



CREEW'S News

Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work

January – March 2009

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CREEW Seminar Program

- **13 March**

Chong Zhou: *Hard times and learning: The Challenges of Cross-cultural Adjustment for Chinese high school students boarding with Australian families in South Australia.*

This seminar explored the learning challenges faced by Chinese high school students attending high school in Australia and boarding with Australian families. Besides the academic challenge of the various topics at the high school and the constant need to learn English, Chinese students experience serious learning challenges to do with more general cross-cultural adjustment.

Chong is a PhD student with CREEW in the School of Education.

Sharon Zivkovic: *Early developments in exploring the influence of a community leadership program.*

This seminar highlighted early developments in a case study research project to investigate what influence a community leadership program has on the community leadership practice of program participants and on the practices of the organisations and communities with whom program participants interact.

Recent data collection by the researcher highlighted that participants experience issues related to 'power' as they attempt to put the skills and knowledge they gained during the leadership program into practice.

Given this finding, the researcher is exploring political theory to try to explain these early findings.

Sharon has held economic and community development positions on urban regeneration projects, has been employed as the Finance Manager of an Australian manufacturing company, facilitated workshops in small business management for the university of south Australia and case managed job seekers in the employment services industry. Since 2005 Sharon has been operating her own business that has developed and delivers an adult education program that focuses on building community capacity and combines citizenship education, leadership development and education for sustainable development principles. Sharon lectures in Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Adelaide

- 27 March

Professor Thomas Deissinger:

The Role of Vocational Education Theory in the Formation of the German VET system

Abstract

Why did, in a time when industrialisation had reached one of its peaks at the end of the 19th century, Germany "invent" a VET system which obviously was modelled on the blueprint of the old craft apprenticeship culture? This system later was called the dual system, because its mentors added the vocational school to the purely company-based apprenticeship concept. Their convictions became the foundation stone of what was later on labelled the "German Vocational Education Theory Movement". This seminar analysed some of the idealistic assumptions underlying this theory and their consequences for the development of the dual system.

Thomas Deissinger is Professor of Business and Economics Education at the University of Konstanz (Germany). His duties outside the university system include lectures and seminars with the German Foundation of International Development in Mannheim, in the field of VET in developing countries. He specialises in vocational training policy and comparative research activities in the area of VET. His research interests also include didactic issues and the history of VET as well as school-based VET and practice firms in vocational schools. Several of his publications focus on the nature and development of the VET systems in the UK and Australia from a comparative perspective.

A key role of the CREEW seminars is to provide a safe, supportive and rigorous (although not too critical) venue for PhD students to present their work. If you would like to be added to the seminar mailing list,

please contact Miriam.mclean@unisa.edu.au.



Several photos taken at the CREEW seminar on 27th March

Publications

O'Donoghue, M. (2009) 'Review of *The professionals: better teachers, better schools* by P. Revell (2005)', in *Studies in Continuing Education*.

Freund, M. (2009) The Classroom as an Arena of Teachers' Work, in *International Handbook of Research on Teachers and Teaching*, Springer: Dordrecht, Netherlands, chapter 19, pp. 305-318.

Willis, P., McKenzie, S. & Harris, R. (eds.) (2009) *Re-thinking work and learning: Adult and vocational education for social sustainability*. Springer: Dordrecht, Netherlands.

This volume brings together an international group of contributors to explore ways in which social sustainability can be integrated into Adult and Vocational Education (AVE) practices. While it is clear that given the rapid change of work, job-specific training for adults is vital the world over, it is argued here that job-specific training needs re-orientation to include life-specific learning as well. This can come about when the learning opportunities to which citizens have access prepare them for participation in work which is economically productive and at the same time engages them in related civic activities which promote environmental and social sustainability. The re-orientation of current AVE systems can be achieved in two ways: by

broadening the educational agenda to include elements of environmental science, politics and the arts, and by including more dialogic and collaborative teaching and learning styles.

Chapters by CREEW members in this book are:

Willis, P., McKenzie S. & Harris, R. 'Introduction: Challenges in AVE for social sustainability', chapter 1, pp. 1-9.

Willis, P. 'An Ecology for the Fourth Pillar: Imaginal Learning for Social Sustainability in AVE', chapter 3, pp. 25-43.

Harris, R. 'The Historical Contribution of AVE to Social Sustainability in Australia', chapter 4, pp. 45-61.

Foster, H. 'The Role of Religion in Education for Social Sustainability', chapter 9, pp. 119-130.

