

Network Meeting – 11th September 2025

Attendees: (n=13) Oliver Hooper, Rachel Sandford, Goran Gerdin, Corina van Doodewaard, Fiona Chambers, Petter Erik Lairhaug, Rod Philpot, Ellen Berg, Hayley McGlashan, Andra Fernate, Ingo Wagner, Carolin Knocke, Gunn Nyberg

- Apologies

No apologies noted

- Minutes

Minutes ok (though not sure many have looked at them)

- ECER 2025

Submissions – OH notes it was a big ERC event this year, submissions and attendance up. It was noted that there were no problems from student protests but that the EERA Council were keen to emphasise that students had freed up rooms for the conference, to allow ECER to take place. NW18 received 44 submissions, plus 3 redirects making a total of 47 submissions. Of these, 4 papers were rejected (2 of which were redirects). Where rejections were made, reasons were given and feedback was still provided to authors. There were also 3 papers withdrawn prior to conference, meaning a total of 40 submissions were presented at conference including 1 poster, 2 symposia and a Network Keynote.

OH thanked reviewers and said that if anyone else wanted to get involved in reviewing, they could reach out to him.

Special call – Is there an interest in this? Do we want to have another? General feeling was, yes. Seen as a positive to have a special call and would allow for areas of interest to be raised. [Ideas noted below]

Honorary Member – Prof Fiona Chambers was congratulated and a present given. Again, a positive feeling in the room at having a NW18 mini keynote.

Network Meal – Was seen as successful, a nice venue, good atmosphere, workable number, people feel that this should be something we do each year.

Comments/Feedback:

GG - Helpers are great, all friendly, always visible; signage could improve but generally good in terms of the venue.

FC – EERA office staff were great, calm, knowledgeable, accommodating; sub-titles are helpful for inclusion (and funny) but other aspects of inclusion might also be considered more (accessibility).

RP – People attending the conference are great, has been good/active conversation, but there is a notable lack of local contacts this year, would be good to know what is happening in PE research/practice in the local area.

IW – organisation of the network was good and appreciated, some nice grouping of sessions, clear communication.

RS – Noted that another point discussed across the week had been the lack of joint sessions, particularly with NW08 – could we perhaps be more proactive about these moving forward.

- NW18 activities

EERA funding

OH announced the successful award of EERA funding to the network. Project led by Shirley Gray (Edinburgh) and building on work of the UKPE Collaborative – whose work has been shared at ECER in previous years. Focus will be critical discussion about PE curricula across Europe. An outline of planned activities was given, and advance notice of a pre-conference event (to be held on the Monday before conference next year in Tampere). OH said that there would be opportunities for colleagues to be involved, so keep an eye on emails.

Name of the network

OH put the proposal of renaming the network to 'Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy' to the room. An explanation of the rationale for change was given and it was noted that this decision has been discussed a number of times over the past few years. In terms of comments:

GG – it's a good idea, does it matter that the BERA group is also PESP, do we need to keep sport pedagogy? [it was noted that the similarity had been discussed with the BERA PESP SIG and they were supportive, seeing it as a means of linking with them in a shared purpose rather than being in competition]

FC – what would be missed if we lose sport pedagogy? Suggested we could make this change now but keep our options open for future changes.

RS – Noted that the NW18 web pages will need to be updated anyway, so we can make it a collective conversation about what goes in here. How do we want NW18 to be framed?

Vote: all in favour, none against.

Other comments under this item:

CvD - Noted that choosing between BERA and EERA is difficult at times (if not British), so we might want to add something to any new webpage information about what makes

NW18 'European'. OH - explained clash with BERA and EERA this year – won't happen again.

FC asked can we be intentional in how we link with BERA? Perhaps invite a BERA symposium contribution to an ECER conference. RS noted that we could present findings from the EERA research work to BERA.

GG - What about NW08 – do we need to think about how we fit with them? FC - Could we do a special call with NW08? EB – there are potential links all over EERA, but we still need to keep our own focus. OH – Yes, it's about what presenters want, but also about NW18 being clear about what it is.

Mailing list

OH noted that the EERA NW mailing list is not really very agile, so members proposed creating a more informal mailing list to enhance communication. OH will share a QR code for people to sign up to the new mailing list and would just need to email again to be taken off it. Mailing list would not create too much email traffic, just sending reminders, information about opportunities, reviewing info etc. [link subsequently shared in NW18 sessions]

It was also suggested that we might create a LinkedIn space for the Network (RS/FC). Perhaps a closed group? It was established that a number of people in the room are already on LinkedIn. FC volunteered to set up a page as needed. We could also use this page to link to the EERA-funded project.

Special Calls

GN – A special call is a good idea. Maybe we need to think about what is missing? What do we want more of?

FC – Digital/AI; RS – Gender, gender diversity, sexuality; CvD – relational pedagogy, body, space/place; EB – inclusion (we have some but could have more of this); AF – brain health, cognition etc. GN – maybe this links to academic contribution of PE in schools. EB – consultation with pupils, working with students, recognising student voice/expertise. RP – changing face of PETE, looking to the future.

OH and CvD to work on a special call on changing face on PETE etc... OH noted that there may be an option for a journal special issue too (in EERJ).

CvD – Suggested for next year that if someone is interested in putting together a symposium, they could reach out to the group (via the mailing list) to see if anyone is interested in joining them.

IW – Asked about a summer school for researchers relating to NW18. Is this worth it? Is there support for it/a desire for it? Maybe join forces with other institutions e.g., AIESEP.

FC confirmed there is no conflict of interest here and that AIESEP would be open to conversations. FC and IW to follow up...

CvD – Need to have enough time to run a summer school, to allow for social events.

EB – Should ask ECRs what they want, what do they think, thinking about finances etc.

OH – Suggested it might be worth considering efficiencies around conference, as buildings are often already booked.

ECER 2026

Details given on conference next year to be held in Tampere, Finland. OH also noted that the NW18 symposium will be on the Monday (18th).

- AOB – just a thank you to OH and the convenor team.