

# Department of Education Newsletter

Issue 8 Autumn 2012

## Welcome to the Department of Education Newsletter

Welcome to the Autumn 2012 edition of the Department of Education newsletter. Since the last newsletter there have been several national and international events to celebrate, including the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics, and the Paralympics. You can read about Mary Whitehouse's experience of being a volunteer Gamesmaker for the Olympics in the newsletter.

There has also been good news to celebrate in the Department. Professor Rob Klassen has taken up his post as leader of the new Psychology in Education Research Centre, and is joined by Claudine Bowyer-Crane and Kathryn Asbury. The new arrivals mean that Department's academic staff has doubled in the last five years, which is excellent news for the Department. The hard work all staff do to support our students has been recognised in the Department's exceptionally strong performance in three important external surveys, including the National Student Survey (NSS, final year undergraduates), the Post-graduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES, post graduates) and the Newly Qualified Teachers survey (NQT survey, students completing their initial teacher training programme).

Please read on to find out about the Department's successful new internship scheme, contributions at a range of conferences, a TweetUp in science education, the activities of the Student Education Society, and much more.

I would like to look ahead to this academic year, which will be a momentous year for the Department. 2013 is the year when the University of York will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Department of Education will also be 50 years old, as it is one of the Founding Departments of the University. Watch out for more news of the celebration events in the next newsletter.



My best wishes for a happy and successful year. **Professor Judith Bennett, Head of Department**

## Department News

### Department of Education internship programme (with City of York council)

Between January and June 2012, four Education undergraduates took on internships with the City of York council (Neighbourhood Management Unit). All four students were based at the council offices for 1-2 days a week and were tasked with specific projects for the duration of their internships. Our students participated in staff meetings, gave internal and external presentations on their work, and produced some valuable outcomes for the NMU. A summary of their projects follows:

*Charlotte Bunyan* (3<sup>rd</sup> year): produced a York 800 primary school resource pack (<http://yorkfestivals.com/1212-york-charter-resource-pack.html>).

This involved research, developing the pack, making the curriculum links, writing press releases, conducting two case studies, and developing factsheets on how young people can currently engage with the Council.

*Emma Burns* (2<sup>nd</sup> year): looked into models of best practice for how to engage residents in Community Contracts (a new approach to neighbourhood working). The report she produced has been used to inform the process.

*Abigail Chard* (1<sup>st</sup> year): researched funding streams for active citizenship courses. The council was offered to pilot a course with the Yorkshire and Humber Workers Education Association so Abigail was assigned to put together a marketing strategy, liaise with the tutor and promote the course to the general public. The course is now underway with 11 residents taking part.

*Chris Wilcockson* (1<sup>st</sup> year): mapped out locations of BME groups in York, and began work on a project to contribute to an Equalities Impact Assessment on ward committees.

The City of York council was impressed with the work done by our undergraduates and the internship programme will be taking on new Education interns in 2012-13.

# Department of Education Newsletter

## Science Educators TweetUp at York

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August the Science Education Group in the Department of Education hosted a meeting of 30 science teachers. What made this meeting different is that it was organised over Twitter. Many science teachers meet on Twitter on a Monday evening using #ASEChat to discuss a science education issue chosen by the community. One evening in May someone suggested they meet in 'real life'. The result was this TweetUp in York in the middle of the school holidays. Teachers came from across the country to share good ideas that they use in science lessons in their schools. About half the group made short presentations about some aspect of their teaching – from a neat technique for getting students to support each other's revision of a topic – to a report on a project where students can participate in real science research through pooling of data about school absences. A number of University staff took part – Anne Scott (Education) and Robin Millar (Education) joined the meeting and Mary Whitehouse (Education) and Tom Hartley (Psychology) made contributions.

## Staff news

### Gamesmaking

Mary Whitehouse (Education) was amongst 70,000 volunteers at the Olympic Games. Mary was fortunate to be working on the Olympic Stadium during the athletics competition. She was a member of the track team responsible for making sure the equipment for each event was in place. One of her responsibilities was driving one of the buggies used to deliver hurdles to the track – a choreographed event, likened to synchronised

swimming, and now available to view on YouTube. Mary says that it was an amazing experience to be at the heart of the games and to meet so many interesting people, both volunteers and athletes.



