

# European Society *for* Research *on the* Education of Adults

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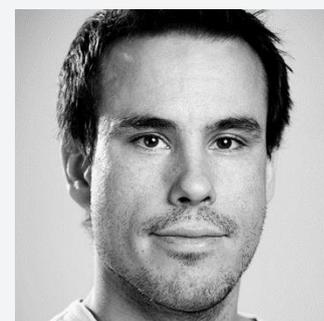
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Dear members,

Allow me - in the first newsletter for this year - to renew our wishes for a fruitful 2020. The start of 2020 has brought about mixed emotions. ESREA skillfully navigates to a new era with a new presidium which renewed in its inaugural meeting ESREA's commitment to remain an open, democratic and value-oriented society promoting meaningful research in adult education and learning. Yet, Brexit, Coronavirus and thousands of destitute refugees on the Greek-Turkish borders do not make us feel very optimistic. Sealing our borders, closing our minds, is that a serious response for countries that pride themselves on being the most enlightened, prosperous and democratic in the world?

Yours,  
Alexandra Ioannidou  
Secretary of ESREA

# 1. Address by the new Chair



Dear ESREA member,

First of all, on behalf of the new steering committee, I wish to extend my gratitude to all of those who engaged in the general assembly, and cast your vote. We, are grateful and will do our best to fulfill your expectations.

ESREA is entering interesting times (as always). ESREA was created late in 1991 when Europe changed drastically: the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the independence of several European states. Today, drastic changes are once again taking place: the Brexit, and the growth of extremist right wing parties across the continent, just to mention a few. In such times adult education as practice has played and still plays an important role.

Such political changes are also reflected in the development of ESREA, e.g. through the emergence of new research networks at different times as well as through the changing focus within research networks. However, the political changes are also reflected in what is published on behalf of ESREA. Or rather, in the topics that are addressed in what is being published. By going through the ESREA books published through the years, as well as looking at what is being published in RELA, one can partly get a sense of the changing landscape of adult education as practice(es) across Europe as well as adult education as research field(s).

I have myself been engaged in adult education research since 2002, and in ESREA since 2007: first as secretary for 6 years, later on as member of the Steering Committee for 3 years, and now as the Chair of the presidium. If I have learned anything during my years within ESREA is that the society, through its research networks, has an important role to play in reacting towards political changes - reacting in terms of addressing these changes through what we do best - produce high quality research that address what we define as important questions of our time.

My ambition for the coming three years, is that ESREA can continue to support such tasks through our different research activities which includes research network conferences, the triennial conference, bursaries to support early career researchers, the publication of a research journal as well as a book series. However, we as presidium can only support such activities. At the end, the most important actors in such work are you as members of ESREA and any other colleagues who might engage in our activities.

With all best wishes,  
Andreas Fejes  
Chair of the presidium of ESREA

## 2. Presidium meeting in Bonn

The new ESREA presidium held its inaugural meeting in Bonn on January 30 and 31. It elected a new Chair, Prof. Andreas Fejes from Linköping University, Sweden, and the Treasurer, Prof. Bernd Käßlinger from the University of Giessen, Germany. The presidium discussed strategic issues dealing with the future action plan of ESREA, which are going to be further defined in the next meetings, and decided to propose amendments to the statutes of ESREA in order to optimize the management of the society under German law.

The propose amendments are the following ones:

1. In order to formally have a person that can step in to lead presidium meetings and represent ESREA in case of the Chair's absence as well as in order to make the everyday business of the organisation run smoothly, we wish to expand on the people, who formally constitute the Board. We propose to *have a Vice Chair in the Society and that the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Secretary of ESREA should constitute the Board* as required in Section 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB).
2. In order to have an organisation with changing leadership at certain intervals, we would like to propose a change to the statutes so that *no person can hold the position as Chair or Vice Chair more than six consecutive years*.
3. In order to avoid any situation in the future, where there might be fewer candidates than positions in the presidium (currently twelve), or when someone has to resign from the presidium, we propose *a variable composition of the presidium members between 8 (min.) to 12 (max.) persons*.

The General Assembly as the superior decision-taking body of the society has to prove the amendments proposed by the Board. An extraordinary General Assembly will take place on April 28 2020 through an online postal ballot.



Secretary and presidium members at DIE venue in Bonn, January 31 2020 (Photo: Beate Beyer-Paulick)

# 3. ESREA Conferences and Network Meetings 2020

## **February 27 – March 1, 2020 – Canterbury, England**

ESREA Conference of the Network Life History and Biography.

