

# ESREA

European Society for Research on the Education of Adults

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## ESREA newsletter No. 3 December 2012

Dear ESREA member

Looking back at the last six years of ESREAs development, there are some key aspects I would like to raise in this, the last newsletter as my time as secretary.

The aim of ESREA is to promote high quality research in the area of adult education and learning. This objective is reached through a range of activities such as research networks, conferences, doctoral seminars, publications of books and journals. When starting out as the secretary in 2007, ESREA had been alive for 16 years, and developed into a recognized and stable research society. My intention, when taking up the position as the secretary, was to contribute, together with the steering committee and network conveners to consolidate and further develop this position. Looking back at the last six years we can see that ESREA has thrived in certain respects:

- The number of paid up members has doubled.
- The number of active research networks has increased from seven to eleven.
- The number of conferences organized each year has increased from 3 or 5 to 4 or 8 per year.
- ESREA has further developed its publication strategy, focusing on making what is published available online for free, thus making research available for wider debates. This has been done mainly in two ways:
  - Launching of a scientific open access peer-review journal in 2010 – The European journal for research on the education and learning of adults ([www.rela.ep.liu.se](http://www.rela.ep.liu.se)) with free access to anyone with an Internet connection.
  - A new book series with Sense publishers where each book will be made available online for free to download for anyone with an Internet connection.

Launching a scientific journal is an important step in further developing ESREA as a society promoting high quality research.

These are just a few of the areas where we can see how ESREA has developed as an organization during the last few years. Such development is related to all the hard work of steering committee members, network conveners and members. I wish to extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed and those who will continue to contribute to the further development of ESREA and to the academic debate on issues related to the education and learning of adults.

The research group on adult and popular education at Linköping University will continue to host the secretariat for another three years. I wish all the best to Dr Sofia Nyström who will take over the position as the secretary of ESREA from January 1, 2013. From that date, all communication to the secretariat should be directed to [sofia.nystrom@liu.se](mailto:sofia.nystrom@liu.se).

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Finally, I wish you all the best for the Christmas and a really happy new year.

Best wishes

Andreas Fejes

Professor and chair of adult education research

Linköping University, Sweden

Secretary of ESREA

Web page: [www.esrea.org](http://www.esrea.org)

e-mail: [andreas.fejes@liu.se](mailto:andreas.fejes@liu.se)

This newsletter contains the following sections:

- Forthcoming ESREA activities
- Information from the ESREA journal RELA
- Forthcoming conferences/seminars on adult education/adult learning
- New books on adult education/adult learning
- Ongoing research projects and announcements
- How to become a member of ESREA
- Forthcoming newsletters

## **Forthcoming ESREA activities**

More information on the conferences and call for papers see [www.esrea.org](http://www.esrea.org)

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The 2013 conference of the ESREA research network on Life history and biographical research, February 28-March 3, Canterbury, England.

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The 2013 conference of the ESREA research network on "Between global and local: adult learning and development", April 25-27, Ghent, Belgium.

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The 2013 conference (and 20th anniversary of) of the ESREA research network on active democratic citizenship and adult learning, 23-25 May, University of Lower Silesia, Wroclaw, Poland.

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The ESREA triennial conference, September 4-7, 2013, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany.

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The 2013 conference of the ESREA research network on Gender and Adult Learning, October 10-12, University of Coimbra, Portugal.

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The 2013 conference of the ESREA research network on the Education and learning of older adults, October 23-25, Vilnius, Lithuania

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The 2013 conference of the ESREA research network on Access, learning careers and identities, November 28-30, Linköping, Sweden.

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The 2014 conference of the ESREA research network on "Migration, ethnicity, racism and xenophobia", May 14-16, Wroclaw, Poland.

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The 2014 conference of the ESREA research network on Policy studies on adult education, June 18-20, Aalborg University, Denmark.  
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European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults

There are 2 calls for papers available at [www.rela.ep.liu.se](http://www.rela.ep.liu.se). One theme is Mapping power in adult education and learning. Submission deadline: March 15, 2013. The second is an open call for non-thematic related papers (continuously open for submissions).

