

Network Meeting: Histories of Education

Wednesday September 5, 2019
University of Hamburg, Building VMP 8, Room 205
12:10 – 13:30

Notes of the meeting

The report was drafted by Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde (KU Leuven, Belgium)

1/ Welcome and introduction (Iveta)

Iveta Kestere, the link convenor, wishes everybody a warm welcome. It is underlined that anyone who takes interest in our activities is welcome to participate in Network 17.

The link convenor introduces the convenors: Helena Ribeiro de Castro (Portugal); Geert Thyssen (UK); Chista Nadimi (Luxemburg); Lajos Somogyvári (Hungary); Christian Ydesen (Denmark); Pieter Verstraete (Belgium, Pieter is excused for the meeting); Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde (Belgium) and Klaus Dittrich (Hong Kong).

The meeting further starts with the announcement that Joyce Goodman has become honorary member of NW17 (Geert Thyssen). Joyce is one of the founding members of the network. She is nominated because she has acted as a bridge between the network and the broader community (she was ISCHE EC secretary, and President of the British History of Education Society). Also, she is a brilliant explorer and prolific writer.

2/ The reviewing process (Iveta)

Everybody is happy with how the reviewing process went.

Generally speaking, there was a very high number of submissions, and they were of a high quality. We had quite some rejections, but few redirections this year.

Also, the issue of parallel sessions is brought to the table. We do our best not to organize parallel sessions, but there were many good papers so this year it was inevitable. The convenors were happy with the quality of the papers and were a bit hesitant to reject good proposals. At the same time, we would like to keep this network small. It is argued that we might streamline the reviewing process across convenors, so that we can ensure some uniformity in the reviewing standards and process. It was decided to prepare special guidelines for the reviewing process in the network. Helena kindly agreed to write the first draft.

Positions of reviewers are open. Anyone interested in becoming a reviewer can send their contact details.

3/ The Doctoral Summer School in History of Education (Angelo and Geert)

The 2019 Doctoral Summer School in Liverpool was a success. Convenor Geert Thyssen was a chair of the local organizing committee. Also, his workshop on the Doctoral Summer School was continued on the ECER conference.

Regarding the participants, it is noted that the group is very international and diverse. Especially travel bursaries for low GDP countries have contributed to the 'internationalization' of the participants. Generally speaking, the Summer School in Liverpool was well evaluated, and all participants were very pleased and enthusiastic.

Geert Thyssen argues that they managed to have a geographically broad representation, and this is also the result of applying multiple criteria. The conversations that were picked up during the conference continue.

Next year, the Summer School will be held in Lyon (dates: 13-16 June 2020). The year after that the Summer School will travel to Madrid. The call for next year will be published shortly via various channels. Angelo informs the meeting that he will step down as convenor for the Summer School. There will be two new convenors. Also, Frank Simon stepped down as a tutor. He is thanked for his involvement in 9 out of 10 editions of the summer school.

4/ Information from EERA office (Iveta and Helena)

Iveta attended the link convenors' meeting in Berlin. Helena visited the link convenors' meeting in Hamburg at ECER. The most important and noteworthy issues were:

- One strategic point of EERA is the extension of the European dimension. The question was brought to the table how EERA can expand its network and make "EERA more powerful". Cooperating with other organizations was identified as an important strategy.
- Another question was the attraction of young researchers. An important strategy in that respect was attendance at the emerging researchers' conference and "fish for people" who are working on History of Education topics, and then to encourage them to join our network. Christa will take care of this.
- There has also been a long debate about the keynotes, and the possibility was discussed to invite a special keynote for the network (so: not for the general conference). It might be interesting to be able to invite an expert about a specific topic, related to the general topic of the conference. This is an idea that we will give some thought. Also, there is some funding available. The question arises as to how we can engage in choosing keynote speakers, and an email will be sent to all the networks to do propositions. Everyone who has ideas about this for Glasgow is encouraged to submit those to the convenors/link convenors.
- There is also the possibility or opportunity to organize a meeting of a core group during the year. Anyone who has ideas about this (in terms of topic, a common publication, ...)

may get in touch with the convenors. An example that is highlighted is the continuation on the workshop organized at the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Network 17.

- EERA has now a series of books and it intends to publish three books a year. We have room there to submit a proposal for a network book.

5/ NW17 Facebook Page (Lajos)

Lajos stressed that we intend to draw more attention to our network. One way of doing that is to share ideas, information, ... via Facebook. The question is raised whether the Facebook group can be paralleled with a Twitter hashtag to go with that. The question is also discussed as to how we can further develop the Facebook page. First, it is suggested that we can make a special box where people can actively participate and engage in a discussion. The workshop that we organized at the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the network can function as a starting point. Second, it is also noted that we can make the Facebook group more visible on the general EERA website. Third, it could be a good idea to also include information about ECER, the Facebook group, the calls for paper, ... on the website of ISCHE and to communicate national societies of History of Education.

6/ Connections with other networks / Partners of Network 17

Johannes Westberg shares some details about ISCHE next year: the conference will take place in Örebro (Sweden) between 19-22 August 2020.

A possibility to make connections with other organizations might be to take the article that lists all historical associations in Europe as a starting point to reach out. Also, ongoing research projects may be listed on the website to attract more attention to NW 17.

Someone in the audience raises a question about the European dimension of EERA, or its international character. It is argued that in spite of the fact that a European perspective is adopted in the reviewing process, we remain open to anybody. It is also stressed that Europe is culturally and linguistically diverse. The degree of reflexivity on concepts and theoretical approaches is most important as a criterion for the quality of papers and proposals.

Apart from that, also other networks expressed interest in finding a connection:

- Network 7: Social Justice is interested in doing a joint panel.
- Network 25 (Research on Children's rights) is interested in making a connection.

7/ Honorary membership: new proposal

The Network plans to ask Catherine Burke (University of Cambridge) to become an honorary member. She has been involved in the Network since the beginning and has been an important supporter throughout the 20 years.

8/ ECER 2020

Next year's conference will take place in Glasgow (end of August), and will address the topic of communities. For historians of education this is an interesting topic, because we have the possibility of addressing not only how communities are connecting, but also how they were divided.

9/ AOB