**Activism in a troubled world – auto/biographical and narrative perspectives on struggles for the good and beautiful.**

<https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/education/conferences-events/2020/esrea-conference-2020.aspx>

## **April 22-24, 2020 - Glasgow, Scotland**

ESREA 5<sup>th</sup> international Conference of the ESREA Migration, Transnationalism and Racism, Network.

**Contextualizing racism and migration: time, place and generational perspectives in anti-racist praxis.**

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/education/esrea2020/>

## **June 4-7, 2020 – Vancouver, Canada**

International Research Conference at the University of British Columbia. (ESREA as a partner organisation)

**Adult Education in Global Times.**

<https://edst.educ.ubc.ca/aegt2020/>

## **June 25-28, 2020 – Athens, Greece**

4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Network Transformative Process in Learning and Education (TPLE) and the Hellenic Adult Education Association.

**What we know and don't know about transformation: Building a new community in research and praxis.**

<http://www.esrea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ESREA-TPLE-2020-First-call-for-papers-2019-10-31.pdf>

## **October 15-17, 2020 – Faro, Portugal**

ESREA Conference of the Network gender and Adult Learning.

**Gender and adult education in the era of social and cultural changes in Europe: (new) risks and challenges.**

<http://esrea.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/1st-CFP-Gender-and-adult-education.pdf>

## 4. New Faces in ESREA

The ESREA network on Adult Educators, Trainers and their Professional Development (ReNAdeT) has two new co-convenors: Maria N. Gravani (Open University of Cyprus) and Susanne Lattke (DIE, German Institute of Adult Education – Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning) will join Larissa Jögi (Tallin University) and George Zarifis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) in this function. Wolfgang Jütte (University of Bielefeld, Germany), longstanding co-convenor of the network, has stepped back; we would like to thank him very much for his engagement all these years.

All information on ESREA networks and their convenors can be found at: <http://esrea.org/networks/>

ESREA has a new membership and website administrator: Ronja Schmitter is going to replace Lena Sindermann as assistant to the Secretary. We thank Lena for her commitment and hard work during last year and wish her all the best for the future.

We warmly welcome the new faces – some of them well known in ESREA - and look forward to working together.

## 5. RELA



The **European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults (RELA)** is a refereed academic journal creating a forum for the publication of critical research on adult education and learning. RELA is published on behalf of ESREA and can be found at our webpage: <http://www.esrea.org/publications/rela/>

We are happy to let you know that a new issue of RELA has just been published. Theme of the publication is '*The changing landscapes of literacy and adult education*'.

Free to download here: <http://www.rela.ep.liu.se/contents.asp?doi=10.3384/rela.2000-7426.2020111>

## 6. Publications

New publication of the **Gender and Adult Education Network**:

Endepohls-Ulpe, M. & Ostrouch-Kamińska, J. (Eds.) (2019). *Gender – Diversity – Intersectionality (New) Perspectives in Adult Education*. German: Waxmann. ISBN 978-3-8309-3883-5.

All publications of the ESREA networks can be found at: <http://esrea.org/publications/books-from-the-networks/>

## 7. How to become a member of ESREA e.V.

As a member you pay a reduced participation fee for all ESREA events and you will receive regular information on current research on adult education via the ESREA mailing list and the ESREA newsletter. As an individual member you have the right to vote (by online postal ballot) at the annual general meeting.

In the case of institutional membership the following applies: every single employee of a member institution is entitled to participate in ESREA activities at a reduced fee. However, at the general assembly, each institutional member has only one vote.

If you want to become a member the process is the following:

1. Download the membership application form at: <http://esrea.org/about-us/membership/>
2. Fill in the form and e-mail it to: [ESREAsecretary@die-bonn.de](mailto:ESREAsecretary@die-bonn.de).
3. If your membership application is approved by the chair you will receive a confirmation by mail within two weeks.
4. We will then issue an invoice for your membership fee: The fee is 50 Euros for individual members, 25 Euros for students and PhD students and 150 Euros for institutional members. **Payment of membership fees can only be made through an international or EU bank transfer to the account indicated below. Cheques are not accepted. Any foreign bank fees are to be borne by the applicants.**

ESREA bank details for payment of membership fee:

**Bank:** Sparkasse KölnBonn

**Account holder:** European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA) e.V.

**Account number:** 1934820174

**IBAN:** DE73 3705 0198 1934 8201 74

**BIC:** COLSDE33XXX

**VAT Number:** DE324070933

# 8. Forthcoming newsletters

## Deadlines for 2020

- **May 29, 2020**
- **August 28, 2020**
- **November 27, 2020**

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Ronja Schmitter

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Date of Publication: March 4, 2020

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