## **Forthcoming conferences/seminars**

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31 January – 2 February 2013

Non-traditional students in higher education: Looking beyond success and dropout

University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal

More information available at: <http://seminarioalgarve.wix.com/non-traditional-stud#!/mainPage>

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28 February – 1 March, 2013

Organization and the new

Phillips university of Marburg, Germany

More information: [www.dasneue2013.blogspot.de](http://www.dasneue2013.blogspot.de)

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24-25 April 2013

Educating mind, body and spirit: Adult education since 1838

University of Westminster, UK

More information: [h.glew@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:h.glew@westminster.ac.uk)

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20-23 May, 2013

15<sup>th</sup> annual international conference education

Athens institute for Education

For more information: <http://www.atiner.gr/education.htm>

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5-7 June, 2013

HRD conference: HRD in turbulent seas

Brighton business school, Brighton, UK

More information at: <http://www.brighton.ac.uk/bbs/ufhrd2013/callforpapers.html>

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12-14 June, 2013

The International HELIX Conference on “Innovative Practices in Work, Organisation and Regional Development – Problems and Prospects”

Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

More information available at: [www.helixconference2013.com](http://www.helixconference2013.com)

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14-18 June, 2013

The 20th Anniversary Conference for Vocational and Education and Culture-research network and the 2nd Conference for History of Vocational Education in Europe  
Tampere, Finland

More information: [www.peda.net/veraja/uta/vetculture/](http://www.peda.net/veraja/uta/vetculture/)

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17 June, 2013

Literacies in numbers: Researching the politics and practices of literacy assessment regimes  
Institute of London, UK

More information: [c.addey@uea.ac.uk](mailto:c.addey@uea.ac.uk)

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19-22 June, 2013

8<sup>th</sup> international conference: Researching work and learning

University of Stirling, Scotland

For more information: <http://www.stir.ac.uk/education/researching-work-and-learning/>

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25-27 June, 2013

SCUTREA/CRLI joint conference

Glasgow Caledonian university, Scotland, UK

More information: [www.crl.org.uk/conference/](http://www.crl.org.uk/conference/)

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10-12 July, 2013

The 8<sup>th</sup> international conference in critical management studies

University of Manchester, UK

More information: [www.meeting.co.uk/confercare/cms2013/proposals.html](http://www.meeting.co.uk/confercare/cms2013/proposals.html)

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## **New books in adult education/adult learning**

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Adult education Israel, volume 12.

[http://cms.education.gov.il/EducationCMS/Units/AdultEducation/PirumeiAgaf/ADULT\\_EDUCATION/magazinBanglit.htm](http://cms.education.gov.il/EducationCMS/Units/AdultEducation/PirumeiAgaf/ADULT_EDUCATION/magazinBanglit.htm)

Freirean Rhizome on-line Journal [www.rizoma-freireano.org](http://www.rizoma-freireano.org)

Hall, B. Crowther, J. Scandrett, E. (Eds.) (2012) *Learning and Education for a Better World: The Role of Social Movements*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers

Heikkinen, A. & Jögi, L. & Jutte, W. & Zarifis, G. (eds.) 2012. *Futures of Adult Educato(s): agency, identity, ethos*.

[http://www.academia.edu/1924296/The\\_Futures\\_of\\_Adult\\_Educator\\_s\\_Agency\\_Identity\\_and\\_Ethos](http://www.academia.edu/1924296/The_Futures_of_Adult_Educator_s_Agency_Identity_and_Ethos)

Hinton-Smith, T. (2012) *Lone parents' experiences as higher education students: learning to juggle*. NIACE.

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Laginder, A-M., Nordvall, H. & Crowther, J. (2013). *Popular education, power and democracy*. NIACE.

Postcolonial directions in education online journal  
[www.um.edu.mt/pde/index.php/pde1/issue/current](http://www.um.edu.mt/pde/index.php/pde1/issue/current)

Schneider, K. (Ed.). *Becoming Oneself. Dimensions of ‚Bildung‘ and the Facilitation of Personality Development*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS 2012.

Tett, L., Hamilton, M. & Crowther, J. *More powerful literacies*. NIACE.

Welton, M. (2012) *Unearthing Canada's Hidden Past: A Short History of Adult Education*. Thomson Publishing.

### **Ongoing research projects and announcements**

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A 3-year individual project on *Globalization and the Education of Adults* (GLOBE-A), started on September 2012. The project is funded by the European Commission, under the Marie Curie Programme.

The project's objective is to identify and examine how globalisation processes are redefining the nature and scope of adult education in response to global challenges by asking the following leading questions: 1. How do political entities, interest groups and other actors influence the transnational policy development process and how, in turn, do they respond to transnational policies in adult education; 2. How does international cooperation affect state policies concerning adult education, planned and implemented, in three socio-economic and political systems that are representative of the North-South division?

