

NIACE and UCU Annual Conference



Monday 11 May 2009

Jeffery Hall, Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL



Freedom to teach, freedom to learn

Jointly organised by:



National Research and Development Centre
for adult literacy and numeracy



Please retain pages 1 - 4

Background

The professionalisation of the Skills for Life workforce, and the more recent requirement for teachers in the post-16 sector to have Institute for Learning membership, means that teacher training and continuing professional development have a very high profile. Teachers are required to engage in regular CPD, which addresses both their own needs, and those of their organisation, and which equips them to deal with curriculum development issues such as the introduction of Functional Skills. Amongst these competing demands, the issues of teacher autonomy and creativity risk being sidelined.

The recently refreshed strategy *Skills for Life: Changing Lives* has a clear focus on learning related to employment and employability, particularly through Train to Gain.

NIACE, The National Research Development Centre for adult literacy and numeracy (NRDC) and University and College Union (UCU) believe it is vital to ensure that learning in a wider context is also valued so that all potential learners, whatever their purpose, are able to engage in literacy, language and numeracy learning, and that professionals should feel confident about using creative and broad approaches to teaching and learning.

This conference will provide an opportunity to think about and re-visit literacy, language and numeracy pedagogy rather than funding arrangements, national tests and targets. It offers participants an opportunity to focus on the essentials of teaching and learning and is a chance to rediscover the creativity and passion that motivates us all in our work with learners.

The event aims to provide participants with:

- an opportunity to explore issues around creativity in teaching and learning, in the context of the refreshed Skills for Life strategy
- opportunities to develop their skills and confidence in using a range of creative approaches to teaching literacy, language and numeracy.

What participants will gain from attending the event:

- Participants will hear about alternative approaches to literacy, language and numeracy teaching
- Participants will develop their skills and knowledge in using creative approaches to teaching and learning
- The conference will count towards the 30 hour CPD requirement for Institute for Learning membership.

How participants can use information gained from the event when they go back to their institutions

Participants will be able to use the teaching and learning approaches from the conference with learners, and also share those approaches with colleagues.

Audience

- Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL practitioners and managers
- Family learning practitioners and managers
- Offender learning practitioners and managers
- ITT & CPD professionals
- Union Learning Representatives.

Programme

- 09:30** Arrival and registration (tea/coffee available)
- 10:00** Welcome and introduction to the day from the Chair
- 10:15** Keynote address
Lyn Tett, Professor of Community Education and Lifelong Learning,
University of Edinburgh
- 11:00** Tea /coffee break
- 11:15** Workshops (please indicate your choices on the application form)
See workshop descriptions on page 4 and 5
- 1) Write where you are
Sue Southwood, Programme Director, NIACE
 - 2) Reading for pleasure
Richard Crabb, Campaigns Manager, NIACE
Genevieve Clarke, National Coordinator of The Vital Link at The Reading Agency
 - 3) Freedom to learn maths
Joan O'Hagan, Consultant
 - 4) All for one, and one for all? The cult of the individual in adult education
John Sutter, LLU+
 - 5) Exploring collaborative professional development using the Maths4Life resource 'Thinking Through Mathematics' (Cancelled)
Francis Bove, Consultant
 - 6) Let me tell you a story (Cancelled)
Rona Barbour, Storyteller
 - 7) Talk is cheap? (Cancelled)
Mark Thomson, Poet
 - 8) Freedom to Learn: tearing down the walls
Brian Creese, Development Officer, NRDC
- 12:30** Lunch and networking
- 13:30** Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning
Dan Taubman, Senior National Education Official (FE), UCU
- 13.40** Skills for Life teaching workforce: profile of a profession?
Helen Casey, Executive Director, NRDC
- 14:00** Take control: why expert teachers teach what counts, not what is tested
Geoff Petty, Author, Teacher Trainer and Consultant
- 15:00** Tea /coffee break
- 15:15** Workshops (repeated)
- 16:30** Close of conference

Workshops (Please indicate your choices on the application form)

1) Write where you are

If you are looking for off-the-shelf takeaways, you won't find them here. What you will find are starting points for encouraging your learners to explore writing for their own purposes and inspire those who think 'writing is what other people do'. You will also have the chance to share your practice with colleagues and discuss what helps learner gain confidence as writers.