## Staff Changes

Professor Rob Klassen joined the department in July as Director of the new Psychology in Education Research Centre. Rob was joined on 3 September by Dr Claudine Bowyer-Crane, Senior Lecturer and Dr Kathryn Asbury Lecturer.

In July we said farewell to Claire Etherington as PGCE Administrator and wish her well for the future.

Claire Blackmore has moved into the role of PGCE Administrator and we welcome Kirsty Holcroft, who joined the administrative team on 24 September, as Administrator for Graduate Programmes.

Dr Maria Tsouroufli left the Department in June to take up a post at the University of Dundee.

**Jan Hardman** has been appointed as Chair of the Taught Postgraduate Special Interest Group. This is a university role supported by the Teaching and Learning Unit.

## Research News

### Publications

Abrahams, I., & Reiss, M. (2012). Practical work: Its effectiveness in primary and secondary schools in England. *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, 49(8), 1035-1055.

Bassetti, B. and Masterson, J. (2012) Effects of removing morphemic information and adding interword spacing on reading in Chinese experienced and inexperienced readers. *Reading and Writing: An International Journal* 25(9), 2291-2314. DOI: 10.1007/s11145-012-9358-7

Davies, I., Hampden Thompson, G., Tsouroufli, M., Sundaram, V., Lord, P., Jeffes, J., & Bramley, G. (Eds.) *Journal of Social Science Education: Citizenship and Community*, 11 (3), © JSSE 2-2012, ISSN 1618-5293. <http://www.jsse.org/2012/2012-3>

Klassen, R. M., Al-Dhafri, S., Mansfield, C. F., Purwanto, E., Siu, A., Wong, M. W., & Woods-McConney, A. (2012). Teachers' engagement at work: An international validation study. *Journal of Experimental Education*, 80, 1-20.

Marsden, E. & Torgerson, C. (2012) Single group, pre- and post-test research designs: Some methodological concerns. *Oxford Review of Education*. *iFirst*, 1-34. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03054985.2012.731208>

Roberts, L. & Meyer, A. (2012). *Individual Differences in Second Language Learning*. Oxford: Blackwell

Roberts, L. (2012). 'Individual differences in L2 sentence processing'. *Language Learning*, 62 (supp2), 172-188.

# Department of Education Newsletter

Xiang, H., Dediu, D., Roberts, L., Van denbooger, E., Norris, D., Leuwen, T. & Hagoort, P. (2012). 'The structural connectivity underpinning language aptitude, working memory and IQ in the perisylvian language network'. *Language Learning*. 62 (supp2), 110-130.

Roberts, L., Bardel, C., Lindqvist, C. & Abrahamsson, N. (2012). (Eds.). *EUROSLA Yearbook 12*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

## External Activities

Dr Sarah Olive travelled to the University of Bergen and University College Telemark in May-June 2012, leading research seminars on resources for teaching Shakespeare with postgraduate students. She also visited several local schools, teaching classes on Shakespeare and modern popular culture to 16-18 year olds (an activity she adapted for the Sheffield Children's Festival in July). The visit, funded by the World Universities Network research mobility funding enabled her to write about Shakespeare in Norway for the Royal Shakespeare Company's Wiki Shakespeare <http://www.worldshakespearefestival.org.uk/wiki/AllPages.aspx> and Teaching Shakespeare magazine, as well as on Norwegian theatre for the international journals Shakespeare and The Drama Review.

## Global Standards for Citizenship Education

Professor Ian Davies presented one of the key note lectures at the 'Fourth Japan Conference on Global Standards for Citizenship Education', September 2012. His presentation was entitled: 'Educational policies, programmes and pedagogies in citizenship education in England: a return to neo-liberalism?'

The photos show:  
Ian Davies with the principal co-ordinator of the conference, Professor Norio Ikeno (Hiroshima University);



and the key note speakers with some of those involved in the organisation of the conference:



(from left to right)

Dr. Jasmine B-Y Sim (National Institute of Education, Singapore), Professor Ian Davies (University of York, UK), Professor Chuing Prudence Chou (National Chengchi University, Taiwan), Professor Kathy Bickmore, University of Toronto, Canada), Professor Norio Ikeno (Hiroshima University, Japan) and Professor Tanahashi, Vice President of the Japanese Educational Research Association for Social Studies).

## Recent Presentations

Zoe Handley: Investigating the use of interactive whiteboards during the pre-task phase of speaking tasks in the secondary English classroom" at Eurocall 2012, Gothenburg, Sweden, 25th August.

