

**EERA Network 23 Annual Business Meeting, Glasgow  
1215-1315 CEST, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**Book celebration**

We began with a book launch presented by Gunn E. Søreide. The book, Riese, H., Hilt, L. T. & Søreide, G. E. (eds) (2022) *Educational Standardization in a Complex World*. Emerald Publishing Limited. (<https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/doi/10.1108/9781800715899>), is a direct result of a 2019 ECER Network 23 symposium “The encounter between homogenization and heterogeneity: Increased standardization in a diverse world?” Contributors to the book are regular presenters in Network 23 or other EERA networks.

**Welcome**

The network convenors welcomed the thirty attendees and wished them well. Peter Kelly thanked Anne Larson, who has been a supportive and hardworking network convenor. Although she is stepping down this autumn, Anne will still manage the NW mailing list, contribute to NW projects and continue as a reviewer.

**Conference 2023 Review**

**Conference 2023 Submissions and Overview**

	Total Submitted	Accepted	Rejected/ Withdrawn
Symposia & Panels	21	21	0/0
Papers	120 (including 7 redirected)	113	7/23
Posters	4	4	0/0

The success of the conference is down, in large part, to the quality of the reviewers. We have a strong group of conscientious reviewers who give their time freely and provide clear, helpful and considered feedback on the many submissions. Many thanks to all.

Our first fully in-person conference saw a return to pre-pandemic numbers of submissions. Proposals were shared between a team of 24 reviewers (and several review for more than one network). They each require two reviewers, so the total number of 145 submissions required 290 reviews. Most reviewers looked at 10-12 papers including one symposium. Two of our reviewers retired this year and two new reviewers joined the team. Every year we try to increase the reviewing team and anyone wishing to volunteer as a reviewer should contact Peter Kelly.

The programme was subject to the usual last-minute changes because of attendee constraints or late withdrawals. We also had to make late room changes because one room became unusable at the start of the conference week. Nevertheless, most attendees said they felt the programme remained coherent and easy to navigate. Participants were also pleased that most of the Network 23 sessions were in the same building and refreshments for breaks between sessions were nearby.

### Online Seminar Series 2023

The Network 23 Online Seminar Series was a highlight of 2023 and featured two leading academics in the field of education policy studies, both with a close relationship with Network 23. The second seminar had to be postponed from summer until after the conference because of unforeseen circumstances. Over 100 friends and associates of the network registered to attend the seminars, which provided an opportunity for those from across the wider education policy research community to connect with each other.

Date	Title	Speaker
01 June	Researching with democratic intent: The responsibilities of researchers in high-stakes accountability systems	Professor Gemma Moss University College London
21 September	The liberalization of teacher employment regimes: European perspectives on the flexibilization of the teaching workforce and careers	Professor Xavier Dumay Université catholique de Louvain

Many thanks to Sofia Viseu and Benedict Kurz for their help in organising this series.

### Changes in the convenors team

We will be advertising for one or two new network convenors to join the team. We are looking for colleagues who have already shown a commitment to the network through their contributions as a reviewer and presenter. Convenors are responsible for coordinating the work of the network. This includes supporting conference arrangements and other activities such as our online seminar series that runs in the spring each year. In recent years, the convenors have also been involved in work to widen the reach of the network and make it more inclusive of researchers from across Europe.

### Plans for 2024

Ongoing developments for future conferences:

- aim for 30 network reviewers
- the final presenter in each session will act as chair
- provide clear communications, including a welcome email will be sent to all whose papers have been accepted by Network 23 with advice on how the conference works together with conference and network information
- arrange informal breakfast & lunchtime gatherings and a social event for all
- provide support for those new to Network 23 and/or ECER including emerging researchers
- encourage network members to contact the convenors to share ideas on activities and/or initiatives that will further promote inclusiveness and development of the network

Reviewers are now asked to inform the conveners about proposals that are poorly expressed because of English language difficulties, but otherwise acceptable, so that we can explore the possibility of further support for their authors.

We are pleased with our ongoing work to widen participation and will continue to prioritise attracting participants from underrepresented countries. We will invite queries from potential authors before submission, and continue to develop support including linking with and contributing to the Emerging Researchers Group (ERG). Xavier Rambla is the network link with the ERG.

Currently we are developing a special call for the next conference on the topic of 'Education policy and the politics of education in an age of uncertainty'. We will invite selected authors to contribute to a journal special issue on this topic for publication in 2025. We are also working on a proposal for an edited volume with Bloomsbury that will represent the work of the network.

### **Final remarks**

We revisited the debate about the European dimension. This year we rejected some papers concerning non-European contexts that did not attempt to relate to or compare this with European ones. We have also been careful to timetable popular symposia alongside each other to ensure a more even attendance for all. In reviewing, we recognise the European dimension applies broadly but, at the very least, papers should address issues of relevance to a European audience. No other issues were raised at the meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Nicosia in 2024.

The Conveners of EERA NW23: Peter Kelly (link-convenor), Anne Larson, Marcella Milana, Xavier Rambla and Sofia Viseu, 24th August 2023.