

Meeting Network 17: Histories of Education, ECER 2025, Belgrade, Serbia, 11 September 2025

Convenors present: Geert Thyssen (LC), Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde, Ana Paz, Thomas Ruoss

Members present: 18 additional members, making up a total of 22 participants.

Apologies received by LC from (ex-/link) convenors Iveta Kestere, Helena Ribeiro de Castro, Susannah Wright, Lajos Somogyvári, Attila Nóbik, Tamar Groves, Klaus Dittrich, and Pieter Verstraete.

Minutes by Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde

Welcome word by the link convenor and introduction to NW17's way of having network meetings.

1. General impressions regarding ECER and of NW17's sessions in relation to the 2025 NW17 Special Call (Geert)

Geert invited participants to share their impressions and feedback regarding both the conference venue and the network sessions. Overall, the responses were very positive, with participants noting that the event maintained a consistently high level of quality of presentations and sessions as a whole and a minimum of parallel sessions, which was very much appreciated. At the same time, several points for consideration were raised. The primary concern was that the allocated room was small, limiting comfort and flexibility. This should, however, be understood, so it was noted, against the backdrop of the ongoing student protests in Serbia and the challenges of room allocation resulting from that. At the same time, some participants observed that the smaller rooms contributed to a sense of intimacy and facilitated more engaged discussion. A further issue identified was the absence of hearing support aids, which are increasingly becoming standard practice at academic conferences to ensure accessibility for participants with hearing challenges.

2. Reviewing (Ana)

Ana invited feedback on the review process for abstracts and proposals. In general, participants agreed that the reviews were clear and constructive. Ana and Geert explained that the current guidelines were introduced in response to earlier inconsistencies in feedback between reviewers, where feedback ranged from a single sentence to several pages in length. It was noted, however, that some contributors had not yet accessed their reviews, as the feedback is included only at the end of the notification email.

Geert further asked whether current reviewers are willing to continue in this role and extended an invitation for new reviewers to join, with particular emphasis on increasing participation from underrepresented regions of Europe, such as Eastern Europe. In response, Wiktorina (University of Vienna) volunteered to serve as a reviewer. António (University of Madrid) and Tomás (University of Lisbon) were democratically elected as part of the convenors' team.

3. (Ex-/Honorary) Network Convenor team (Geert)

Mischa Grundig de Vazquez sadly resigned as Network 17 convenor as he does not currently have a university position anymore. He was a recent but no less valued addition to the convenor team, who had just initiated a NW17 newsletter to be sent bi-monthly via our NW17 mailing list. NW17 is very grateful for his work as convenor and reviewer, and for his LGBTQ+ representation as our first trans NW17 convenor. He will be sorely missed for now, but, who knows, sometime in the future he might still rejoin us. Any convenor willing to take on his responsibility of collecting and sending items as part of a NW17 newsletter, should feel more than encouraged to do so. We wish Mischa all the best on whatever avenues he takes next.

Thomas Ruoss kindly offered to take over Mischa's tasks with regards to the newsletter.

Helena Ribeiro de Castro reached out to wish us a lovely ECER and let us know she still feels very much connected to our Network. She hopes to resume research activities but will not be able to join us on ECERs for the time being, as currently she has partner carer duties, with travel not being recommended.

Iveta Kestere in turn has kept in touch and let Geert know she plans to attend again next year in Tampere, Finland.

Last but most certainly not least, sadly, this year we lost a dear friend and colleague and Honorary NW17 Member, Emerita Professor Dr. Joyce Goodman. We published a commemorative text on our NW17 webpage in her honour, which can obviously not do justice to the person and extremely sharp, proficient, reputed, inspirational yet equally humble professional that she was:

She was a wonderful person and brilliant colleague, and so it is with tremendous sadness that we learned of the passing.

For those who have not had the luck to meet Joyce; she was Emerita Professor of History of Education at the University of Winchester (United Kingdom) and the *Centre de Recherche sur les Liens Sociaux* (CERLIS, EU); she was a former Editor of the journal *History of Education* (Taylor & Francis), past President of the History of Education Society (UK), and also a former Secretary of the International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE). As an academic, she is perhaps best known for her driving and leading roles in research groups internationally on gender, women and girls and education, and throughout her successful career she has published widely on these and other topics, not least on the historiography of education. During her rich career she filled a range of University roles, including Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dean, and Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer. However, apart from being a brilliant scholar and driving force, not least in Network 17, which earned her an Honorary Membership, she was the kindest and humblest person imaginable, who supported, inspired and pushed forward more people than we may ever know. She also never stopped pushing herself, continuously striving to do more and better, look further still, get even more efficient – despite her seeming to do the impossible as was.

