

Minutes Meetings Network 17: Histories of Education, ECER 2023, Glasgow, Scotland (United Kingdom), 24 August 2023

Convenors present: Geert Thyssen (LC), Ana Paz, Susannah Wright, Iveta Kestere, Lajos Somogyvári, Christian Ydesen, Tamar Groves, Pieter Verstraete (and newly added to the convenor team: Attila Nóbik and Thomas Ruoss)

Members present: Ca. 10 additional members, making up a total of ca. 20 participants.

Apologies received by LC from (ex-/link) convenors Helena Ribeiro de Castro, Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde and Klaus Dittrich)

Minutes: Susannah Wright and Ana Paz (merged by Geert Thyssen)

1. Some general impressions regarding the conference and NW17's sessions in relation to its 2023 NW17 Special Call

This year, the EERA conference (ERG included) has attracted a record number of participants – which does come with its own challenges, including room challenges experienced at ECER; EERA is aware of these, and NW17 has been understanding, supportive, and grateful for the organisational efforts made.

Judging from NW meeting attendees, NW17's Special Call has been well received. Pieter and Tamar indicate they still happy to draft a NW17 special call, with Christian having less time available for this in the first term of the academic year. Pieter is also still happy to help Geert assemble the ECER programme for NW17.

2. Reviewing

Convenors (Ana and Tamar) have worked on streamlining the review process as of 2023 to give clearer guidance for reviewers, to allow for give more consistency. NW17 has thereby adapted EERA's general guidance to make these more suited to historical research. Iveta in turn has helped Geert with assigning reviews.

Participants commented that the comments received were useful and constructive but also quite brief. The guidelines allow for short and specific feedback.

All were invited to volunteer to review and recommend reviewers (especially with expertise relating to Nordic countries from which a higher number of submissions was received for 2023).

3. Convenor group

Earlier this year, it was finally confirmed Helena was made an honorary member of NW17 (which should already have happened by ECER 2022); she was co-convenor before becoming link convenor in 2011 and her longtime (!) support of NW17 was highlighted by Geert, including her role in coordinating a NW17 project and NW17 e-/publication ("Education across Europe: A Visual Conversation", available on the EERA website under "Publications").

Geert recently became link convenor (he had been convenor since 2011). Iveta had already indicated she wished to step down as convenor after ECER2023 and Helena (previously a link convenor) has expressed the same wish this year. NW17 aims to avoid hierarchical structures; it is at ECERs that potential new reviewers and (link) convenors are identified. Susannah has thus joined NW17's convenor team since ECER2022 and ECER plus, and Attila and Thomas Ruoss have been checked if they would be happy to join as co-convenors, which they are, so henceforth they will join the team as well.

4. Social media

Lajos manages NW17's Twitter/X and Facebook accounts. All were encouraged to share information on publications/submissions/events, etc. There is also a NW17 email mailing list. All NW meeting attendees were advised to just send an email to Geert if they wanted to be added to the NW mailing list and/or share something of relevance to NW17.

5. NW17's edited book project and workshop

At ECER 2022 in Yerevan, building on discussions since 2019 about the possibility of a NW17-initiated edited book, NW17 decided to aim for a publication within the EERA-supported transdisciplinary series Springer. A Call for chapters has already been advertised under the: provisional title: "Re-Membering Education: Temporal Approaches and Edges of Inquiry". The hope is for the book to be published by the end of 2024 to mark the 30th anniversary year of EERA, which happens to coincide with a NW17 anniversary. The call 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.

At the NW17 meeting, participants were encouraged to circulate the call as widely as possible and submit proposals, with 31 October being the provisional deadline for chapter proposal submissions (abstracts of ca. 150-200 – max. 500 words), 31 March 2024 being the working deadline for draft chapter submissions (31 August 2024 for revised chapter submissions). In most countries the book should count as a peer-reviewed publication, with NW17 convenors sharing the internal reviewing for the respective sections before it gets sent out for blind external peer review.

The idea of a potential EERA funding bid for a workshop at next year’s ECER was reiterated. All co-convenors were invited to draft a proposal for this, just as Geert and others had done previously for other NW17 projects.

6. NW17-initiated exchange scheme with the History of Education Society, UK

Following some discussions with the History of Education Society, UK (HES) about a conference exchange scheme intended to foster further collaboration and mutual enrichment and exchange, Maria Lucenti was selected by HES to attend ECER 2023 in Glasgow. Susana reported about the aims of the exchange and the process, the idea behind it being one of keeping both entities involved mutually informed, of collaborating, and of encouraging attendance at one’s annual conference sessions.

Geert informed attendees that, likewise, Maria Lucenti was selected by the NW17 convenor team to participate at HES’s 2023 Annual Conference in Sheffield, which was agreed on by those present at the NW meeting. Maria has been asked to inform HES about the ECER 2023 session and will be asked to do the same for NW17 after having attended the HES 2023 Annual Conference. For every 100 members,

an EERA network has one free entrance to ECER to award, which is the premise underlying the exchange scheme initiated. On both sides similar application criteria are set out, with, for instance, priority applying for early career researchers; those coming from a low GDP country; those with an international orientation of research for NW17 and a U.K.-orientation of research for HES; those having (one or more) protected characteristics and/or a minority background. Participants at the NW meeting were asked to make others more aware of this exchange scheme. Calls are advertised through the respective social media of NW17 and HES.

A question was asked about whether sometimes different networks come together at ECERs, which was responded to in the affirmative. Sometimes, such as last year at ECER 2022 in Yerevan, NW17 organises joint sessions with other networks, e.g., that of Philosophy of Education. Lajos reminded NW meeting participants also that at ECER 2022 an important preconference workshop on Peace Education was held as a joint network initiative (NWs 4, 7, 15, 20 and 17). This year, all networks were slightly discouraged from applying for joint sessions as it would further complicate organisational matters. But Geert confirmed that, while he went along with EERA's advice this year as everything was still new to him as link convenor, NW17 has every intention to liaise with other NWs and do something together again in the future. All participants were warmly invited to propose ideas for this.

One attendee asked a question for clarification on national associations of history of education and their involvement in ECER and EERA. Geert explained about the difference between ECER (made up primarily by Networks and members through participation at conference sessions) and EERA (where national education research associations have greater representation on council) and, apart from this, noted that history of education societies' involvement in ECER and NW17 sessions in particular was thus far not formally facilitated. He noted that nothing prevents NW17 from reaching out to national history of education societies and that he may simply send out an email to all presidents of history of education societies to make them more aware of to invite to attend ECER and meet up. He reminded attendees at the NW meeting also of a previous initiative to invite a representative from ECER host countries to present developments in the field of history of education in their countries in a session at the start of ECER. He will attempt to find a representative from Cyprus for the next ECER session in Nicosia.

7. Future Conferences

The Annual Conference of the History of Education Society (HES) 2023 will take place from 17 to 19 November 2023, in Sheffield, England.

The History of Education Doctoral Summer School (HEDSS) will take place from 6-8 June 2024, in Copenhagen, Denmark (contact: Björn Norlin)

The International Standing Conference of the History of Education (ISCHE) 45 will take place in 2024 Natal, Brazil (dates and conference theme TBC).

ECER 2024 will take place in Nicosia from 27 to 30 August 2024 (ERC 26-27 August) under the theme 'Education in an Age of Uncertainty: Memory and Hope for the Future'.

ECER 2025 will be in Belgrade, Serbia (second week of September – extraordinarily late, and thus possibly issue)

ECER 2026 in turn is anticipated to take place in Tampere, Finland (dates tbc).

8. Any Other Business

NA