



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

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Announcements from the Secretary

Dear ESREA associates,

With this newsletter I'd like to call your attention to two major events this year for our society:

The first one is *the 10th ESREA Triennial Conference* taking place at the University of Milano Bicocca in Milan, Italy, from September 29 to October 2, 2022. The organisers of the Conference are looking forward to welcoming you on their site. Conference programme as well as all related information can be found at:

<https://esrea2022.formazione.unimib.it>

The second one has to do with *the election of a new Presidium* (former Steering Committee) and a new Board of ESREA. The three-year term of the current 12 presidium members will end on December 31, 2022. All members who have paid their contributions in 2022 can vote for the new presidium. The presidium comprises elected members who are appointed for a period of three years by means of a postal ballot. The elected members of the presidium will then appoint the Chairperson, the Vice-Chair, and the Treasurer of the Society among them. The Board of ESREA consists of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chair and the Secretary. The newly elected members will commence their work in January 2023. What do presidium members do? They actively participate in at least two meetings each year, they engage in ESREA activities such as conferences and network meetings, they co-edit ESREA publications such as the journal RELA or the Book Series, and they represent the Society within the national and international community.

While ESREA conferences and network meetings are open to all, participation in the election procedure and therefore, the right to engage in the governance of the Society and influence its future policy is given only to members. You still have the chance to apply for or renew your membership! Go to <http://www.esrea.org/about-us/membership/>

Yours,
Alexandra Ioannidou
ESREA Secretary

News from European Research Area

Ukraine became associated country in Horizon Europe

The ongoing Russian war against Ukraine and the EU's commitment to support the Ukrainian research and innovation community with concrete funds led to the decision that Ukraine will participate in the Horizon Europe programmes without having to financially contribute for the participation in the years 2021 and 2022. [The agreement](#) entered into force in June. From now on, Ukrainian researchers can participate fully in the Horizon Europe on equal terms with entities from EU member states. This support complements other EU initiatives to support Ukraine, such as ERA4Ukraine, Horizon4Ukraine, and ERC4Ukraine, as well as the special 25 million Euro Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fellowship programme for displaced Ukrainian researchers.

Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 1 July, the Czech Republic took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Czech Presidency will [focus on these priorities](#): Dealing with the refugee crisis and the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine, securing energy supply and strengthening of European defence capabilities (including in cyberspace), the resilience of democratic institutions and the European economy. In the area of research and innovation, the focus will be on synergies as well as on widening the participation of EU member states lagging behind in research and innovation.

MSCA Matchmaking Platform

In May 2022, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Network published [a matchmaking platform](#) to bring together future MSCA Fellows with research institutions, universities, companies, and National Contact Points. It is intended to provide the opportunity to get to know cooperation partners and to jointly prepare applications for MSCA calls. The platform will be open to all stakeholders until the end of May 2023.

European Research and Innovation Days

[Registration](#) for this year's European Research and Innovation Days is now open. The event will take place digitally this year from 28-29 September 2022 and will provide opportunities for learning, networking, and exchange with stakeholders from all fields of science and from all over Europe. The focus will be on Europe's resilience and strategic autonomy.

Election of a new ESREA presidium for the period 2023-2025

Presentation of the Candidates (alphabetical order)

Per Andersson



Institution:
University of Linköping
Sweden

Academic Position:
Professor

Who am I?

I am a professor of education at Linköping University in Sweden, where I work with research, teaching, and outreach work within the area of adult education and vocational education. I am part of a research group consisting of about 40 people, including PhD students who work within this area.

What ESREA means to me?

I have a long-term connection to ESREA, since I started working at Linköping University in 1993. I participated in my first ESREA conference already in 1994 and have been to a few triennial and network conferences since then. Our division of education and adult learning at Linköping University hosted the secretariat of ESREA for 12 years, 2007–2018, and since I was the head of the division for the main part of this period, I have also been working in close cooperation with ESREA for a long time.

ESREA represents an important actor in the promotion and support of high-quality research as well as support of early career researchers in the area of adult education and learning. The organisation acts as an important node in connecting researchers across Europe and beyond. I believe, the success of ESREA builds on the fact that the organisation is decentralised – where individual scholars come together to organise networks and network conferences and meetings. Such decentralisation is important to further support.