Beatrice Szczepek-Reed: 'Prosodic matching as a sequential resource in naturally occurring interaction', at the International Symposium on Imitation and Convergence in Speech conference at Aix-en-Provence, France, 3-5 September

Danijela Trenkic: Errorless learning advantage in second language vocabulary learning and Competition between articles and plurals in L2 production, when the L1 has neither, at 22<sup>nd</sup> European Second Language Association (EUROSLA) conference in Poznan, Poland.

Beatrice Szczepek: '*Analysing intonation: Prosodic alignment in naturally occurring talk*' at 'Multimodal Meaning in Interactional Alignment', University of Leuven, Belgium, 19-21 September 2012.

Bowyer-Crane, C., & Thompson, S. The role of background knowledge and inference generation in reading comprehension for children learning English as an Additional Language. Poster presented at the BPS Developmental Section Annual Conference, Glasgow, 2012

Bowyer-Crane, C., Weighall, A., Thompson, S., Deller, B., & Preece, S. Semantic priming in children with English as an Additional Language: a pilot study. Poster presented at the BPS Cognitive Section Annual Conference, Glasgow, 2012.

Leah Roberts, Emma Marsden, Ellenor Shoemaker, Electronic tools in data collection'. Workshop on the Methodology of Data Collection in Language Acquisition, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bergamo, 29 September 2012.

Ian Davies gave a key note presentation at the conference for Dutch teacher educators, teachers and government inspectors on 5 October in Utrecht. The conference title was: *Investeren in vakdidactiek. Mens - en maatschappijvakken op een hoger plan*. The key note was titled: 'Citizenship education in the UK - policy and practice'.

# Department of Education Newsletter

Irena Kuzborska : Understanding the knowledge and processes of learning to read in a UK university: A longitudinal study of Chinese students' practices, 10th Asia TEFL International Conference, "Expanding Horizons of Language and Communication: ELT Issues, Challenges and Implications". New Delhi, India, 4 October 2012.

Jan Hardman: The role of spoken language in teaching in an internationally-mixed university classroom, the Higher Education Academy seminar event 'Changing Englishes in Internationalising Universities: increasing the language awareness of 'home' and 'international' students and academic staff', University of York St John, September 2012.

## Student Education Society



Welcome to the Department of Education - my name is Grace and I am the current chair of EdSoc! My committee and I have been working hard this summer so that we can bring you some excellent social and volunteering events throughout the term. The society provides a link between the students and the department and as a small course I find there is a fantastic sense of community which we mean to heighten as we welcome all new first years into our society and department. If you haven't already – add "York Education Society" on facebook to be updated with further information regards events and make sure you e-mail with any questions or troubles you may have [education-department@york.ac.uk](mailto:education-department@york.ac.uk)

## What's going on!

### Departmental Seminars A/D017 – All welcome

Wednesday 31 October, 1.00 - 2.00

#### **First exposure to a new language**

*Leah Roberts*

Wednesday 21 November, 1.00-2.00

#### **Can we select effective teachers using non-cognitive psychological tools?**

*Rob Klassen*

Wednesday 1 December, 1.00 - 2.00

#### **Beginning science teachers' subject knowledge and confidence.**

*Robin Millar*

### Centre for Language Learning Research Seminar

18 November, 16.15 - 17.15, W/307

Children with Specific Language Impairment show deficits in the pragmatics of referring expressions  
**Dr Cat Davies (University of Leeds)**

## CELT News

### Recognition for Tracking Research

The Guardian Weekly (21.09.2012) recently published an article showcasing the research work done on York Pre-sessional programmes by Bill Soden, Helen Alcelik and Chris Copland. Bill was quoted at length in the article, *Universities 'losing track' of language skills*, which presented the case for matching training in language and study skills more closely to degree courses. The article also referred to positive results from tracking the progress of students on last year's CELT Management Pre-sessional, a programme directly informed by tracking studies carried out in 2010 by the CELT team.

CELT has a new contract with the Daejeon Metropolitan Office of Education in South Korea to help train teachers of English and the first group of 30 arrived this summer for a four-week programme, which included sessions on English Language Teaching methodology, Peer-Teaching practice and visits to local schools.

A highlight of the programme was the Playday, organised by Sally Jenkins, where 80 local schoolchildren came to the campus for an afternoon of traditional Korean games and activities.



