



# NEWSLETTER

*June 2016*

*The LSRN newsletter is a channel for all interested in research and use of evidence in the Learning & Skills sector. It comes out on a regular basis in September, December, March and June. Deadline for content: 7<sup>th</sup> of each month. To add an item for the next issue just reply to [ajmorris@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ajmorris@blueyonder.co.uk)*

## Events

### LSRN London and South East

The next LSRN South East Meeting is on **Friday 17th June 2016 at 15.00 – 17.00** in room SL006 (Stephen Lawrence Building), Greenwich Campus, University of Greenwich, Old Royal Naval College, 30 Park Row, London SE10 9LS. Speakers include:

Dr Gordon Ade-Ojo, Principal Lecturer, University of Greenwich on 'Literacy for specific purposes' from his latest book, (2015) 'Adult Literacy Policy and Practice: From intrinsic Values to Instrumentalism'. Palgrave Pivot Macmillan.

Dr. Richard Sargeant, Research Consultant on 'The impact of marketization on the professional identities of Black practitioners in UK further education'.

Dr. Onyenachi Ajoku, on 'Hidden disabilities and the reasonable adjustment dilemma in higher education'.

To contribute or attend please e-mail the regional convenors Rania or Sai. [Sai.loo@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:Sai.loo@ucl.ac.uk)<<mailto:Sai.loo@ucl.ac.uk>>; [R.Hafez@greenwich.ac.uk](mailto:R.Hafez@greenwich.ac.uk)

### LSRN North West with TELL

A research seminar was held at City of Liverpool College on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006 organised by LSRN North West in conjunction with TELL, the Teacher Education in Lifelong Learning network. Speakers included:

- Joel Petrie (Co-convenor LSRN NW)
- Professor Kevin Orr (Huddersfield University)
- Daniela Bacova (University of Bolton)

- Sarah Telfer (University of Bolton)
- Katherine Davey (The City of Liverpool College)
- Lou Mycroft (The Northern College)
- Dr Vicky Duckworth (Edge Hill University)

NW regional convenor, Joel Petrie has sent several presentations from the day. Reply to this email if you would like a copy. Contacts for networks discussed at the event are

- [TELL](mailto:j.crawley@bathspa.ac.uk) contact Jim Crawley [j.crawley@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:j.crawley@bathspa.ac.uk)
- [ARPCE](http://arpce.org.uk/members/) see <http://arpce.org.uk/members/> or follow [@arpceresearch](https://twitter.com/arpceresearch) on Twitter
- [Tutor Voices](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tutorvoices/) follow [@TutorVoices](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tutorvoices/) or join at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tutorvoices/>

## LSRN workshop: Technical and Professional Education and Training

LSRN's spring strategic workshop, held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in London focused on research and evidence around technical and professional education and training. Three themes - data, pedagogy/curriculum and institutions - were brought together in discussion informed by six speakers:

- Anne-Marie Bathmaker
- Richard Boniface
- David Corke
- Ann Hodgson
- Ewart Keep
- Kevin Orr

Outputs available [via the website](#) include an article by Ian Nash in *Education Journal*, a blog by Tami McCrone of NFER and a column in the *TES Ferret* section.

A comprehensive booklet containing brief summary papers from each speaker and information provided by many participants is also available on the website.

<https://lsrn.wordpress.com/news-events/workshop-on-technical-and-professional-education/>

## LSRN practice-based workshop, Autumn 2016

LSRN's Autumn workshop (24<sup>th</sup> November 2016) is about practice – based research and use of evidence. The theme this year is the link between research evidence and decision-making. If you are a practitioner interested in this issue and would like to know more, contact Andrew Morris on [ajmorris@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ajmorris@blueyonder.co.uk)

## EDGE foundation

### London Conference on Employer Engagement in Education and Training, 21 - 22 July 2016

Interested in research into employer engagement in education, technical pathways and apprenticeships? Then book a place at this research conference, hosted by the Education

and Employers Charity and the Edge Foundation, with support from the Department for Education (England), the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and Barclays Lifeskills. The conference, which will take place at the BIS conference centre in central London, will explore implications for policy and practice and share research insights from around the world. Full details, including information on how to book a place, are here:

<http://www.educationandemployers.org/research/london-conference-on-employer-engagement-in-education-and-training-2016/>

## Reminders from the March newsletter

### Reimagining FE conference

On 29 June 2016, Birmingham City University's [Centre for the Study of Practice and Culture in Education](#) (CSPACE) will host a one-day conference entitled 'Reimagining Further Education' at its City Centre Campus (Curzon Building), located in the centre of Birmingham and supported by ATL, UCU and ETF.

Speakers Sir Frank McLoughlin, David Russell and Paul Hager. It will cover a range of themes from apprenticeships and work-based learning to accountability and governance in FE.