The study adopts a mixed-method design and follows a comparative approach that combines a vertical and a horizontal perspective. The vertical perspective explores how the global and the local mutually shape each other by looking at the flow of policies between inter-states entities (e.g. UNESCO, EU), regional organizations (e.g. OEI) and local governments. The horizontal perspective examines interactions and disjunctions across sites in Europe, Northern and Latin America by exploring how changes in transnational, regional and local policies influence educational practices in multiple sites.

The focus of the multi-sited analysis will be on ongoing reforms of Basic Adult Education in four countries: Argentina (Autonomous City of Buenos Aires), Brazil (State of San Paulo, and State of Paraíba), Italy (Lazio Region), and the United States (State of California).

ESREA members with similar research interests are welcome to contact the scientist in charge (Marcella Milana) at [mami@dpu.dk](mailto:mami@dpu.dk).

### **Presentation of THEMP**

Learning has always been recognised as a means to improve personal quality of life. Labour market positions in particular, essential means to achieve well-being, depend highly on learn-

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ing. In the globalised knowledge society, work environments are changing quickly requiring from citizens and enterprises proactive and reactive measures to adapt their knowledge, capacities and competences. Lifelong Learning (LLL) has been argued for a considerable time to be one of the most effective tools to fight social exclusion and as an essential precondition to be and to progress in the labour market, which is for the majority of citizens an essential precondition to achieve quality of life. In this respect, European Union (EU) Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are playing an important role in providing Tertiary LLL (TLLL) opportunities.

The THEMP Project targets the TLLL provided by universities in seven EU countries focusing on relevant labour market programmes and on the specific cohort of learners aged 40 and above, without limiting its remit to the only employability issues, but also considering the wider impact of learning provided by HE on the overall quality of life of these people. Aligning itself with the European Commission's Action Plan for Adult Education, the project asks:

*How EU universities could respond to increasing demands for LLL and how does tertiary lifelong learning contributes to the well-being of learners in mid-life?*

THEMP provides a description of the landscapes of tertiary lifelong learning in seven EU-countries, but in the core of the project stand case studies of the social quality of at least three university programmes in each country. Their results will lay the ground for the development of tools and procedures to detect lifelong learning needs and to evaluate the social efficiency of their programs. For the analysis of the social efficiency, the project used a combination of different approaches: The Transitional Labour Market provided a concept to analyse the interrelation of the university programs with labour market policies. As a point of reference to measure the impact of the programmes, the project takes up the capability approach to go beyond quantitative indicators of employability. However it is considered that the new capabilities acquired in the course of tertiary lifelong learning programmes must be recognised as values economic, human, cultural and social capital in the labour markets.

Both, the analysis and the development of tools and procedures, requires a tight cooperation with universities. Besides the series of interviews with institutional responsables, stakeholders, teachers and students, THEMP will organize a series of seminars of mutual learning so that the cooperating universities can interchange experience and participate actively in the analysis and development.

More details and project documents available at [www.themp.eu](http://www.themp.eu)

### **How to become a member of ESREA**

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Membership in ESREA is open to either individual members and to institutional members. As a member you have a reduced fee at ESREA activities and you receive information in the field of research on the education of adults through the ESREA e-mail list and through the ESREA newsletter. As an individual member you have the right to vote at the general assembly which takes place each year (virtually through postal ballot). As an institutional member,

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all employees at the institution have the right to participate in ESREA activities to a reduced fee. However, the institutional membership allows only one vote at the general assembly.

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

1. Download the document at [www.esrea.org](http://www.esrea.org)
2. Fill out the form and e-mail to [sofia.nystrom@liu.se](mailto:sofia.nystrom@liu.se)
3. Within one-two weeks you will receive a confirmation of your membership by e-mail
4. At the same time as membership is confirmed you will be invoiced the membership fee which for 2010 is 50 Euros for individual members (25 Euros for PhD or Edd 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.**

## Forthcoming Newsletters

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If you want to have some information included in forthcoming newsletters, here are the deadlines for the forthcoming newsletters 2013.

- Number 1 2013 – deadline for submission February 15
- Number 2 2013 – deadline for submission April 15
- Number 3 2013 – deadline for submission June 15
- Number 4 2013 – deadline for submission September 14
- Number 5 2013 – deadline for submission November 15