Why I candidate and why you should vote for me?

Voting for me would on the one hand be a support for a decentralised organisation of ESREA, as well as further work to promote high quality research in the area of adult education and learning. On the other hand, a vote for me would make possible further representation in the SC from Sweden as well as for the main research group in Sweden in the area of adult education and learning research.

Rosanna Barros



Institution:

University of Algrave,
Portugal

Academic Position:

Assistant Professor

Who I am?

Being an academic means, for me, the need to permanently apply research in teaching, while expanding education as an ‘ethnographic encounter’ between human alterities. For that reason, I am a hardworking and committed person. I am also very curious, sensitive, and truly passionate about the lifelong process of collaborative knowledge-building (in ways that could address Real-World Issues and community problems, producing social improvements around us).

What ESREA means to me?

First, I see that ESREA implies high quality research and excellence in scientific publications, both providing credibility and increasing global visibility for the field of education and learning of adults in Europe. As a scientific organization, its role to support the advancement of national research and international co-operation among researchers is crucial (mainly to less developed European countries).

Personally, ESREA has been a place of training (since I joined, as a PhD student, at the 2005 International Summer School hosted in Roskilde University), dissemination of results and continuing professional development as I have actively participated in all the 5 PSAE network conferences, also in 6 other ESREA networks conferences, in addition to the triennial conferences.

Finally, to me ESREA means significant cross-national friendships developed over almost 2 decades.

Why am I applying?

As a past Steering Committee Member (2014 - 2016) I have familiarised myself with the ESREA *ethos* and kind of management work. During that mandate it was possible, for example, to create ESREA relationships with national organizations and research centres. As a Convenor (since 2017) I have also been involved, on a regular basis, in organizing the biannual PSAE Network Meetings.

To be back in the Presidium will enhance my abilities to keep developing organisational multilevel bridges and give them a new direction to actively contribute to positive social change in these turbulent times. Therefore, I am running in the belief that it is fundamental to link the multiple results coming from critical research to expand reflexive adult education policies and imagine new types of provisions.

Finally, I want to engage in the ESREA presidium further because more activities are needed to avoid a retrial of democratic values in Europe and ALE is crucial to stimulate low skilled adults and powerless communities to be involved in solutions for important Current Global Issues that affect everyone.

Why you should vote for me?

I will put my energy, background, and experience into managing things effectively, to expand the potentialities of the role of ESREA, and identify problems in the organizations, policies, and practices of ALE, thinking of ways to solve them democratically.

Fergal Finnegan



Institution:
Maynooth, National
University of Ireland

Academic Position:
Associate Professor

Who am I?

I am Associate Professor at the Department of Adult and Community Education, Maynooth, National University of Ireland and co-director of the Doctorate in Higher and Adult Education and the PhD in Adult and Community Education programmes. Before becoming an academic I was a community adult educator and literacy worker for a decade and these experiences have strongly shaped me. My research interests include critical pedagogy, biographical methods, social class, access and equality in higher education, popular education and social movements as well as critical realism and Pierre Bourdieu. I co-authored a book *Access and Widening Participation in Irish Higher Education* for Palgrave Macmillan as well as edited a book for Policy Press *Funding, Power and Community Development* and one for Routledge based on a comparative study of non-traditional students across Europe entitled *Student Voices on Inequalities: Challenges for Theory, Policy and Practice in a Time of Change*. I have a longstanding interest in critical pedagogy and transformative education, and I am one of the editors of the *Journal of Transformative Education* and co-edited a volume entitled *European Perspectives on Transformation Theory* in 2017. Last year I co-edited a Special Issue celebrating Freire for the *Australian Journal of Adult Learning*.

What ESREA means to me?

I have been an active member of the European Society Research on Education of Adults (ESREA) for over a decade. I first attended an ESREA conference as a doctoral student and the ethos, atmosphere, and the quality of the dialogue at these events impressed me a great deal. I participated in various network conferences after this and ESREA became a vital space for me as a researcher. As a result, I led the organization of the 2016 ESREA Triennial held in Maynooth University. I became a member of the steering committee six years ago and have served two terms, serving as vice chair for three of those years.

