila Kearney, LSIS with Anthony Harmer, ELATT and Catherine Paulson-Ellis, BIS Social Mobility Unit</p> <p>Practitioner-delivered research around NEETs – what did we gain? The perspectives of the policy maker, the practitioner and of the national agencies involved.</p> <p>FULL</p>	<p>Joe Harkin, Visiting Fellow, Oxford Brookes University</p> <p>Teaching practice as a component of initial teacher education in the learning and skills sector</p>	<p>Sammy Rashid and Gareth Parry, University of Sheffield</p> <p>Do colleges have anything in common?</p>	<p>William Richardson and Anne Parfitt, University of Exeter</p> <p>Recovering the reputation of English further education. The relevance of FE development in England since 1945 to present concerns.</p>	<p>Lorna Unwin, Institute of Education</p> <p>Work-based learning in challenging times</p>	
Movement - to workshops 15:20					

LSRN Annual Conference 2010					
Syndicates – Session 3					
Parallel Presentations (15:25 – 15:55)					
1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Sai Loo University of Greenwich and Institute of Education, University of London</p> <p>The Con/Lib-Dem coalition government and education: what they stand for, and implications for the FE and lifelong learning sector, and LSRN</p> <p>FULL</p>	<p>Anne Gillen and Colleen MacLean Adam Smith College and Perth College UHI</p> <p>Holding up the Mirror: behaviours that help or impede the tutor-student relationship</p>	<p>John Widdowson New College, Durham and Maggie Greenwood Research Consultant</p> <p>HE in FE – strategic options and operational challenges</p>	<p>Sue Colquhoun Institute for Learning</p> <p>An evaluation of the impact of CPD in the FE and Skills sector since the introduction of the statutory Regulations of September 2007</p>	<p>Emma Brown 14-19 Central Bedfordshire Consortium</p> <p>Dipping in and Out: Creative Interventions in Professional Development for Diploma Practitioners</p>	<p>Kate Shoemith and Sharon Walker City & Guilds Centre for Skills Development</p> <p>Developing Practitioner-Led Measures in Further Education</p>
Movement – to plenary 15:55					



Learning and
Skills
Research
Network

About the Learning and Skills Research Network

The Learning and Skills Research Network (LSRN) began in 1997 and works collaboratively with multiple partner organisations in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

It brings together people involved in producing and making use of research in the learning and skills sector and higher education and provides a welcoming atmosphere for those new to research.

There are conveners in each region, where meetings, conferences and projects are increasingly being organised. The national planning group supports coherence across the network and organises the annual national conference.

In pursuing its purpose, the network places particular value on:

An inclusive approach which:

- recognises the variety of relevant methods and topics
- involves participants from a wide range of backgrounds, including practitioners, researchers, developers, managers and policymakers
- identifies the specific role of practitioners and others in evaluating and implementing findings.

Applying research to the concerns of practice and policy by:

- encouraging reviews of existing knowledge before new research is undertaken
- distilling and communicating key messages in appropriate ways for different audiences.

Addressing capacity by:

- building practitioner training into projects
- encouraging engagement with research through professional development activity
- demonstrating the value of research and development to budget holders
- maximising connections between regional groups.

The work of LSRN is carried out entirely by volunteers and is supported by a host of organisations including the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS), the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), City College Norwich Research Centre, Edexcel, National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) and the Higher Education Academy (HEA).

Website: <http://www.lsrn.org.uk>

Main Sponsors

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service

LSIS is the sector-owned body supporting the development of excellent and sustainable FE provision across the learning and skills sector. Its aim is to accelerate the drive for excellence and, working in, partnership with all parts of the sector, builds on the sector's own capacity to design, commission and deliver improvement and strategic change.

www.lsis.org.uk

Higher Education Academy

HEA provides support to the higher education sector by working with individual academics. HEA's network of discipline-based subject centres provides a range of services to subject departments. We work with UK universities and colleges, providing national leadership in developing and disseminating evidence-informed practice about enhancing the student learning experience.

www.heacademy.ac.uk

Institute for Learning

IfL was set up in 2002 for FE and skills teachers and trainers who wanted a professional body that served their needs. The institute is member-led whose a vision is to be a world class professional body. We intend FE practitioners to be properly recognized for excellent teaching and training and value: Professionalism; Development; Autonomy; Integrity and Equality.

www.ifl.ac.uk



NIACE, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, was founded in 1921. The National Institute seeks to secure an education system responsive to the diversity of adults' needs and aspirations as learners, and in particular to those who benefited least from initial education. It is our belief that a system fit for adults of all ages and in all their complexity will work better for all learners.

The National Institute is active in many areas - in research, development, publishing, seminars, conferences and training courses, and has an active individual membership.