Lovegrove, B. and **Morrison, A.** 'Community Adult Learning Contributions to Social Sustainability in the Asia-South Pacific Region: The Role of ASPBAE', chapter 16, pp. 211-224.

Stehlik, T. 'Waldorf Schools as Communities of Practice for AVE and Social Sustainability', chapter 19, pp. 249-260.

McKenzie, S. 'Conclusion. AVE for Social Sustainability: Where to from Here?', chapter 20, pp. 261-264.

Presentations

Rosie Le Cornu, 'Reconceptualising professional experiences around the notion of learning communities', 7th Annual Hawaii International conference on education, Jan 4-7, Honolulu.

Judy Gill and Margaret Freund presented at the AARE conference, Brisbane, 2008 'The Principal Issue', Faith based Schools: funding choice and the aspirational middle class.

Alan Reid gave the opening address at the national conference of the South Pacific Educators in Visual Impairment conference on January 6, 2009 at the Sebel Hotel, Adelaide

Steve Keirl conducted a professional development program with the staff of Craighburn Primary School. He gave an address on new and emerging technologies and their implications for future citizens. This was followed by activities for adoption in the primary classroom to help students understand values-rich design decision-making and its role in shaping their technological world.

Breakfast presentations by **Roger Harris** from UniSA and Robin Shreeve from London. NCVER Research on Toast-Poaching ideas from abroad: Lessons in VET from the UK & Europe Monday 2 March 2009:

Australia can be proud of its vocational education and training (VET) system, which gives learners a wide range of educational choices. But we can also learn from other countries, particularly with talk of a new 'tertiary sector' promoting stronger links between VET and higher education.

Two renowned speakers - Roger Harris and Robin Shreeve - will talk about lessons from the UK and Europe, and how they can contribute to our thinking in Australia at a one-off event in Adelaide hosted by NCVER.

Ideas include developing easier pathways between VET and higher education, making recognition of formal and informal learning a practical reality, and enabling VET to help the disadvantaged. Other important issues focus on providing informed career guidance for students, and improving the status of VET teachers in our society.

This event will be of interest to those in policy, research, adult education, industry skills development and career guidance.

(The breakfast was written up in The Advertiser (Tuesday 10/3/09) in an article entitled, "Vocational education – too many objectives").

Larry Spry was a presenter and guest speaker at:

- The Design and Technology Teachers Association State AGM. The topic 'The national curriculum and the role status and future of Technology education in South Australia.
- Key note speaker at the West Coast and Far North Design and Technology Teachers' Hub group in Port Lincoln. The topic was 'Design and Technology education at UniSA D & T teachers of the future'.

Judy Peters and Rosie Le Cornu presented 'Beginning Teaching: What works?' to the Australian Education Union Beginning Teachers' Conference, 13-14 March, Adelaide.

Alan Reid was an invited participant at the national forum on public education held at Parliament House Canberra on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 March, 2009.

Margaret Freund, 'This school is the hardest I've ever been Principal in: school principals, emotional labour and haecceity', ANCIES Conference, Perth, November 2008.

Deb Tranter was invited to present on her research at the inaugural Forum of the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education, 'What we know. What we need to know', held at UniSA on 25-26 February. The title of the paper is 'Unequal Schooling: how the school curriculum keeps students from low socioeconomic backgrounds out of university – and how universities are complicit in this process'.

Larry Spry was a Keynote speaker at Design and Technology Teachers Primary Term 1 workshop at Edwardstown Primary School. The topic was 'The role of Design and Technology in primary education and the role of DATTA'.

Project News

- Southern ICAN research planning

On 10th March Steven Hodge, Tom Stehlik, Faye McCallum and Katie Maher attended a workshop at McLaren Vale with the steering committee of Southern ICAN (Innovative Community Action Networks). Tom Stehlik also attended the Southern ICAN coordinator's meeting at Reynella on 11th March. We are currently planning a series of research activities on ICAN projects, strategies and structures. The workshop and meeting were opportunities to meet with key partners, including representatives from local schools and DECS, Mission Australia, Southern Futures and Families SA, and to learn more about ICAN projects and priorities.

