

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT TO AGM. MARCH 2022

Members: Ursula Blythe, 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,

Changes from 01.04.22.

Adrian Skilbeck Chair; Ruth Heilbronn standing down as Chair.
Lewis Stockwell as committee member; Mary Healy standing down as member.

As with other activities our developments have been curtailed by Covid and the lockdowns. However, we are pleased to report on the following:

1. Teacher Education

Decolonising the Curriculum in HE Seminar Series

This series of seven seminars took place between January-June 2021, a cooperation between University of Edinburgh, CERES (Centre for Education on Racial Equality in Scotland) and PESGB. It was initiated and organised by Andrea English Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the School of Education, Edinburgh University who is the PESGB Teacher Education Coordinator. The series developed as a result of calls for UK universities to address equality, racism and racial harassment issues. It took place virtually which enabled international participation from philosophers of education and other scholars and had an audience of between 40-120 for each talk. It was interdisciplinary, with speakers from several humanities disciplines and jurisdictions. The programme was as follows:

- [Dr Foluke Adebisi](#), University of Bristol - 21 January: *'Rhodes must fall' or 'Rhodes must read Fanon?' Thoughts on decolonising curricula in UK HE*
- [Prof. Boaventura de Souza Santos](#), Director, Brazilian Studies Programme, Latin American Centre, Oxford University, University of Coimbra, Portugal - 4th March: *The Epistemologies of the South and the Future of the University*
- [Dr Rowena Azada-Palacios](#), Dept of Philosophy, Manila University - 13 April: *Hybridity and the Teaching of National Identity in Schools*
- [Dr Dominic Griffith](#), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg - 22 April: *The whitest guy in the room: thoughts on decolonisation and paideia*
- [Dr Jason Arday](#), Durham University - 13 May: *Still a lot to do: Disrupting Racism in the Academy*
- [Prof. Farid Panjwani](#), Dean, Ismaili University, Islamabad - 3 June *'What it might mean to decolonise religious education: The case of teaching and learning about Islam'*.
- [Prof. Penny Enslin](#), University of Glasgow - 10 June: *Decolonizing higher education: the university in the new age of Empire*

A JOPE Special Issue on Decolonizing the Curriculum is being prepared for 2023, edited by Andrea English and Ruth Heilbronn.

- **Teacher Bursaries:** We held over the teacher bursaries which were awarded for the previous cancelled conference to this current year. The recipients were Andrew Chan, Jess Biddulph, Oswald Tanti Rigos, David Houston and Philip Gaydon.. These bursaries are available to all teachers in school and other settings, such as museums, home schooling, youth work. To read accounts of previous recipients go to - <https://www.philosophy-of-education.org/teacher-scholarship-recipients-2019/> Unfortunately these teachers were unable to register for conference this year. The 2022 teacher recipients will be announced in subsequent reports.

- **Branch Activities:** Branches are reminded that we are encouraging at least one seminar per year that is particularly relevant to teachers to be included in branch programmes.

2. Rehumanising Teacher Education (RHTE) Website

Between 2014-2017 PESGB sponsored retreats for student teachers, TE tutors and philosophers of education to facilitate reflection on ethical dilemmas arising from teaching and wider philosophical thinking (P4T). The retreats were organised by Janet Orchard, Carrie Winstanley and Ruth Heilbronn. Janet has since developed this work internationally through Bristol University, initially as an output from a British Academy small grant funded project. The project investigated the role of philosophy in teacher education to promote reflection on the relational dimensions of teaching with new and beginning teachers in three culturally distinctive settings. Philosophical perspectives were explored and the findings disseminated through a website, launched on 6th October 2021 as part of the Bristol Conversations in Education. The speakers were Janet Orchard, Nidia Avilez Nunes, Jez Butler and Lucy Kelly (*Bristol University*), Nuraan Davids (*Stellenbosch University*), Ruth Heilbronn (*UCL Institute of Education*), Carrie Winstanley (*Roehampton University*), Jo Malone (*Independent Consultant*), Sally Wan and Suzannie Leung (*Chinese University of HK*), Liz Jackson (*University of Hong Kong*).

The website is envisaged as an archive and a platform for new activity. The title 'Rehumanising Teacher Education' expresses the relational and personal aspects of being and becoming a teacher and promotes the distinctive approaches to critical reflection by teachers as fostered by engagement with the Humanities and Arts, balancing and complementing the

contribution of the Social Sciences. There are useful mini-Mooc resources for teacher educators relating to ethical teacher education. The site is available here - <https://www.rehumanisingteaching.org/> and the link is on our website under the resources section (videos).