NIACE Events Team
Renaissance House, 20 Princess Road West
Leicester LE1 6TP
Tel: 0116 204 2833
Fax: 0116 254 8368
Minicom: 0116 255 6049
E-mail: events@niace.org.uk
Website: <http://www.niace.org.uk/events>

NIACE is a company limited by guarantee. Registration no. 2603322 Registered charity no. 1002775.
Registered Address: 21 De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE

Supporting Sponsors



National Foundation for Educational Research (Using the internet to find research interactive workshop)

NFER is the UK's largest independent provider of research, assessment and information services for education, training and children's services. NFER undertakes around 200 research projects every year, spanning all sectors of education and children's services. We provide high quality, evidence-based research for policy makers, managers and practitioners.

www.nfer.ac.uk



The City & Guilds Centre for Skills Development (Major research projects and centres)

CSD is a not-for-profit research and development body. It works to influence and improve the policy and practice of skills worldwide through an evidence-based approach. To this end we work with and produce a range of free resources for practitioners, policy makers and researchers.

www.skillsdevelopment.org



Edexcel, a Pearson company – sponsor of LSRN's national meetings

Edexcel is part of Pearson, the world's largest education business and the owner of the FT and Penguin. It is the UK's largest awarding body offering academic and vocational qualifications and testing to schools, colleges, employers and other places of learning in the UK and internationally. We provide a range of services to keep our colleagues informed and up to date on policy and funding changes, and to clarify our position in relation to current education policies and agendas.

www.edexcel.com



The Research Centre at City College Norwich – LSRN national and regional website

City College Norwich has five different National Skills Academies (Financial Services, Manufacturing, Hospitality, Retail and Creative and Cultural). The college offers academic subjects to job-specific courses. The Higher Education courses are designed to take students where they want to be and could be. The HE courses are constantly reviewed and improved. CCN offers one of the widest ranges of courses in the East of England.

www.ccn.ac.uk

Thursday 25 November 2010

Friends House, London

Conference fee
reduced by 35%
from last year

Event Information

- Arrival and registration is at 9:30am for a 10:00am start. The event will end at 4:30pm
- Event fee per person: £100 (includes lunch, tea/coffee and a directory of presentations)
NB: NIACE does not charge VAT on conference fees
- If you wish us to invoice your employer we require a copy of the Purchase Order
- Please note that the absence of a Purchase Order / Order Number will delay the processing of your application form
- Only application forms with the payments section completed will be processed
- Places will be allocated in order of receipt of completed application forms
- Completed and signed application forms must be faxed or posted to NIACE by the closing date. Reservations by telephone cannot be accepted
- Application forms are individually acknowledged by e-mail. Joining instructions, including map and directions, will be e-mailed out one week before the event
- Participants should be prepared to take their own notes as there will not be handouts for all sessions
- If you have not received an e-mail confirming your attendance and joining instructions 4 working days before the event please contact:

Ursula Wallace

Tel: 0116 204 2833

Fax: 0116 254 8368

Minicom: 0116 255 6049

E-mail: ursula.wallace@niace.org.uk

Application Conditions

Event: **Thursday 25 November 2010**

Closing date for applications for places on the conference: **Thursday 11 November 2010**

- Bursary places are offered on this event and will be dependent on raising funds from sponsors. A supporting letter accompanying the Application Form is required to be submitted
- Cancellations are non-refundable
- The full fee is payable prior to the event
- Substitutions are to be advised **5 working days** prior to the event
- A **10 working days** notice period is required for provision of electronic note-takers, sign language interpreters and transcription to Braille.

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Registration no. 2603322 Registered charity no. 1002775.

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promoting adult learning



Parallel Sessions (please select room number to indicate choices)

NB: Please note that attendance will be capped at the maximum of 25 delegates per room. Places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

	First Choice (Indicate Room No.)	Second Choice (Indicate Room No.)
Syndicates - Session 1 (10:45 – 11:45)		
Syndicates - Session 2 (12:00 – 13:00)		
Interactive Workshops (14:00 – 14:30)		
Research Projects (14:35 – 15:20)		
Syndicates - Session 3 (15:25 – 15:55)		

Participant's requirements

<input type="checkbox"/>	I have no special requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	I will require a hearing loop
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will need support for my visual impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	I will need wheelchair access
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will need an electronic note-taker	<input type="checkbox"/>	I will need facilities for an assistance dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will require a sign language interpreter (please specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I require event materials in a specified format (please specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have the following dietary requirements (please specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have further additional requirements (please specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	NB: I do not wish to be photographed or filmed at this conference		

NIACE requires a 10 working days notice period to make arrangements for electronic note-takers, sign language interpreters and transcription to Braille.

Agreement

By signing the form the individual agrees to this event's Terms and Conditions

Signature	PRINT First (given) and family names	Date

C1988/1110

Event Date: Thursday 25 November 2010
Closing Date: Thursday 11 November 2010

Data Protection Act

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 (Registration Number Z7412510). Personal information supplied to NIACE will be stored securely and used in relation to NIACE's work. Full details of the purposes for which NIACE processes personal information is in our Data Protection Register entry, which can be found on the Information Commissioner's website www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk. At no time will we divulge personal information to third parties without your express consent. Participants may be contacted by letter or e-mail with details of future events and publications organised or promoted by NIACE which may be of interest to you. Database mailing update forms are sent out periodically. These provide you with the opportunity to have your details amended or deleted from the database. If you wish to receive such further information please tick this box

Please return completed application form to: Fax: 0116 254 8368
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