- CRC Projects:

The Board of the CRC for Rail Innovation recently approved two new projects being undertaken by CREEW research teams. The projects are:

Developing a capability framework for leadership and management development

This project has arisen from the findings of a scoping project that reviewed, through a literature review and face-to-face interviews with three levels of management in a selection of rail organisations,

existing practices when developing the capability of leaders and managers. The report highlighted the use of a wide-range of strategies, varying methods of training delivery and a diverse selection of external training providers. Although it was evident that management training was taking place, the development of learning content and how this related to an assessment of management capability was harder to evaluate in the time available. This information led to the conclusion that more in-depth and quantitative research was needed to identify and validate the range of management capabilities being developed by rail organisations. Through the process of exploring a larger group of managers/organisations, it will be possible to ascertain if a national capability framework for rail managers is feasible. If this could be identified and agreed upon, these developments would provide an opportunity for the harmonisation of activities and contribute to the Australasian Railway Association's strategic goals of building industry cooperation, improving performance and generating downstream cost containment.

The expected three core deliverables are:

- (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of existing L&MD programs in terms of their relevance to business needs, individual learning requirements, effective design criteria and methods of learning delivery.
- (b) Develop a comprehensive capability framework of competencies to inform and guide rail leadership and management development programs.
- (c) Identifying strategies on how rail leaders and managers might benchmark their capability in relation to other managers.

CREEW researchers involved: Tom Stehlik, Tom Short, Lisa Davies, and Roger Harris
Project value: \$239,496

Evaluation methodology for training courses

This project arose from the findings of a scoping project which provided a first level review of selected courses used in the industry to develop staff competence in areas of safety, compliance and technical expertise for particular occupational groups. The scoping project was initiated as a result of feedback from the industry about a range of issues associated with the design and implementation of appropriate industry specific training, concerns about inefficiencies with regard to duplication of effort, and a desire to benchmark and learn more about how collaborative and nationally coordinated efforts might address some of these issues.

On the basis of the scoping study, it was concluded that further work be undertaken to develop an evaluation methodology that could be used as a basis for informing skill development processes for defined occupational groups and key areas of competence development and maintenance. The application of this evaluation methodology would be a first step in assisting organisations to make decisions about developing alliances to address common areas of skill development and harmonisation and coordination of national approaches to skills development in areas of common interest.

Through processes to develop an evaluation methodology for one specific area of need, this project will develop a model that can then be applied to any number of areas of skill development which would benefit from an industry-wide approach while also allowing organisations to make strategic decisions about customisation of generic training approaches to meet areas of need relating to market

niche, different regulatory frameworks etc. If such a methodology can be developed and agreed upon, it would open doors for harmonisation of activities and contribute to the Australasian Railway Association's strategic goals of building industry cooperation, improving performance and generating downstream cost containment.

Researchers involved: Michele Simons, Tom Short, Roger Harris, and Stephen McKenzie

Project value: \$85,983

- Tom Short organised an informal seminar on Friday 13 Feb at which the UK movie "The Navigator", directed by Ken Loach, was screened. The movie is set in a Sheffield rail depot during the 1990s and focuses on how a team of rail infrastructure workers cope with the demands of privatisation, re-training, job loss, inconsistent management and poor safety. The award winning movie was thought provoking, poignant and full of Yorkshire humour (Tom translated where necessary). TransAdelaide offered their training room at Richmond Road for this event and it was also a great opportunity to see their extensive training facility.

- Peace school project

On 23rd March Katie Maher met with Lee Scaife, Assistant Principal at Northfield Primary School, to discuss the school's work to develop a culture of peace and to extend this work to other schools and communities. Northfield Primary is a United Nations Global Peace School and has introduced the Pathways to Peace initiative. The school plans to translate its peace messages into the many languages of participating children and families who come from around 40 different cultural backgrounds.

- Children's Sustainable Consumption

In association with colleagues from early childhood, primary education, communication and marketing, Tom Stehlik, Bruce Johnson and Katie Maher have engaged in initial planning for a study of children's personal consumption choices. The study is concerned with what children value and social action around sustainable consumption. Katie has been conducting a literature review on children's consumption and research with children.

Postgraduate News

The CREEW Postgraduate Student Representative, Steven Hodge, reported that new students were welcomed over lunch on Friday 27th March at Mawson Lakes Campus. It was an opportunity for students and staff to mix and learn about the research ideas of the students. Students were made aware of the many support groups available to them and discussed the possibility of forming a new study group to encourage friendly, informal and critical support.

CREEW Planning and Conference Day

Thanks to everyone who attended the CREEW Planning and Conference day on 20 February and to those who presented (Peter Willis, Michele Simons, Roger Harris, Tom Short, Ulf Lundström, Steven Hodge, Glenna Lear, Jacinta Poskey and Katie Maher).

