Minutes of the Network Seminar in Berlin 20 – 21 April, 2017

Venue: Wyndham Garden Berlin Mitte
Osloerstr. 116 a
13359 Berlin

Participants
Link Convenors: NW01 Ken Jones, NW02 Christof Nägele, NW03 Majella Dempsey, NW05 Michael Jopling, NW06 Petra Grell, NW07 Lisa Rosen, NW08 Maria Teresa Machado Vilaça, NW09 Martin Goy, NW10 M.L.White, NW12 Christoph Schindler, NW13 Paul Smeyers, NW14 Rocío García Carrión, NW15 Phillippe Masson, NW16 Ed Smeets, NW17 Helena Reibeiro de Castro, NW18 Fiona Chambers, NW19 Sofia Marques da Silva, NW20 Christian Quvang, NW22 Christine Teelken, NW23 Anna Tsatsaroni, NW24 Javier Diez Palomar, NW25 John I'Anson, NW26 Pierre Pierre Tulowitzki, NW27 Florence Ligozat, NW 28 Paolo Landri, NW29 Catarina Martins, NW30 Jutta Nikel, NW31 Irina Usanova, NW32 Petr Novotný, ERG Saneeya Qureshi
Council: Helen Phtiaka, Karmen Trasberg
Publishers: Ann Corney (Elsevier), Sharon Parkinson (Emerald), Ian White (Taylor and Francis), Justine Hope (Sage)
EXEC: Theo Wubbels, Maria Pacheco Figueiredo, Jani Ursin
Office: Angelika Wegscheider, Doretta Dow

Thursday, 20 April

1 Welcome and introductions

Warm Up: Find someone you do not know and talk to them about your expectations for the Network Seminar

2 "Meet the Publishers"

2.1 Elsevier: Ann Corney

2.2 Emerald: Sharon Parkinson

2.3 Sage: Justine Hope

2.4 Taylor and Francis: Ian White

Please find the publishers' presentations in the NW Seminar 2017 Dropbox

3 General discussion on the linking with journals, publication & Meet the editors @ ECER

Networks discussed options on how to liaise with journals. It was raised that NOT having formal membership makes it impossible to arrange free subscriptions for members, it is therefore difficult to call a journal the "official" journal of a network. Another obstacle for more formal ties was also seen in the amount of work involved in editorial tasks, e.g. turning a symposium into a special issue proposal.
Once again it was noted that not having proceedings may make it more difficult for people to get their ECER participation funded.

While links to journals were seen as a worthwhile endeavour there was also agreement that other forms of publishing should be considered as well: networks could offer their own open access journals using open source software, e.g. while some networks favoured open access (also via the big publishing houses) others mentioned that certain areas would then probably not be able to publish any more as their research is usually not funded via projects that foresee money for dissemination.

Networks asked if EERA would need a publication strategy beyond the large publishing houses and how strongly this would need to be based on open access.

Maria reminded networks that EERA is made up of different national associations and access to journals is different in the various regions and not always guaranteed. She also highlighted that since 2014 EERA has been developing a publication strategy (results of this were presented later in the seminar – new journal, methods book and book series). She also pointed out that the strategy does not force all networks to follow the same path - it is good that each network finds its own way through this challenge. A general goal would be to help the participants get funding, because there is a publication after the conference, but another goal would be to promote EERA and EERA's visibility.

3.1 "Meet the Editors" at ECER

Jani Ursin suggested that ECER should open spaces for "meet the editors" sessions. Link convenors supported the idea, but also asked that special & targeted journals would be invited, fitting to the scope of respective networks. It was decided not to wait until 2018, but to start already in 2017, if needed for a smaller group of networks. One idea was to use session rooms during lunch breaks or the morning hours, another to assign one large room for it, where 3 -4 meet the editors sessions could be held together.
Networks Link Convenors would be in charge to contact the editors, ask if they are at ECER and would be interested in arranging a meeting.
Publishers could do "meet the editors" at their exhibition spaces and will be invited to do so.

4 Reports from New Publications

4.1 European Research Method Book: Lucian Ciolan, Marit Honerød Hoveid, Angelika Paseka and Sofia Marques Silva

Sofia Marques da Silva reported that a first proposal went to the publisher SAGE.16 chapters are planned, and the finalisation is envisaged for 2019. This is going to be a unique book as it does not focus on methods, but on challenges the researchers across Europe face. This new focus is challenging for SAGE, but they did ask for something special and new. There are still some gaps that need to be covered as some challenges have not been addressed so far; also some additional countries/chapters should be included. Sofia indicates that the editors group will ask for more focused and tailored proposals to fill these gaps.