3. Student Pre-conference

The pre-conference did not fit with the programming of the virtual conference held this autumn. Instead, the virtual conference offered various sessions of advice and Q and A directed at post graduate research students, which also attracted other participants, on topics which regularly come up in discussion in the preconference. The sessions were a Q and A on the work of the Executive, a session on the mentoring scheme, advice for applying for PESGB grants, another for submitting a paper for the next conference, and one by the JOPE editor on submitting to JOPE.

The theme of the preconference 2022 is the context and understanding of philosophy of education which will explore what philosophy of education looks like in some different jurisdictions and contexts. The speakers are Penny Enslin, Doret de Ruyter and Chris Martin. (This would have been the preconference programme at the cancelled face to face Oxford Conference in 2020.)

4. APEN - African Philosophy of Education Network.

We were sad to announce in December 2020 that our colleague Elli Glevey passed away [Elli Glevey obituary | Education | The Guardian](#). Elli worked in Ghana, where he founded the APEN website. At present we are supporting a Kenyan colleague at the University of Nairobi, Faculty of Education, with resources. We have sent a set of JOPE issues going back to the 1980s donated by Mike McNamee and three years of BERJ. (Thanks to Richard Davies for organising). If anyone has such resources and is able to donate them, please contact Ruth Heilbronn. r.heilbronn@ucl.ac.uk

The website remains archived and can be reanimated. Anyone who would like to do so is invited to contact Richard Davies - rdavies15@uclan.ac.uk

5. BERA conference and SIG

The Philosophy of Education Special Interest Group is co-convened by Janet Orchard and Kate O'Shaughnessy. Janet is standing down at the 2022 AGM and a co-convenor is sought. Please contact Kate in the first instance if you are an interested BERA member - katherine.o'shaughnessy.14@ucl.ac.uk;

Due to the pandemic, an event due to take place in Cambridge in May 2021 had to be cancelled. This was a one day conference on 'Being Human', a joint initiative with the Human and Artificial Intelligences SIG. It's hoped to reschedule either f2f or virtually in 2022.

In October 2021 the SIG ran a successful online event, 'Emotions and Moral Learning in Early Childhood Education' in collaboration with the Early Childhood and Care SIG. Dr Daniel Vanello and Catriona Card presented and the session was followed by a Q&A which led to a rich conversation from attendees. There was much interest in this emerging area and we look forward to more discussions and events around it in the future.

The BERA 2020 Conference was cancelled due to the pandemic. The 2021 conference was held virtually from 13-16 September 2021. We note the fees for this virtual conference in comparison with the PESGB virtual conference. Ours were priced at between £30 for full-time employed PESGB members and £5 for first-time conference attenders with one year of PESGB membership included. BERA fees were £170.00 for a BERA member, £250.00 for a non-member). A smaller number of philosophy of education papers were submitted for this year's conference compared to previous years, which may be a result of these fees. In the final programme, only one philosophy of education workshop appeared. This would suggest that speakers who were invited to speak at the conference chose not to and unfortunately the one philosophy of education workshop was given a late slot on the final day of the conference and had a low attendance. The SIG was able to support the presenters by giving them time in the next SIG Catch Up held in October where there was some interesting and lively discussion.

6. Summer School.

The 2021 PESGB International Postgraduate Summer School was a virtual event organised by John Tillson at Liverpool Hope University. It was led by Professor Sigal Ben-Porath (University of Pennsylvania) and structured around her work in progress, *Campus Wars and the Struggle for Democracy*, arising from her 2020-21 Fellowship-in-Residence at Harvard's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics. The other prominent guest speakers were Professor Kevin Vallier, who talked on *Trust in a Polarized Age*, Professor Allen Buchanan on his work, *Our Moral Fate*, and Professor Elizabeth Anderson, whose title was '*Can We Talk? Communicating Moral Concern in an era of Polarized Politics*'. It was attended by 16 postgraduate students from Universities across the USA, Britain and Canada. Evaluations show that the SS was very well received by the students.

7. Philosophy for Children, Philosophy with Children

We hope to fund 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 this and use the materials in his work with SAPERE in order to evaluate them, He plans to enable more philosophical meta-cognitive articulation than in current 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. 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. Specifically, these materials would concentrate on children's understanding of the language of philosophical reasoning, (e.g., what is a premise, an argument, an assumption, a conclusion and the differentiation of concepts).

Meghan Lafferty and Maughn Rollins Gregory are working on a book examining the different ways a children's story can "go philosophical." The new book will be for parents and teachers, to help them identify and use philosophical children's books. Part of that project will be to get graduate assistants to help test these ways with contemporary children's and young adult literature, and reviews of the successful books will be published on the IAPC's weblog [Thinking in Stories: Reviewing Philosophy in Children's Literature](#), which Matthews initiated in 1979. We hope to support this work with a PESGB development grant. (Thanks to David Bakhurst for putting us all in touch).

Ruth Heilbronn
March 2022