**Tickets are available at a cost of £50.** Spaces are limited. Contact:

[Alison.Nicholls@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Alison.Nicholls@bcu.ac.uk) or visit the website: <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/news-events/calendar/reimagining-further-education>

### ATL annual FE conference

ATL's annual FE conference on 8<sup>th</sup> July will focus on 'Practitioners make Practice Perfect' and will be engaging with teaching practices, support expertise, student engagement and the need for research. If you are not an ATL member and wish to attend please contact [ncrowther@atl.org.uk](mailto:ncrowther@atl.org.uk)

### Association for Research in Post-Compulsory Education (ARPCE)

The Association for Research in Post-Compulsory Education (ARPCE) international research conference which will take place at Harris Manchester College, Oxford from 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016. More details are available here: [ARPCE 2nd International Research Conference](#)

For queries or informal advice please contact ARPCE's Chair: Professor Geoffrey Elliott, [g.elliott@worc.ac.uk](mailto:g.elliott@worc.ac.uk).

# Research and publications

## City and Guilds

*Area based reviews.* City & Guilds and the Association of Colleges have commissioned the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) to carry out a research study to test assumptions of area based reviews. It is intended to inform stakeholder discussions.

*Vocational destinations.* City & Guilds and the Edge Foundation have commissioned the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick to carry out a longitudinal study (over three years) investigating the destinations of learners on vocational programmes at Level 3.

*Maths and English.* The project on Maths and English in the workplace is continuing, which includes the identification of what skills employers want and employees need. It is a four nations study; using focus groups and a survey of employers and young employees aged 16-25. The findings will be shared with stakeholders and also presented at the [Association of Post Compulsory Education Conference](#) in July.

*Open Badges.* Findings from a research project exploring learner and employer perceptions of open badges (holding information on a person's employability skills) in supporting young people into education, employment or training will be presented at the [London Conference on Employer Engagement in Education and Training](#) in July and at the [Association for Learning Technology \(ALT\) Conference](#) in September (See conference details in previous section).

*TechBac.* Papers on the City & Guilds TechBac® evaluation will be presented at the [London Conference on Employer Engagement in Education and Training](#) and at the [Association of Post Compulsory Education Conference](#) in July.

## Education and Training Foundation

### SIR tool

The Education and Training Foundation is gathering strategic workforce data across the further education and skills sector, describing the employment and working patterns of thousands of staff. It has recently redeveloped its data collection system to become a useful management tool.

The new 2015/16 Staff Individualised Record (SIR) gives all providers a useful strategic decision making tool, as well as giving policy makers broader-based evidence. The new SIR system includes:

- An enhanced data set to make reporting more useful
- New upload tools to make data submission fast and easy
- Visual and informative management dashboards where you can see your workforce data benchmarked against other providers in the sector

The system has been rebranded *SIR Data Insights* to reflect this refocus. It helps

- Benchmark vital management data including pay, staff qualifications, age, gender, ethnicity
- Benchmark your organisation against other providers by type and size, which is not possible through an HR system

To find out more visit: [www.sirdatacollection.org.uk](http://www.sirdatacollection.org.uk) or contact the SIR team at:

[support@sirdatacollection.org.uk](mailto:support@sirdatacollection.org.uk).

## Open Awards



Open Awards are undertaking a research project to investigate the factors that can affect varying grading profiles amongst learners on their Access to HE Diploma courses to inform how they develop and improve their offer.

This research project requires collaboration of two Open Awards providers who will submit the grade profile of a cohort of their learners from the beginning to the end of their studies. This will be a comprehensive tracking of learners' grading, as well as the monitoring of those learners who do not complete their course.

Factors which are being monitored include learners' age, qualifications of entry, proposed progression route, subsequent university offer, as well as those learners who have English as a second language.

The data collected will provide a new angle to examine grading on Access Diplomas. Historically there is a lot of data available on the performance of learners that have completed one course, but little on those who withdrew part way through the year. This study will help to better understand how the pressure of completing the course might be affecting grading performance.

The results of this project will feedback into all of Open Awards Access to HE offers and will help inform national disclosure on the qualification. For further information contact [shenna.yates@openawards.org.uk](mailto:shenna.yates@openawards.org.uk) or visit [www.openawards.org.uk](http://www.openawards.org.uk)

# News

## AELP

Cath Gladding, Research Manager at AELP is interested in any research reports based on data collected from training providers. She is building up a bank of training provider research. Please send any relevant material to Cath at [cath71jones@googlemail.com](mailto:cath71jones@googlemail.com)

## Education and Training Foundation: Practitioner Research Programme

The Foundation runs a practitioner research programme, first established in 2009 in partnership with the University of Sunderland, which supports those working in the sector to undertake research in an area that they themselves have identified as in need of improvement. Details of the 2016-17 practitioner research opportunities will be published on our website in July 2016. <http://www.et-foundation.co.uk/research/> Contact: [sheila.kearney@etfoundation.co.uk](mailto:sheila.kearney@etfoundation.co.uk)

## Association of Colleges: The Scholarship Project

The AoC/HEFCE Scholarship Project aims to support the development and embedding of a distinct college HE scholarly ethos across the sector, associated with technical education at Levels 4 and higher, by creating a 'scholarship framework' that can be adopted by all colleges, and one which is firmly centred on enhancing the learning experience for students. Specifically, the project will continue to encourage individual staff to develop their own scholarly profiles and explore how these might be better integrated into a distinct context. For details see <https://www.aoc.co.uk/enhancing-scholarship-in-college-higher-education-the-scholarship-project> Contact: [john\\_lea@aoc.co.uk](mailto:john_lea@aoc.co.uk)

# LSRN information

### LSRN website

<http://lsrn.wordpress.com/>

### LSRN regional contacts

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