I am currently a co-convenor of the network on *Active Democratic Citizenship and Adult Learning*. In this network we have begun experimenting with the standard conference format to ensure that there is time and space for meaningful exchange. Experiments of this sort led us to devise a series of online seminars last year during the pandemic. Besides this I have edited two books for the ESREA book series and am one of the editors of the RELA. I have co-organised two ESREA doctoral schools in the past four years. I am currently conducting video interviews documenting the history of ESREA in order to ensure the contribution of ESREA to adult education research is documented in various ways.

Why I candidate and why you should vote for me?

I would like the opportunity to continue working on the steering committee because I think ESREA is a crucial organization in the field of adult education in terms of creating space for critical research. I have worked hard on behalf of ESREA as a member of the steering committee and will continue to do so if I am elected for another term. I am especially committed to continuing to develop a range of dialogical formats for scholarly exchange, seeking ways of linking the research to the needs of social movement and adult education practitioners as well supporting early career researchers.

Laura Formenti



Institution:
University of
Milano Bicocca
Italy

Academic Position:
Professor

Who am I?

I am an Italian woman, 61 years old, first-generation student at university, mother of 2, very fond of singing, running, and building stone walls. I also am Full Professor in General and Social Pedagogy at the University of Milano Bicocca, Department of Human Sciences for Education, where I teach family pedagogy at BA and MA levels, and epistemology of research at PhD level. I have some international experience, having worked at the University of Geneva, Department of Psychology and Sciences of Education for 5 years and for short periods in Finland, Germany, UK, Chile, and South Korea.

I am the President of RUIAP, the Italian Network of Universities for Lifelong Learning, that brings me in contacts with all the relevant networks for adult education and learning: policy makers, schools for adults, work and guidance services, and many stakeholders. My research is on the systemic processes shaping the construction of meaning and professional identities in education and care, family learning, welfare services, public pedagogies, and feminist pedagogies.

I have served ESREA for 12 years as a member of the Steering Committee, 6 years as the Chair. I have been Joint Convenor of the Life History and Biography Network since 2009, but active since its foundation in 1993.

What ESREA means to me?

ESREA is my scientific family; the people I met at ESREA's conferences helped me in constructing my identity as a scholar and taught me everything about adult education and learning. I loved the atmosphere of these events, where your ideas mattered, not your social status. I started as a PhD student when ESREA was founded and the very first conference of the Life History and Biography Network was held in Geneva in March 1993. For many years I just met ESREA's people at the annual conferences of the Network, then I organized one myself at Anghiari (Tuscany) in 2005 and decided to become more active. ESREA has a very important role to play; the field is constantly changing and doing meaningful research for social and ecological justice is a challenge under the pressures of the neoliberal society. Having a community means that you are not alone, you can share your ideas and grow as a researcher; therefore, we work so hard for PhD students and early career researchers. Adult education has strong values that need to be re-asserted and implemented in research and in human relationships.

Why do I candidate?

It may be my last candidature; I am starting to think about the future and retirement. For the moment, I feel that I have still something to offer: my experience in the Steering Committee and Network, taking care of events and publications, but especially of relationships. In the academy, we are always struggling, the competition is crazy, early career researchers are under pressure and live a very precarious life. I will work to guarantee that ESREA is a place for authentic relationships and critical friendship. I am happy to serve, to bring my energy but also my awareness of the complexities entailed by the task.

Maria N. Gravani



Institution:

Open University of
Cyprus

Academic Position:

Associate Professor

Who I am?

I am Associate Professor in Adult & Continuing Education in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Open University of Cyprus (OUC); founder and Academic Coordinator of the MA in “Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning” (2014-present), and Academic Coordinator at the OUC for the “International Masters’ in Adult Education for Social Change” (IMAESC-Erasmus Mundus Joint Degree) (2016-present).