Other new groups this summer have come from Catania University, sending us 15 Economics students for an English and Management Programme. CELT also coordinated the professional development programme for Science teachers which was run by the Department.

### Departmental Newsletter

Deadline for Spring 2013 Issue:  
7 December 2012

#### Contact details:

[helen.parker@york.ac.uk](mailto:helen.parker@york.ac.uk)

#### University magazine

Deadline for Winter: 16 November 2012

Contact details: [magazine@york.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@york.ac.uk)

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# Department of Education Newsletter

## Creating Citizenship Communities: an international conference held at York

A major international conference took place at York in May 2012. Over 200 delegates from 41 countries gathered at the National Science Learning Centre to explore issues about citizenship and identity with particular respect to community building. This joint conference was hosted by 3 significant groups: CitizED, a global network of academics; the Children's Identity and Citizenship in Europe Academic Network, (CiCe), a European network of academics and professionals funded by European Commission; and the Department of Education, University of York and NFER project team of the Esmée Fairbairn funded initiative 'Creating Citizenship Communities'.



*Delegates from Belgium, Iceland and Turkey*

Baroness Estelle Morris, who is a member of the Creating Citizenship Communities advisory board, gave the welcome speech.

There were 3 key note addresses:

- Dr. Tony Breslin, former chief executive of the Citizenship Foundation and chair of Breslin Public Policy as well as a member of the Creating Citizenship Communities advisory board, spoke about *Achievement and Inclusion, Personalisation and Scale: acknowledging and reconciling tensions in education policy.*

- Dr. Nanny Hartsmar President of CiCea and of the University of Malmö, Sweden explored *Childhood in transition.*
- Dr. Carla Peck (University of Alberta, Canada) was invited by citizED to talk on *'Why generic models of citizenship fail: The importance of considering identity when conceptualizing youth engagement'*.



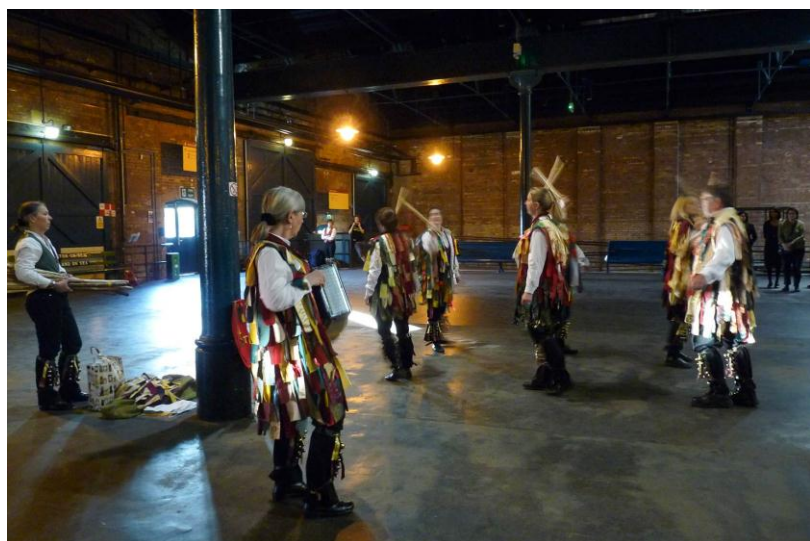
*Professor Carla Peck (Alberta)*

During the 3 days of the conference 90 papers were presented on empirical research projects, theoretical discussions and analyses of practice. 7 symposia were organised on a variety of themes including active citizenship; democratic conflict,

the child in media; effects of domestic violence. 5 workshops saw interactive explorations of matters such as identity and pedagogy in times of crisis.

The main conference was preceded by CiCe's Seventh Annual Research Student Conference. Twelve doctoral students participated, presenting their research for peer review. PhD students from York were able to attend as audience members.

The conference was a lively and very positive event. Support was received from Routledge and Intellect (the latter publishes the journal Citizenship Teaching and Learning which is closely associated with both citizED and CiCea). The weather was glorious throughout the conference at an enviable 25 degrees Celsius. The conference dinner was held at the National Railway Museum with a lively presentation of a slice of English culture for the delight of all delegates in the form of Morris dancing (disappointingly, no members of the department were seen taking part).



*Morris dancing at the National Railway Museum*