

## Minutes Meetings Network 17: Histories of Education, ECER 2022, Yerevan, Armenia, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and ECER Plus, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Members present across the in-person and Zoom sessions:** Iveta Kestere, Geert Thyssen, Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde, Lajos Somogyvári, Ana Paz, Helena Ribeiro de Castro, Klaus Dittrich, Tamar Groves, Hugo (Wei) Li, Luca Odini, Atila Nóbik, Susannah Wright

**Minutes:** Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde and Ana Paz (merged by Geert Thyssen)

### 1. Some general impressions and data regarding the conference

This year, the EERA conference has been divided into two parts. In addition to ECER 2022 in Yerevan, Armenia, there has also been ECER Plus online. This “dual” format has been tabled for discussion at the Link Convenors’ meeting, in the light of a wider concern around the perception of two separate conferences, attended by different audiences. In NW 17, the overall impression has been that of a generally positive balance in terms of participants across ECER 2022 and ECER Plus, with the latter having had the advantage of somewhat countering inequity by reducing the (travel) costs of attending ECER. Due to the time lag between the two conference sessions, participants attending at ECER Plus at different time zones, this did indeed at times feel, though, like a separate conference. NW 17 retains its expressed preference, for any future ECERs, of a “hybrid” (*at once* in-person and virtual, rather than a dual, in-person *plus* virtual) conference format, also with a view to a collective reduction of the ECER carbon footprint.

In total, ECER (ECER plus included) had some 1800 participants across 700 sessions, with ECER in Yerevan having been attended by almost 800 colleagues. For NW17, ECER Plus has added a welcome number of extra sessions, with 13 papers, 1 panel, 1 workshop and 1 symposium, making a total of 32 presenters. The ERG (Emerging Researchers’ Group event) has attracted some 325 participants: 182 in person, and 143 online. NW 17 considers strengthening the ties with the ERG again, as all kinds of cross-fertilisation could result from this. NW 17 thus used to arrange NW sessions (workshops) at the ERG, which drew attention to the Network at the same time as allowing free entrances to the ERG (for NW session organisers).

### 2. Reviewing

In previous years, questions have been raised about the reviewing process. Network meeting participants this year have generally been positive about the reviews, yet

in some cases reviews have been perceived as being “too short”. The question has therefore been asked as to whether reviewers should receive some feedback about their reviewing as well. The proposed approach has been to suggest guidelines for the reviewers apart from the general EERA guidelines (Ana Paz and Tamar Groves have offered to draft these for the next reviewing round).

Apart from this, it has been suggested that NW 17 engages more reviewers, above all from Eastern Europe given the increase in submissions from this part of Europe.

### 3. Link Convenorship

At the in-person NW meeting in Yerevan, the Link Convenorship has officially been handed over to Geert Thyssen. NW 17 has expressed its profound gratitude to Iveta Kestere for her engagement in the network, especially for how she has managed to steer the network through challenging ‘digital’ COVID years. As an expression of its gratitude, NW 17 gifted her a handmade wear-and-tear-resistant ‘conference’ bag and thank-you card.

Geert has elaborated his vision for the future of the network. He has stressed he will continue to work along the lines set out by Iveta, and that he also wants to further expand and renew our network, for instance by sourcing members from different regions and facilitating infusion of the network with ‘fresh’ ideas. He intends to keep NW 17 a safe haven for ‘risk taking’, where novel ideas can be tested, new avenues explored, a place open to ‘experimentation’, if with usual high standards of quality. He himself hopes to bring to the role greater attention to diversity in terms of sexual identities as well as gender identities/expressions, and particularly gender non-conformity, including trans- and non-binary gender identities/expressions, which offer perspectives that can trouble any ‘default’ heteronormative, binary thinking. Furthermore, Geert has expressed need to think anew the Network priorities/DNA, the kind of traditions it wishes to set out for the future; one challenge offered by research on temporalities is thus to reconsider our very understandings of ‘history’ and ‘historiography’ (e.g., as necessarily being to do with (the) ‘past’). He is keen also to continue the work done by Iveta of reaching out to other organisations, such as the International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE), but also the History of Education Society, UK (HES) with which he has already discussed a conference exchange scheme intended to foster further collaboration and mutual enrichment and exchange.

Lastly, as in previous years, with the shifting of roles has come a discussion of how to share Network duties and divide tasks among convenors (thus Pieter Verstraete

and Tamar have agreed to join Christian Ydesen in drafting the Special NW 17 Calls, with assistance from Geert if needed, and Iveta has declared herself willing to help once more with the process of allocating reviewers for submissions to NW 17).

#### **4. Session on Peace Education**

Lajos Somogyvári has shared his impressions from the pre-conference workshop organised on Tuesday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, on the topic of Peace Education. This has been a joint network initiative (NWs 4, 7, 15, 20, and 17), with presentations by one member of each network, and brainstorm sessions about future cooperation and initiatives regarding this topical issue. Lajos has expressed the intention to create a blog post about this as well. NW 17's input through Lajos has been to draw attention also to anti-peace education on the part of nation-states and related bodies.

#### **5. Social media**

NW 17 remains active on social media (Twitter and Facebook). Lajos remains happy to manage the various channels. Anyone who wishes to share information relevant to the network may contact him.

#### **6. Emerging Researchers Conference**

As mentioned, it has been thought about how NW 17 can again be more present there, especially with a view to capacity building. The History of Education Society, UK may help attract new emerging scholars keen to participate.

#### **7. Book project and Workshop**

Already at ECER 2019 in Hamburg, NW 17, through Helena Ribeiro de Castro and Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde, was approached by publishers regarding a potential handbook, for teaching purposes, on the history of education internationally. Sarah and Lajos thereupon took the initiative to create a Google Drive document and gather ideas from Convenors as to what might make for such a book with an edge. Some input was indeed shared, but the project, no doubt due to COVID, remained largely dormant. At ECER 2023 and ECER Plus new life has been breathed into it as it has been decided to proceed instead with developing a proposal for the recently created EERA Book Series (Springer). Sarah thus has produced a document which includes a more detailed discussion of the NW 17 book project that would be linked to a Network Funding bid foregrounding a workshop around key areas covered by the book. These areas would obviously resonate with NW 17's traditions in terms of innovative approaches developed and showcased, but at the same time they would

allow for interdisciplinary knowledge-expansion, beyond the history of education proper. Areas/themes for respective book sections thus proposed would include:

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. 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 – 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 – 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.

The pre-publication workshop envisaged will in turn explore the edges of education scholarship, reaching out purposely to scholars from low GDP countries.

## **8. Future Conferences**

The Annual Conference of the History of Education Society (HES) 2022 will take place from November 18<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in Exeter, England.

The History of Education Doctoral Summer School (HEDSS) will take place from June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Zurich, Switzerland.

The International Standing Conference of the History of Education (ISCHE) will take place from July 18<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, in Budapest, Hungary (Lajos is involved in the organisation).

ECER 2023 (including the ERC) will take place from August 21<sup>st</sup> to August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Glasgow, Scotland.

## **9. Any Other Business**