Before moving to Cyprus, fourteen years ago, I studied and served adult education for more than a decade from different posts (lecturer, tutor, researcher, postdoctoral fellow, adult educator, programme coordinator) in three countries (UK, Republic of Ireland and Greece). These experiences have strongly shaped my academic identity. My research interests include: teaching and learning of adults, across a variety of contexts (distance education, higher education, second chance education, education for migrants), as a means of individual empowerment and social change; adult educators and their professionalisation; comparative European research; women in adult education in academia. In the above areas, I have participated in many research projects, supervised PhD students and mentored early career researchers.

What ESREA means to me?

I am an active member of the ESREA community since 2009, when I participated in the inaugural conference of the Network for Adult Educators, Trainers and their Professional Development (ReNADET), as a presenter and member of the scientific committee. Following this, I’ve participated in a number of other ESREA Network conferences, including the Triennial conferences and served in the Advisory Editorial Board of the European Journal of Research on the Education and Learning of Adults (RELA), as a reviewer. I have organized in the Open University of Cyprus two of the ESREA ReNADET network conferences, in 2015 and 2021, co-edited the book “The role of higher education in the professionalization of adult educators” (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020), following the 2015 conference, and currently working on a new edited book for the ESREA book series, based on the 2021 conference. I serve as a co-convenor of the ESREA’s ReNADET network, since January 2020, and an elected member of the ESREA Presidium since 2017. ESREA has been my extended family and has created a space for me to grow up personally and professionally, especially since I joined it, as an early career academic woman.

Why I candidate and why you should vote for me?

Since ESREA is the most important organization, network of active researchers and vehicle to promote high quality adult education research in Europe and above, based on a democratic spirit and open dialogue, I consider it as being the best space and platform that one can join to be able to serve and offer to the field of adult education. If I have the opportunity to be re-elected as a member of the ESREA Presidium, I will continue to promote ESREA to Southern East Europe, bring doctoral students and early career researchers from the Greek speaking countries closer to the research work of the ESREA networks and its members, and work for supporting the adult education community, especially in the difficult times we are currently living. Thank you for considering my candidateship.

Joanna
Ostrouch- Kamińska



Institution:
University of Warmia
and Mazury in Olsztyn,
Poland

Academic Position:
Associate Professor

Who I am?

My name is Joanna Ostrouch-Kamińska. I am an Associate Professor and a Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (Poland). I am also a Chair of the Department of Research on Family and Social Inequalities. I have been involved in international cooperation for twenty-three years as a researcher in European projects, an Erasmus coordinator, and then as a vice-dean for research and international cooperation in my faculty. Since 2013 I have been a member of the Presidium of *Polish Educational Research Association* (PERA), and the Council of *World Educational Research Association* (WERA) since 2018, representing Polish pedagogues. My research interests focus on biographical methods, critical sociology of education and social pedagogy, adult learning in the context of changes in contemporary families, and gender differences in adult learning, as well as social and cultural aspects of education of adults and inequalities.

What ESREA means to me?

My contact with ESREA began in 2004 during 4th Triennial Conference in Wrocław. Being impressed by the people I met there and the Society itself, I became a member of ESREA. Since 2007 I have been serving the Gender and Adult Learning Network as a convenor (currently as a co-convenor for four years), and later on as a member of the Steering Committee 2020-2022. I am a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the ESREA Book Series. I co-edited five books for the Gender Network and the ESREA Book Series (both Peter Lang and Sense) and have had my contribution to the *European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults* (RELA) as a consulting editor (since 2018), guest editor and a reviewer. I also actively attended several ESREA conferences, including Triennial ones. For me ESREA gives a unique possibility of knowing research and sharing knowledge derived from their backgrounds in different fields as well as different culture and history across Europe. It is a crucial platform of gathering and supporting researchers in building their strength to cope with contemporary challenges facing the (research) world. But above all it is a community of engaged people, rich in diversity, openness and will to cooperate for others.

Why I candidate and why you should vote for me?

Because I would like to add Polish and southeastern European voice to the Presidium of ESREA. Serving it, I also would like to share my experience derived from my ESREA active membership, and from my professional work and international cooperation. I believe we can support younger researchers and each other in developing high quality European adult education and research, as well as ourselves as professionals and human beings. I would like to add my passion for work and engagement to the Presidium of ESREA for the good of whole community.