2) Reading for pleasure

Richard Crabb and Genevieve Clarke will take you through an interactive session exploring how to use Quick Reads and Reading for Pleasure with your audience. You will experience various activities and resources designed to stimulate, illuminate and build on the success of Quick Reads and Reading for Pleasure.

3) Freedom to learn maths

According to the surveys, most adults in England are not very good at maths; and down the pub or in the staffroom many of us say we're lousy at it. Yet when surveyed very few of us think our maths is "poor or below average", and almost all of us say we're managing the mathematical demands of our lives just fine, thank you. Meanwhile the government says improving the country's maths is an economic prosperity / social inclusion deal-breaker. What's going on? Are we as individuals deluding ourselves? Are we getting by when we could be getting on? Are we using clever avoidance strategies? Are we doing lots of maths in our ordinary lives but just calling it something else? Are the tests and surveys checking out skills that are different from the ones we use in everyday life? Or is maths actually less important than the government thinks? In this workshop we will explore these questions and look at how emotion, intuition, judgement and logic interact when we "do" maths or even think about doing it. You may even find your inner mathematician.

4) All for one, and one for all? The cult of the individual in adult education

John Sutter will be looking at Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) in the context of the individualisation of learning. He will be exploring how this discourse might constrain what teachers feel they can legitimately do in the classroom, and relating this to the apparently contrasting discourses of 'learning communities' and communities of practice.

5) Exploring collaborative professional development using the Maths4Life resource 'Thinking Through Mathematics' (Cancelled)

This workshop will explore some of the CPD activities from the M4L resources, including using video to encourage discussion, reflection and active learning. As well as seeking to make mathematics more accessible, engaging and effective, the aim is to give participants confidence to use the materials with colleagues back in their own institutions.

Workshops (Please indicate your choices on the application form)

6) Let me tell you a story (Cancelled)

In this workshop, Storytelling Consultant, Rona Barbour will bring to life exciting stories from around the globe as she demonstrates the most powerful method of communication known to man: The Art of Storytelling.

Whether you are a tutor / teacher aiming to enrich and enhance learning through story, or looking for something new and exciting to encourage and motivate your adult learners, you've come to the right place.

Rona employs traditional storytelling as a teaching tool, just as it's been used in many cultures across the world for countless millennia but with subtle differences that will amaze and astound you.

Using only her voice, hands, eyes and facial gestures, she will take you on an incredible and unforgettable journey through time and space; it is an opportunity not to be missed!

7) Talk is cheap? (Cancelled)

Workshop participants will try out techniques for creating poetry which can be used with all learners. Mark, a former labourer and factory worker from Dundee, uses his own experiences as an adult learner to encourage others to explore language. Mark didn't find it easy to write "how he'd been taught at school" and uses that experience to encourage others to be passionate and proud to write the way they speak.

8) Freedom to Learn: tearing down the walls

Whether we mean to or not, organisations and teachers inevitably put up barriers which prevent adult learners from participating in, persisting with or achieving their LLN aims. This workshop will aim to identify the walls created by delegates and the systems we work within, then we will collectively look at ways to tear them down, to liberate learners and allow them to fulfil their educational aspirations.

Monday 11 May 2009

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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: £135 for full-time staff
£65 for part-time staff
(includes lunch, tea/coffee and a certificate of attendance)
NB: NIACE does not charge VAT on conference and course fees
- 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 emailed out one week before the event

Application conditions

Event: Monday 11 May 2009
Closing Date: Monday 27 April 2009

- The full fee is payable prior to the event
- Cancellations are non-refundable
- Substitutions are to be advised **5 working days** prior to the event
- A **10 working days** notice period is required for provision of palantypists, sign language interpreters and translation to Braille.
- If you have not received an e-mail confirming your attendance and joining instructions 4 working days before the event please contact:

Gurjit Kaur
Tel: 0116 204 2833
Fax: 0116 254 8368
Minicom: 0116 255 6049
E-mail: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk

The National Research and Development Centre for adult literacy and numeracy (NRDC), based at the Institute of Education, University of London, has been working since 2002 to generate knowledge and transform it into practice. Originally established by the UK government as part of Skills for Life, the national strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy skills, we also work internationally. Our aim is to improve teaching practice and inform government policy by creating a strong research culture and developing professional practice. We produce a range of free publications for practitioners and policy makers: visit www.nrdc.org.uk



National Research and Development Centre for adult literacy and numeracy



Leading education and social research
Institute of Education
University of London

The University and College Union (UCU) represents more than 120,000 academics, lecturers, trainers, instructors, researchers, managers, administrators, computer staff, librarians and postgraduates in universities, colleges, prisons, adult education and training organisations across the UK. UCU is the largest post-school union in the world: a force working for educators and education that employers and the government cannot ignore. Visit: www.ucu.org.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 is a company limited by guarantee.
Registration no. 2603322 Registered charity no. 1002775.
Registered Address: 21 De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE

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



Please complete and return the full application form

Application Form

My organisation has authorised my attendance on:

Monday 11 May 2009, London

Ref: C1755/0509

Closing Date: Monday 27 April 2009

Participant's details

Title _____ Full name _____

Job title _____ Organisation _____

Daytime tel no. _____ Mobile no. _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

This is my Home address Work address

Payment

The signatory is responsible for payment.

Event Fee per person: £135 for full-time staff

£65 for part-time staff

(includes lunch, tea/coffee and a certificate of attendance)

NB: NIACE does not charge VAT on conference/course fees

- Cancellations are non-refundable
- The full fee is payable prior to the event
- Substitutions to be advised 5 working days prior to the event

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to NIACE

Please send me a receipt

I enclose Purchase Order No. _____

and request you to invoice my employer for £.....

Please note that the absence of a Purchase Order/ Order Number will delay the processing of your application form.

Invoice address:

Please debit my credit/debit card number with the value of £.....

We do not accept payment by AMEX

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Valid from: □□/□□ Expires on: □□/□□

Three digit security code on reverse of card: □□□

Issue No: (Switch/Maestro) □□

Name as it appears on the card:

Cardholder's signature:

Cardholder's address:

Workshop attendance

Please rank your choices from 1 to 3 in order of preference.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 5 (Cancelled) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 6 (Cancelled) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 7 (Cancelled) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 8 |

Participant's requirements

- I will require a hearing loop
- I will require a sign language interpreter (indicate type) _____
- I will need a palantypist and/or note taker
- I will need wheelchair access
- I will need facilities for an assistance dog
- I will need support for my visual impairment
- I require event material in a specified format (please indicate format) _____

Any additional requirements (please specify) _____

I have the following dietary requirements _____

NIACE requires a 10 working days notice period to make arrangements for palantypists, sign language interpreters and translation to Braille

Agreement

By signing the form the individual agrees to NIACE's Terms and Conditions in respect of applying for a place at a NIACE event.

Signature

PRINT First (given) and family names

Date

Equality and Diversity monitoring

Please tick the appropriate boxes below

- Asian**
- Bangladeshi British Chinese
 - Indian Pakistani Sri Lankan
 - Other: _____

- Black**
- African British Caribbean
 - Other: _____

- Dual Heritage**
- White and Black Caribbean White and Black African
 - White and Asian Other: _____

- White**
- British European Other: _____

Any other ethnic group
Please specify: _____

- Gender**
- Female Male

- Age**
- Under 30 31-50 51+

Sectoral monitoring

Please tick the appropriate box below (* please specify)

- Adult Ed. College
- College, FE or HE (inc. Universities)
- Community Education Provider
- Government Department
- Information/ Guidance Provider
- Libraries and Museums
- Learning and Skills Councils
- Local Government (inc. Education Authority)
- Local Authority, Housing
- Local Authority, Youth Services
- Primary healthcare
- Prison/Probation Service
- Supported Employment
- Trade Union
- Voluntary Sector and Charities
- Work-based Learning (inc. SSCs)
- Other* _____

Send to: Gurjit Kaur

NIACE Events Team
Renaissance House, 20 Princess Road West, Leicester LE1 6TP
E-mail: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk
Tel: 0116 204 2833
Fax: 0116 254 8368

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