

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT TO AGM 2021

**Members:** Steve Bramall, Richard Davies, Andrea English, Patricia Hannan, Mary Healy, Ruth Heilbronn (Chair), Eri Mountbatten O'Malley, Janet Orchard, Leyla Osman, Doret de Ruyter, Adrian Skilbeck, Judith Suissa, Carrie Winstanley,

### 1. Teacher Education - Andrea English, (AE)

#### Decolonising the Curriculum Seminar Series

Over the past months, increased attention has been given to issues of racism, racial harassment, and the need for equality. This was in part due to the tragic death of George Floyd and the corresponding global outcry for justice, with global protests against racism connected to the on-going Black Lives Matter movements. Additionally, Covid-19 has had a disproportionate impact on people of colour, in particular, on Asian and Black communities. In this context, racial harassment against these groups has increased on university campuses in the UK. These issues are now being acknowledged in the sector as part of systemic and institutional racism, and there is a call for action to address these as systemic issues.

Examples of actions in the sector:

- UK Tackling Racism and Racial Harassment: <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/tackling-racial-harassment>
- Advance HE-Tackling Structural Race Inequality: <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/>
- Advance HE Scotland: Developing an Anti-Racist Curriculum Project

AE, Teacher Education Coordinator for PESGB has organised a 7 seminar series on Decolonising the Curriculum, in her role as Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the School of Education, Moray House, Edinburgh University. She is working with CERES (Centre for Education on Racial Equality in Scotland), in the context of improving racial equality in the school of education in Edinburgh. The seminar series has developed calls for UK universities to address issues of equality, racism and racial harassment. The series is based in Moray House and runs from Jan-June 2021. Support is provided by Richard Davies for the series. Since it is a virtual series we are delighted that philosophers of education and other scholars from around the world are participating. The series which will take place virtually, has been advertised on social media and on the PESGB website.

The first talk took place on January 21, 2021 given by Dr. Foluki Adebisi of Bristol University entitled 'Rhodes Must Fall or Rhodes must read Fanon'. There were 138 participants. The second talk took place on March 4th, given by Dr de Souza Santos, Director, Brazilian Studies Programme at the Latin American Centre Oxford University with 128 participants. He spoke on the theme of Epistemologies of the South and the Future of Universities.

The programme for the 2021 series continues:

- Rowena Azada-Palacios, Dept of Philosophy, Manila University - 13 April
- Dr Dominic Griffiths. University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg - 22 April
- Dr Arday, Durham University - 13 May
- Prof. Farid Panjwani, Dean, Ismaili University, Islamabad. - 3 June
- Prof. Penny Enslin, University of Glasgow - 10 June

JOPE special issue: A proposal for a special issue of JOPE arising from the series has been submitted to the editors.

Branch Activities: We are continuing to encourage at least one seminar per year that is particularly relevant to teachers to be included in branch programmes.

Teacher Bursaries: We are holding over the teacher bursaries to 2021 and awarding them to last year's recipients (Andrew Chan, Jess Biddulph, Oswald Tanti Rigos, David Houston and Philip Gaydon). We particularly hope to encourage more teachers from non-school settings to apply, such as those working as home educators, youth workers, museum outreach teachers and other backgrounds.

If PESGB members have contacts for teachers in non school settings and would like to recommend them for a conference teacher bursary please ask them to get in touch with Andrea English- [andrea.english@ed.ac.uk](mailto:andrea.english@ed.ac.uk) or forward details to Andrea.

### 2. Student Pre-conference

In view of the virtual nature of the 2021 conference and the particular programme we are planning, the pre-conference we had organised for this year will be held over to 2022, with the theme of the context and understanding of philosophy of education, exploring what philosophy of education looks like in some different jurisdictions and contexts. The key speakers are Penny Eslin, Doret de Ruyter, Chris Martin. The 2022 conference will be held at our usual time in late March at New College Oxford. In lieu of a pre-conference this year we will hold an event for post graduate students (PGR) and the call has gone out for submissions from PGR students for papers for 2021.

### 3. APEN - African Philosophy of Education Network.

We were sad to announce that Elli Glevey, a long standing member of our society, died last autumn. We worked with Elli to help him set up a philosophers of education network, initially in Ghana, which he hoped would be a linking point for philosophers of education across the African continent, particularly in English speaking countries. In 2016 he ran a series of meetings to establish interest in other West African countries and we hosted a scholar from the region at our annual conference. He established The African Philosophy of Education Network (APEN) as a website. This work was closely associated with Elli's leadership and unfortunately the website will go offline from the beginning of April this year.

### 4. New Development for 2021-2

PESGB is planning a project aimed at developing and trialling materials promoting children's metacognition - specifically, children's understanding of key components of practical philosophy: questioning, dialogue, arguing, and reflection. Steve Bramall will lead the project and will use the materials in his work with SAPERE in order to evaluate them and to enable their P4C to incorporate more philosophical meta-cognitive articulation than is currently available to children in that practice. Currently this practice is successful in enabling children and teachers to develop capacities to ask better questions, engage in neo-Socratic dialogue, argue with respect for logic and reason and to reflect on meaning and value.

Philosophical meta-cognitive articulation of concepts and issues raised in enquiries forms a main part of more advanced training courses for teachers and is seen by SAPERE as a key element of advanced facilitator and trainer formation. However, there are relatively few materials to support the development of the philosophical meta-cognitive capacities of children in the classroom. On the original Lipman P4C model, this function was carried out through use of the novels and manuals. Because of their age, style and cultural specificity, these explicitly philosophical materials have fallen out of regular use. The practical philosophical capacities of children could be enhanced with more explicit philosophical meta-cognition. Therefore, the development of new materials is a key to this project and will be of use to all our members who are engaged with P4C and P with C practice.

### 5. New Development Grants.

Small sums are available for members wishing to make new developments in line with the society's and the committee's aims and we encourage members to apply for these funds to advance work in philosophy of education.

Applications are invited. Aims of the development grants and application form are available on this link:  
<https://www.philosophy-of-education.org/about-us/development-committee/>

### 5. BERA conference and SIG

The Philosophy of Education Special Interest Group is convened by Janet Orchard and Kate O'Shaughnessy. Covid 19 led to a postponement of the event planned to take place in Cambridge in May 2020 - a one day conference collaboration between the Philosophy of Education SIG, the Religion Values and Education SIG and the Human and Artificial Intelligences SIG: on 'Being Human', It was due to take place in Cambridge last year and will be rescheduled in 2021.

The 2020 BERA Conference was cancelled. The 2021 conference will take place virtually from 13-16 September 2021 and abstracts were due by 28th February.

An Early Childhood and Moral Education Webinar will be held, in collaboration with Daniel Vanello from the University of Warwick and colleagues from BERA's Early Childhood and Care SIG, This will be a joint virtual event looking at early childhood and moral education. The details are being finalised.

A Philosophy of Education SIG Catch Up is planned for 16th March giving the opportunity to talk with Janet, Kate and other SIG members on Zoom about the SIG's work, key issues members think the SIG should be addressing and any ideas for future events or SIG work.

Ruth Heilbronn  
March 2021