Martin Kopecký



Institution:

Charles University,
Prague

Academic Position:

Associate Professor

Who am I?

I work as Associate Professor at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. In the centre of my interest lies the relationship between social theory and adult education. Another of my research interests is citizenship education. Moreover, I have been researching the intersections of education policy with current social change, especially with respect to global changes and crises.

What ESREA means to me?

My active experience with ESREA goes as far back as 2010. A year later, I became a member. Since then, I have taken part in all triennial conferences and almost all conferences of the Research Network on Policy Studies in Adult Education (PSAE). I served on the Organizing Committee of the PSAE conference in 2019.

I hold ESREA in high regard as a democratic, egalitarian and learning organization with a capacity to pursue critical debate and its humanist ideals. Last but not least, I appreciate the emphasis that ESREA also typically places on the value of social justice. To me, ESREA constitutes a unique environment for high-quality interdisciplinary research on the complex phenomenon of adult learning and education. Also crucial, from my perspective, is its contribution to work both with the contextualization of adult education in different specific milieus and with topics of European dimension and relevance.

The organisation helped me at certain critical points of my academic career, and I found its supportive atmosphere invaluable.

I consider these and other related benefits of membership in the organisation to be widely acknowledged in ESREA, and this was underscored by the crisis conditions we have been facing since 2020. This was also confirmed by the results of a survey of ESREA members that was conducted in the spring of this year.

Why I candidate and why you should vote for me?

Should I get the opportunity to continue my work with the Presidium, for which this is my second nomination, then I intend to contribute to supporting all those who are struggling with difficult conditions for their adult education research – whether they work in regions with less robust research traditions or they find themselves at the early stages of their careers (including Ph.D. students). What I especially appreciate is the opportunity to develop open access publication activities. I view ESREA as a platform to promote recognition for adult education research in the field of social sciences and other professional areas that rely on expertise (policy making, advice and practice of adult education to some extent as well).

Maja Maksimović



Institution:
University of Belgrade

Academic Position:
Assistant Professor

Who am I?

My name is Maja Maksimović and I am Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy University of Belgrade. I focus my research practice on the entanglement of the epistemological, educational, and activist, trying to incorporate the critical, embodied, spatial and imaginative into a repertoire of educational action. My research interests are inspired by continuous contact with adult learners and by cooperation with NGOs, self-organized groups and activist organizations, trying to build stronger links between academia and the civil sector, but also to explore public spaces as participatory educational sites. For five years I was an executive board member of EAEA, advocating for equal representation of Southeastern European countries in European educational spaces and cooperation sensitive to political and cultural differences, and supporting links between research, practice, and policy.

What ESREA means to me?

I have been an ESREA member since 2010, becoming more actively involved after I had attended the conference in Coimbra in 2013. Two years later, the *Conference of the ESREA Network on Gender and Adult Learning* took place in Belgrade, and in 2019 I participated in the organization of the 2019 ESREA Triennial held at the Faculty of Philosophy.

Almost three years ago, I have become a member of ESREA presidium, as well as one of the co-conveners of the network on Active Democratic Citizenship and Adult Learning. During the pandemic, the network organized online dialogues *The pulse of freedom: Learning from experiments in democracy* where we fostered horizontal exchange and genuine conversations. I could witness the values of the Society being implemented and saw that ESREA is a unique meeting point and a European platform crucial for fostering collaboration that can move adult education research and practice forward.

Why I candidate and why you should vote for me?

Considering the context that I am coming from and previous experience in ESREA, I would particularly focus on the following:

- Continue supporting communication among ESREA Presidium and ESREA networks and creating space for cooperation among ESREA networks.
- Establishing stronger links with other relevant actors on European level (such as EAEA) for the purpose of knowledge production, dissemination of research results and advocacy for AE.
- Supporting development of early researchers and PhD students by creating more opportunities having in mind unequal chances across Europe.
- Strengthening engagement of AE researchers from non-EU countries, enabling greater visibility of their specific working conditions, as well as promoting work of ESREA in Southeastern Europe.
- Supporting the development of research/learning events/spaces that are driven by horizontal collaboration and democratic participation and multiple ways of knowing.

