

ESREA

European Society for Research on the Education of Adults

ESREA newsletter No. 4 December 2014

Dear ESREA member,

Here comes the fourth and the last ESREA newsletter for 2014.

First I want to remind you that ESREA is now calling for tenders to organize the next triennial conference in September 2016. In order for the Steering Committee to make a well grounded decision, the tender needs to include the information as outlined on www.esrea.org. Tenders should be sent to sofia.nystrom@liu.se no later than *February 1, 2015*.

I also want to remind you that the Steering Committee of ESREA has now decided to support summer schools within the area of adult education and learning since it is important resource for doctoral students as well as for member institutions. Member institutions are invited to propose summer schools that meet the criteria, to be approved by the steering committee and put into the list. The organizing institutions are academically responsible for the programme of the summer school and must be able to carry the cost of the summer school (infrastructure, organization, teaching staff etc), so that participants are only charged for meals, travel and accommodation. Please visit www.esrea.org for detailed information. The first deadline for proposals is the *12th of January 2015*.

I'm very glad to announce that book number two in ESREA book series now is out. The book is called *Learning across Generations in Europe. Contemporary Issues on Older Adult Education*. Editors are Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha, Sabina Jelenc Krasovec and Marvin Formosa. As you know by now, ESREA books series are an open access so you can download both of the book from this link: <https://www.sensepublishers.com/catalogs/bookseries/research-on-the-education-and-learning-of-adults/>

In this newsletter, you can also read about an exciting Swedish and Kenyan project linking up to an African adult education research community on the move. One of the aims of the project is to develop the infrastructure on a regional level regarding collaboration between researchers on adult education and lifelong in Eastern Africa. In more concrete terms, this will mean developing an Eastern African organization similar to ESREA and initiating an African peer-review journal on adult and lifelong learning.

Finally, I want to wish all of you a restful and happy holiday season and a happy new year.

Best wishes

Dr. Sofia Nyström

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Secretary of ESREA

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This newsletter contains the following sections:

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European Society for Research on the Education of Adults

- 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

The 2014 conference of the ESREA research network of Education and Learning of older Adults, Oct 22-24, University of Malta.

The 2015 conference of the ESREA Lifehistory and Biography research network 5-8 March, 2015, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy.

The 2015 conference of the ESREA research network on Education and Learning of Older Adults, 14-16 October, Jönköping University, Sweden.



RELA European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults

RELA has an open call for non-thematic related papers (continuously open for submissions). More information about RELA can be found at: www.rela.ep.liu.se.

Forthcoming conferences/seminars

28 January – 6 February 2015

International Winter School of Comparative Studies on Adult and Lifelong Learning, Würzburg/Bavaria, Germany.

For more information: <http://www.lifelonglearning.uni-wuerzburg.de>

23 – 24 March 2015

Emerging Perspectives in Comparative Education: Citizenship, Multiculturalism and New Technologies, Buskerud and Vestfold University College (HBV), Drammen, Norway

For more information: www.nocies.org

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26-27 March 2015

6th Nordic Conference on Adult Education and Learning will be held in Tampere. The theme is Adult Education and the Planetary Condition.

For more information: <http://www.uta.fi/edu/nordic/index.html>

18-21 May 2015

17th Annual International Conference on Education, Athens, Greece.

For more information: <http://www.atiner.com/education.html>

9 – 11 June 2015

The Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (CASEA) invites you to submit a proposal to present at our 34th Annual Academic Conference, Université de Montréal.

For more information: www.casae-aceea.ca

15 June 2015

The Seventh Annual Conference on Critical Perspectives on Professional Lifelong Learning, University of Leeds

For more information: medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/events/event/81/.

29 June - 1 July 2015

First annual conference at the Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Warwick . The theme of the conference is “Dimensions of Lifelong Learning: Past, Present and Future”.

For more information: warwick.ac.uk/llconf2015

7-9 July 2015

Standing Conference on University Teaching and Research in the Education of Adults (SCUTREA), hosted by the Lifelong Learning Centre, University of Leeds.

For more information: <http://www.llc.leeds.ac.uk/scutrea-conference-2015>

8-10 July, 2015

22nd International Conference of Europeanists. The theme is “Contradictions: Envisioning European Futures”, Paris, France. Organized by the Council for European Studies.

For more information: <https://councilforeuropeanstudies.org/conferences/2015-ces-conference>

18-21 August 2015

The KSU-WACE Organizing Committee for the 19th World Conference on Cooperative and work-integrated education "Towards a New Stage of Cooperative and Work-Integrated Education for Innovative Minds with Global Competency", Kyoto Sangyo University.

For more information: <http://www.waceinc.org/kyoto2015/>

28-29 September 2015

International conference “Cultures of Programme Planning in Adult Education”, Hannover, Germany.

For more information: <https://www.die-bonn.de/Institut/Dienstleistungen/Servicestellen/Programmforschung/default.aspx>

December 2015

The 9th International Conference in Researching Work and Learning (RWL9) will be held in Singapore. Conference theme “Work and Learning in the era of Globalisation: Challenges for the 21st Century”.

For more information: <http://adulthoodeducation.sg/rwl2015/index.html>

New books in adult education/adult learning

Duckworth, D. (2014). *Learning Trajectories, Violence and Empowerment amongst Adult Basic Skills Learners*. London: Routledge.

Harris, J., Wihak, C. and Van Kleef, J. (Eds.) (2014) *Handbook of the Recognition of Prior Learning: Research into Practice*. Leicester, England: National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE).