Saying that Joyce and all nourishing interactions with her will be profoundly missed in Network 17, is a huge understatement.

4. Social media: X => BlueSky (Thomas)

The network has transitioned from “X” to BlueSky following internal discussions regarding issues of censorship and hate speech, which raised concerns about whether “X” remained an appropriate social media platform for professional exchange. This move is consistent with EERA’s decision to migrate as well, and the association is now highly active on BlueSky, alongside many colleagues in the field and beyond. Members are strongly encouraged to follow, and establish their presence on this platform.

A question was raised as to whether the network also maintains an active presence on LinkedIn. In terms of communication, announcements of new activities should be directed to Thomas for inclusion in the newsletter and to Lajos for dissemination via social media.

5. NW17’s edited book project (Geert)

NW17 took the initiative to prepare an edited volume within the EERA-supported transdisciplinary series Springer to help mark EERA’s 30th Anniversary and its own 20th anniversary with the provisional title “Re-Membering Education: Temporal Approaches and Edges of Inquiry”. This project, as is not unusual, has meanwhile run a delay of more or less one year, with us hoping to get it wrapped up by the end of this year and published during the first half of 2026. The book comprises four sections:

1. Data/sources – including revisiting of the very concept/metaphor of sources central to history disciplines and reconsideration of the workings of data and data generation in the field of education across Europe and beyond;
2. Methods/Methodology – reappraisal of methods/approaches, including questioning of traditional methods privileging, say, public archives rather than other key sites of inquiry and deconstruction of the “research question-method-data-and-back-again” cycle prescribing what quality educational research looks like;
3. Theory/epistemology – reimagining of windows upon education phenomena investigated, including reassessing of notions of history and its recounting, for instance, as something that necessarily is to do with “the past” and “writings” thereof and unpicking of ways of figuring theory in education across Europe and beyond, for instance, in non-/dichotomous terms involving ideas-practice, meaning-matter, and the like;
4. Edges/niches – recommitting to exploring exciting disciplinary crossroads, shadow zones, blind spots, under-representations, as well as research from fields and regions that tend not to be covered as much, for instance scholarship from the Global South, or long-time marginalised approaches including queer and trans perspectives, or indigenous approaches.

Following a Call for Chapters, we retained 26 abstracts meanwhile developed into chapters, most of which have passed two rounds of internal reviews. From mid-October all section editors will start drafting section introductions based on the chapters reviewed and Geert will initiate an overall introductory section to frame the rest of the introduction.

Springer, Through Astrid Noordermeer, is aware that a final book proposal will arrive as soon as all chapters have been agreed upon. Geert is yet to submit this and invites input in terms

of the book's positioning among other, perhaps similar volumed and its potential "unique selling points".

6. NW17-related exchanges and collaboration

The History of Education Doctoral Summer School (HEDSS), born from NW17, took place in June 2025, in Oslo, Norway and has been organised by Brit Marie Hovland in collaboration with Kirsten Sivesind. Brit Marie shares a PowerPoint presentation on the event, highlighting the importance of continuing the Summer School in the future, certainly given the uncertainty surrounding the financing of this event.

7. Future Conferences

A Belgian-Dutch-Norwegian History of Education Summer School for Master's and PhD students, organised by our fellow NW17 convenors Sarah and Pieter in Leuven has been taking place digitally during ECER 2025 and will take place as an in-person event in Leuven, 15-19 September 2025. It will also be organised in Leuven in September 2026 and 2027. (Sarah)

The Portuguese History of Education Society in turn will again organise a History of Education Doctoral Autumn School, to take place in the Institute of Education at the University of Lisbon, on November 24, 2025. (Ana)

The Annual Conference of the History of Education Society (HES) 2025 will take place from 14 to 16 November 2025, in Winchester, England, and will be inspired by the work of (Emerita) Professor Joyce Goodman, as is clear from its theme 'Gender, Networks and Leadership in the History of Education'. (Geert)

There is a workshop on the History of Education at the University of Zürich, which will take place in the first weeks of April 2026 (and which takes place every second year). Applications are still running. It is a bottom-up approach that is carried by PhD students. (Thomas)

The International Standing Conference of the History of Education (ISCHE) 47 will take place in 2026 in Athens, Greece (July, 2026 -- and conference theme tbc).

ECER 2026 will take place in Tampere, Finland, 17-21 August 2026 (ERC included), under the theme of 'Knowing and Acting: The Changing Conditions and Potentials of Education Research'.

ECER 2027 will take place in Debrecen, Hungary.

ECER 2028 will take place in Salamanca, Spain.

8. Any Other Business

No AOB

The meeting was closed at 1:10 pm.