Barbara Merrill



Institution:

University of Warwick

Academic Position:

Emeritus Professor

Who I am?

I have been working in the field of adult education for a long time in the Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL) at the University of Warwick. Over the years I have co-ordinated several EU funded projects involving ESREA members as partners. My research interests include access and experiences of adult students in higher education; learning identities; class and gender inequalities; biographical research and comparative European research. In CLL I was the Director of Research and Director of Graduate Studies. I have supervised several adult PhD students and continue to do so. I have also mentored early career researchers. I have developed research in relation to class, gender, and adult students in HE. I have promoted biographical research using feminist approaches in understanding learning experiences of adult students. As an Emeritus academic I continue to be active in the field through involvement with ESREA, membership of journal editorial boards, supervision of PhD students and writing.

What ESREA means to me?

I have been actively involved in ESREA since the late 1990s in several ways. I am a member of the current ESREA Presidium and a member of previous Steering Committees. I co-founded with Chris Duke and Etienne Bourgeois the Access, Learning Careers, and Identities Network which I now co-ordinate with two other colleagues. With Agnieszka Bron and Edmee Ollagnier I was a co-founder of the Gender and Adult Learning Network. I attend the Life History and Biographical Research Network conferences and the ESREA Triennial conferences. I have edited two of the ESREA/Peter Lang book series and one of the ESREA/Sense Brill book series. I am one of the editors for the ESREA Brill publications series and a member of the RELA Journal Editorial Board. ESREA has and is an important part of my research life and provides an arena for discussion and sharing research about adult education in the cross-cultural contexts of Europe.

Why I candidate and why you should vote for me?

I will continue to promote ESREA in Europe and beyond and contribute to its activities. I have participated in the work of ESREA as I believe it provides an important research forum and network for adult educators. In recent times ESREA has become even more important for me and the UK to be involved in a European network following BREXIT. Without an involvement in ESREA UK adult education will become insular and isolated. It is important to keep a dialogue with Europe going and work together in such times. The UK is part of Europe despite Brexit. I have a long and strong commitment to ESREA.

Marcella Milana



Institution:

University of Verona,
Italy

Academic Position:

Associate Professor

Who Am I?

I am Associate Professor at the University of Verona, Italy, where I direct the International Research Centre for Global and Comparative Policy Studies on the Education and Learning of Adults, and Honorary Professor of Adult Education, University of Nottingham, School of Education, UK. I research the politics, policy, and governance of adult education.

What ESREA means to me?

I joined ESREA as a postgraduate fellow. My first impression (confirmed over the years) was of a lively community of scholars that acknowledge the plurality of cultural traditions and languages Europe entails, who are passionate to research and critically debate adult education matters, and strongly committed to make this field of research grow. Over the years, I came to serve ESREA: as co-Convenor of the Research Network on Policy Studies on Adult Education (since 2011), as member of the ESREA Steering Committee (since 2014) then Vice Chair (since 2020), as member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the ESREA Book Series (2012-2013) and co-Editor (2014-2020), and as Consulting Editor of the RELA journal (since 2018).

Why I candidate?

I am still passionate to do my outmost best to further support the Society's many activities.

Why you should vote for me?

In serving the Society, I have gained a deeper understanding of its strengths and potentials. May I have the opportunity to continue my service in the ESREA Presidium, I can make an important contribution, chiefly, to:

1. Make ESREA and its activity better known among scholarly communities that are still under-represented.
2. Make ESREA and its members to improve the quality of ESREA sponsored publications.
3. Make ESREA, its members, and the research they produce more visible among policy makers, especially international organizations.
4. Improve the dialogue and links between ESREA research and policy in the education and learning of adults.

Steffi Robak



Institution:

Leibniz University of Hanover

Academic Position:

Professor

Who am I?

My name is Steffi Robak and I am Professor of Adult and Continuing Education at Leibniz University of Hanover. I finished my doctorate on the topic of educational management in different institutions of adult and continuing education. My habilitation focused on intercultural aspects of continuing education and workplace practices in enterprises, exemplified by transnational enterprises in China. In my research, I combine cultural studies perspectives with adult education research approaches to advance, empirically grounded, adult education theory building (for interest see my keynote (https://www.ifbe.uni-hannover.de/fileadmin/ifbe/PDF/Adult_Education_in_Late_Modernity.pdf).