Schmidt-Hertha, B., Jelenc Krasovec, S., & Formosa, M. (Eds) (2014). *Learning across Generations in Europe. Contemporary Issues on Older Adult Education*. Rotterdam: Sense Publisher

Tight, M. (Ed) (2014). *Education for Adults*. Volume 1 Adult Learning and Education. London: Routledge

Ongoing research projects and announcements

New project linking up to an African adult education research community on the move

The Swedish Research Council has granted financial support for a three-year research-collaboration project called *Interactions between traditions of lifelong learning in Scandinavia and Eastern Africa*. The project, which was started in the summer of 2014, is led by Associate Professor Henrik Nordvall at Linköping University (Sweden) and Professor Maurice Amutabi at Kisii University (Kenya).

The project has two aims. The first aim is to develop mutually beneficial research collaborations on the interaction between traditions of lifelong learning in Scandinavia and Eastern Africa. The collaboration in this respect aims at developing joint research projects examining the extensive interaction between these two parts of the world over the last 50 years (Dahlstedt & Nordvall 2011). The second aim of the project is to develop the infrastructure on a regional level regarding collaboration between researchers on adult education and lifelong in Eastern Africa. In more concrete terms, this will mean developing an Eastern African organization similar to the European Association for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA) and initiating an African peer-review journal on adult and lifelong learning. The usefulness of establishing such an organization is that it could strengthen the position of research on adult education on the African continent, and thus make it more visible and accessible on a global arena which would benefit the international research community.

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For a long time the African historical and present traditions of lifelong learning, and what in a Northern European context would be referred to as traditions of *bildung*, have been a non-existing topic in academia (Amutabi & Oktech 2009). However, in recent years, a new generation of African scholars has challenged the dominant description of African history of education and lifelong learning as something that begins with the colonial era (Amutabi & Oketch 2009; Nafukho, Amutabi & Otunga 2005). They have drawn attention to the fact that education, especially adult education, was used to establish acceptance of colonial power. A major purpose for schooling and adult education was to spread the admiration for the European cultural tradition. This was while locally existing traditions of learning and education were ignored or imprinted as primitive and pagan. The colonial influence did not just marginalize wide-spread local educational traditions and practices, but also made invisible the continent's historical contributions to the development of human knowledge, including the cultural and intellectual influences from Egypt and Ethiopia on ancient Greece (Amutabi 2009).

Developing a partnership with key actors in this new wave of African scholars who have successfully begun to build up a knowledge base on African traditions of lifelong learning gives Swedish popular education research a unique opportunity. The partnership would make it possible to empirically research the interactions going on in Eastern Africa between a Scandinavian tradition of popular education and African traditions on adult learning, based on the expertise needed. Such research could give a substantial contribution to the contemporary academic debate on possibilities of constructing postcolonial and more truly global understandings of the concepts *bildung* and lifelong learning (Gustavsson 2011). Hence, social interaction during for example the introduction of study circles in Kenya or the activities at Folk Development Colleges in Tanzania, where pre-existing African traditions of lifelong learning meet Scandinavian influences, could be studied. Dynamics and dilemmas could be critically examined, as well as mating surfaces and openings in the interactions located, which could indicate possibilities for a more global and postcolonial understanding of *bildung* and lifelong learning.

The project will from Sweden also include as participants Professor Andreas Fejes, Chair of Adult Education and funding editor of RELA, and PhD Sofia Nyström, secretary of ESREA, both of them based at the division Education and Adult Learning at Linköping University. Also included from the Swedish side is PhD Joyce Kemuma at Dalarna University. Several of the most prominent scholars in adult education and lifelong learning in Africa, who has a long history of collaboration with Professor Maurice Amutabi, will also participate in the project. They will play key roles in the building of an Eastern African organization for researcher on adult education and lifelong learning and be involved in editorial board of the planned journal. These participants, several of them with PhDs from world-class universities in UK and USA (University of Illinois, Pennsylvania State University, University of Cambridge), are Professor Winston Jumba Akala at University of Nairobi, Dr Elinami Swai at Open University of Tanzania, Dr Fibian Kavulani Lukalo at Moi University, Professor Ruth Nabwala Otunga at Moi University and Professor Kenneth Inyani Simala at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology.

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In August 2014 the project organized its first workshop at Kisii University in Kenya. In December a second one was organized at Linköping University in Sweden. In February 2015 a third workshop will be organized at the Open University of Tanzania

References

- Amutabi , Maurice N. , & Oketch, Moses O. (Eds). (2009) *Studies in Lifelong Learning in Africa: From Ethnic Traditions to Technological Innovations*. New York: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2009.
- Dahlstedt, Magnus. & Nordvall, Henrik. (2011) Paradoxes of Solidarity: Democracy and Colonial Legacies in Swedish Popular Education. *Adult Education Quarterly* 61 (3): 244-261.
- Gustavsson, Bernt (2011) Bildung, ubuntu and the problem of difference and unity: A hermeneutic and postcolonial interpretation. In Enelo-Jansson, Jan-Magnus, Jezierska, Katarzyna & Gustavsson, Bernt (eds) *Altering politics: Democracy from the legal, educational and social perspectives*. Örebro: Örebro University,
- Nafukho, Frederick M. Amutabi, Maurice N.& Otunga, Ruth N. (2005) *Foundations of Adult Education in Africa*. Cape Town, Pearson Education South Africa.
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How to become a member of ESREA

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, 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
2. Fill out the form and e-mail to 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 2014 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

If you want to have some information included in forthcoming newsletters, here are the deadlines for the forthcoming newsletters 2015.

Number 1 2015 – deadline for submission 20 February 2015

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Number 2 2015 – deadline for submission 22 May 2015

Number 3 2015 – deadline for submission 25 September 2015

Number 4 2015 – deadline for submission 11 December 2015