Tom and Michele presented on the latest developments in relation to CREEW's position as a research centre associated with the School of Education and the Hawke Research Institute. A power point presentation outlined the direction in which the Centre is heading,

given the results of the review of the Hawke conducted last year and other developments, including the school's new leadership structure. There are significant changes but also great opportunities ahead.

Tom thanked Miriam for organisation and Katie, Anne and Miriam for assisting with the production of the 2008 Activities Report which members received on the day. Special thanks went to Faith Thorley for her generous donation to CREEW of one of her paintings, *The Dancing Irises*, which provided a fitting celebratory end to a great day. The painting has been hung on the 4th floor of the Garth Boomer Building at Mawson Lakes.



Ulf Lundström



Faith Thorley



Students and Staff

Achievements

Emeritus Professor Alan Reid has won the 2009 Alby Jones Award, awarded by the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) to 'an influential and inspiring leader who has a record of excellent achievement in educational leadership, is held in high regard in the education and broader community, has advocated for social justice, equity, democracy and human rights and has made outstanding contributions to the study and practice of educational leadership at state and national levels'. The Award perpetuates the memory of the life and work of former South Australian Director General of Education, Dr A.W. Jones.

Alan received the medal on March 31st.

Visitors to CREEW

- We welcome Foroogh Bakhtiari to CREEW as a Visiting PhD Scholar for six months on an Iranian Scholarship. Foroogh comes from Isfahan, Iran, and is studying in the Department of Psychology at the University of Isfahan. She and her supervisor, Professor Hamid Reza Oreyzi, decided that CREEW would be a good place to experience research (and Australian life). Her doctoral research is on the impact of individual characteristics on training evaluation levels in the National Iran Gas Company. She is asking whether there is a significant relationship between

kinds of reactions (affective, session impact, and post-transfer utility reactions) and post-training self-efficacy, and between these kinds of reactions and cognitive learning. While here in Adelaide, she will present a CREEW seminar on her topic, make some industry visits and, if possible, collect some comparative research data. We wish her well in her stay.

- Ulf Lundström was a guest visiting scholar from Umeå University in Sweden.
- Professor Thomas Deissinger, from Konstanz University in Germany, worked in CREEW as a Visiting Professor for two weeks at the end of March.

CREEW Member News

Congratulations to the following:

- Dr Tom Stehlik was recently appointed to the position of Associate Dean: Research Education in the School of Education (EDS), following a consultation process with all EDS staff to develop a school leadership model to support the Head of School, Associate Professor Michele Simons. The model includes three Associate Dean positions with portfolios covering areas linked to UniSA's Strategic Plan: Teaching and Learning, Research and Consultancy and Research Education
- Dr Faye McCallum has been appointed as Associate Dean: Teaching and Learning and
- Associate Professor Rob Hattam as Associate Dean: Research and Consultancy.

The Research Education portfolio is responsible for coordinating research training across the school with plans to encourage and develop research education pathways through undergraduate, honours, masters and doctoral programs and support staff who are active researchers to undertake quality supervision of research students. In collaboration with a Research Education Committee to be established, and with consolidated support under a unified research structure within the school, the portfolio position will also review the role of Research Degrees Coordinators and promote the linkage of Research Education with areas of research strength in EDS and with our key partners in education such as DECS, NCVER, TAFE SA etc.


- Margaret Freund was re-elected to the executive of The Australian and New Zealand Comparative and International Education Society (ANZCIES) in November, 2008.
- Alan Reid was conferred the title of Emeritus Professor at the Graduation ceremony on April 3.
- *New members*
Welcome to David Birbeck, Lecturer Academic Development, Learning and Teaching Unit, City East Campus.
- Ann Lawless is a peer-reviewer for the *International Journal of Critical Pedagogy*.

Other News

Newspaper cuttings from *The Australian*:

The collection of *Australian* newspaper articles pertaining to education continues. We now have a substantial collection of articles around the themes of educator's work, social justice in education, teaching and learning, public/private schooling and the national curriculum. Following suggestions made at the CREEW planning

meeting, we are now also collecting articles related to workplace education and wellbeing.

 **Training and workshops**

[How to win an Australian Research Council Linkage-Project Grant - resources available](#)

Future CREEW News

CREEW News is your newsletter, so please keep us informed of all your activities and help maintain the democratic, collaborative and inclusive culture of CREEW.

Please send all contributions (this should include anything that has not been reported in previous newsletters this year) to

Miriam.McLean@unisa.edu.au