Influenced by personal biographical experiences of the reunification after 1989, the relationship of social transformation processes, individual educational challenges and the role of adult and continuing education form a continuum of my academic work (see link). My research interests are: Cultural and trans-/intercultural education, digitalization, program research, adult education and transdisciplinary research collaborations. We are currently setting up an interdisciplinary research center "Education, Knowledge and Innovation" (<https://www.bwi.uni-hannover.de/de/>).

What ESREA means to me?

ESREA is the place where the disciplinary exchange among all partners in Europe and beyond can be encouraged and developed. Here we can discuss adult education as a policy field, as a professional field and as a necessary part of the educational system and of society with its institutional contexts, as well as further develop and promote adult education as a discipline.

Why I candidate?

The current global and societal developments represent a challenge for adult education that needs to be discussed. I understand this as a responsibility to exchange ideas on the development, formation and exploration of European educational spaces and to further explore and develop research questions, aspects and approaches within the framework of ESREA.

Why you should vote for me?

My concerns would be the following aspects:

- Strengthening the discourses on adult education in Europe and beyond, particularly with regard to adult education as actor for strengthening democracy in the global context.
- Strengthening exchanges and different perspectives regarding research approaches and theory building.
- Supporting young researchers and helping them to develop an identification with Adult Education Research and ESREA. Here I would like to continue the work of my colleague Bernd Käßlinger.
- Exploring options for interdisciplinary cooperation contexts.

Päivi Siivonen



Institution:
University of Turku

Academic Position:
Associate Professor

Who I am?

I work as an associate professor at the University of Turku, Department of Education, Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning and Education (CELE). My research interests include adult and higher education, employability, academic entrepreneurship, narrative research and social differences related to age, gender and class. I have been involved in two consortium research projects funded by the Academy of Finland: 'Academic Entrepreneurship as a Social Process' (ACE, 2016–2020) and 'Higher Education Graduates' Employability and Social Positioning in the Labour Market' (High Employ, 2018–2022). I am the PI and the leader of the High Employ project. I have published in the fields of adult and higher education including two books: *Huiputuksen moraalijärjestys* (Moral order of top-performativity) in 2019 and *new movements in academic entrepreneurship* in 2021.

What ESREA means to me?

ESREA is the most important international partner of the Finnish Society for Research on Adult Education in which I'm currently the president. We follow ESREA newsletters closely and communicate the information for our members. I have also been the consulting editor of the European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults since 2018. I attend ESREA conferences regularly and follow the research conducted by its members.

Why I candidate?

I have excellent adult education networks in Finland as I have been the president of the Finnish Society for Research on Adult Education since February 2020 and a member of the board since 2015. I was also the member of the editorial board of the Finnish adult education journal *Aikuiskasvatus* between 2015–2019. I believe that my knowledge of the field through research and networks and my membership at the Finnish Society would enable to further strengthen ESREA as well as the co-operation between ESREA and the Finnish Society for Research on Adult Education.

Why you should vote for me?

I started working as an associate professor of adult and higher education at the University of Turku, CELE, at the beginning of 2022. I am highly motivated to strengthen adult education research and co-operation in Europe. Much of adult education today happens in higher education. As an associate professor of adult and higher education I am keen on strengthening the ties between these two research fields that have remained largely separate. Moreover, in the current ecological, historical, and political situation the meaning of adult education in Europe and beyond is perhaps more important than ever before. It is crucial to re-think how adult education can contribute to building a better future for all of us.

Conference Reports

ESREA Network on Gender and Adult Learning

The conference of ESREA Network on Gender and Adult Learning took place in University of Algarve in Faro (Portugal) from 18th to 20th of July 2022. Almost 40 participants came from Europe (Italy, Germany, France, Bulgaria, Poland, Iceland, Portugal), as well as from Canada and Brazil, to discuss the main topic which was "Gender and adult education in the era of social and cultural changes: (new) risks and challenges". After welcoming words of the vice-rector of University of Algarve, Nuno Bicho, and ESREA secretary, Alexandra Ioannidou, the participants listened to the keynote lecture by Virginia Ferreira from CES, University of Coimbra, on academic citizenship and gendered careers. It was a great introduction to further discussions about gender and adult learning in national, international and immigrant contexts, as well as formal, nonformal or informal ones in a classroom, family, community, museums, and art. The presentations included intersectional perspectives of gender, class, nationality, race, as well as age, occupation, place of birth and living. It was a wonderful three-day stay full of inspiring questions and answers with a great hospitality of the organizers: Antonio, Sandra, Liliana and the team of Research Centre on Adult Education and Community Intervention, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, University of Algarve. Thank you so much for that and see you in 2024.

Joanna Ostouch-Kamińska, Network convenor



ESREA Network on Access, Learning Careers and Identities

The ESREA Access, Learning Careers and Identities Network met face-to-face at the University of Algarve (Portugal) between the 14th and the 16th of July. There were 45 participants coming from eight different countries (Spain, Italy, Portugal, France, United Kingdom, Poland, Germany, and Sweden) discussing various perspectives on access, identities, and learning careers in times of crisis and change. Besides the two key-note lectures, the more than 20 presentations contributed to debating various issues around crisis and its effects on learners and their lives, on the changing dynamics of their professional and cultural identities, and also on the adult educators or other professionals that try to react and resist in the difficult times we live. Although the pandemics occupied a significant space for reflection and debate, other crises were an object of analysis. Moreover, crises bring not only problems and inequalities increasing (that generally speaking were a big concern of participants) but seem to trigger learning processes that people can use in various ways. This conference was organised in difficult conditions (the pandemics, the chaos in several European airports, a heat wave, and terrible fires). A significant number of our colleagues was not able to come. The network convenors wish to express their gratitude to all – the ones who were able to come to Portugal and the ones who could not – and be confident in the future.

António Fragoso, Network convenor



ESREA Forthcoming Conferences and Network Meetings

July 1 – 31, 2022 with online event on July 27, 2022

The Working Life and Learning Network will be involved in the International WIL Unconference on ‘New Problems. New Solutions’.

UK, Pearson College London

September 29 – October 1, 2022

ESREA Triennial Conference on ‘New Seeds For a World to Come. Policies, Practices and Lives in Adult education and Learning’

Italy, University of Milano Bicocca

November 3-5, 2022

Conference of the ESREA Network Education and Learning of Older Adults on ‘Education and Learning of Older Adults – Individual, Local, and Global Perspectives’

Portugal, Bragança

February 5-10, 2023

Winter School on International Perspectives on Education Policy (IPEP) in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair in Global Citizenship Education in Higher Education (University of Bologna) <https://unescochairgcd.it/en/>

Italy, University of Verona

July 3-7, 2023

12th research seminar of the ESREA Network History of adult education and training in Europe on ‘*Adult education and learning for social change in the 19th-20th centuries: Ideas, movements, and circulation of knowledge*’

Austria, St. Wolfgang

June 22 – 25, 2023

Conference of the Life History and Biography Network

Trondheim University in Norway

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/>

Latest Publication

Vol. 13 No. 2 (2022): 30 Years of research on adult education, 30 years of ESREA Published: 2022-06-16
<https://rela.ep.liu.se>

Publications

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

How to become a member of ESREA e.V.

Membership in ESREA is open to individual and institutional members. As a member you will get a reduced fee at ESREA activities, information in the field of research on the education of adults through the ESREA mailing list and newsletter. As an individual member you have the right to vote at the general assembly that takes place each year (online through postal ballot). As an institutional member, all employees of your institution are entitled to participate in ESREA activities at a reduced fee. Note that institutional members have only one vote in the general assembly.

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

1. Download the document at: <http://www.esrea.org/about-us/membership/>
2. Fill in the membership application form and e-mail it to: ESREAsecretary@die-bonn.de.
3. Within two weeks at the latest you will receive a confirmation of your membership by e-mail
4. An invoice for your membership fee will be issued: 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. Cheques are not accepted. Any foreign bank fees are to be borne by the applicants.

ESREA Bank details for 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

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Forthcoming newsletters

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