4.2 EERA Book Series: Herbert Altrichter, Dennis Beach, Helena Phtiaka, Venka Simovska, Jani Ursin, Theo Wubbels and Aniko Zsolnai.

Jani Ursin reported that the proposal for the book series is still being developed, but that also this should go to the publishers in Spring. The editorial group has received 5 proposals from Networks.

The following 3 were asked to develop the ideas into full book proposals and were thought of as being the starting issues of the book series.

- NW8 (Research on Health Education): Wellbeing and Schooling: Cross Cultural and Cross Disciplinary Perspectives
- NW25 (Research on Children's Rights in Education): Children's rights in education: International approaches to furthering the 'aims of education' through contemporary educational practices

- NW28 (Sociologies of Education): Resistances in Education

Two more networks were asked to develop their proposals for later editions.
NW 7 (Social Justice and Intercultural Education): Social justice and intercultural education: European debates
NW27 (Didactics - Learning and Teaching): Thinking through didactics in a changing world. European perspectives on learning, teaching and the curriculum.
Venka Simovska will take on the role as a lead editor and her affiliation has agreed to be supportive to the administration of the work.

4.3 European Educational Research Review: Sigrid Blömeke, Gabor Halasz, Kristiina Kumpulainen, and Gonzalo Jover

Theo reported on the process of the planned review journal, its outline is also with the publishers currently. The provisional title is "International Review of Educational Research". The aims and scope are systematic reviews of studies in education that use an international approach by providing evidence from at least two different educational systems and contribute to evidence for practice and policy. Gabor Halasz is prepared to take on the role as a lead editor, as long as his affiliation would be supportive to this.

5 Experiences of Submission and Reviewing for ECER 2017

5.1 What to do about low quality reviewers?

Pierre Tulowitzki of NW26 explained that he has been reviewing for quite a few years and this year as Link Convenor he came across reviews which he found to be problematic as they were very brief reviews, did not make use of the full range of the scale and showed a lot of differences to the second reviews attached to the papers. He asked if anyone else has had such reviews and how they dealt with that, if e.g. other networks would decide not to ask the colleague to review in future years.
Link Convenors reported on their experiences and stated that the length of a written feedback would not necessarily be decisive for the reviewing quality. Often, if a paper is good there is not a lot to say about it. But, when a paper is rejected more detailed feedback needs to be given.
If reviews were very harsh, Link convenors would of course need to react upon, e.g. write additional comments, but also either speak with the reviewer in question or address the topic within the group of reviewers in a general way. One convenor reported that she would be addressing the reviewing quality each year in the network meeting. Also with experience and knowledge one learns to pair reviewers, for example a reviewer who does not write much with a reviewer who writes a lot. If reviews differ a lot, additional comments from "the progamme committee" allow for further explanations.
Another approach was taken by the Emerging Researchers, whose Link Convenor sends special guidelines to their reviewers just before the reviewing phase starts.
The general feeling was that most networks would not expel colleagues from reviewing, but would maybe give fewer reviews to less enthusiastic reviewers and would work on the general topic of "reviewing quality".

5.2 Redirections

A second concern was the number of redirected papers. Ed Smeets, NW16, said he received 9 re-directed submissions and needed to reject 6 of them. He had the feeling some networks re-direct instead of rejecting.
Some questioned if redirections were really needed or if link convenors should be allowed to override the authors second choice, as their feeling was that partly also the second networks was not chosen wisely enough. Maria Figueiredo said that there seems to be a group of papers which potentially do not find a "home" within the existing network structure. Redirections need, therefore, to still exist.

Then the Reviewing Form and how this might invite to redirect was addressed.
For example, if a reviewer states at the beginning of the form that a Paper "does not fit the scope of the network" his "overall recommendation" is automatically set to "Redirection" in the end. Maybe that should be rethought/re-organised and the reviewer should be advised to evaluate the proposal and at only the end of the form state if a proposal should be redirected or not, this would mean that reviewers are no longer asked to "0" a submission + select "redirect" if they want to redirect, but to first evaluate the submission and then suggest to redirect as overall recommendation (to Programme Committee). Maybe reviewers should be advised that they should also state that they are unsure if a submission is well placed in the chosen network within the comments to authors, but that may raise complaints in case a submission is rejected.

Office will think through different forms on how to organise this and what would be the effects for sending out results. (in the case where the Link Convenor decides to redirect: no reviews are sent, in the case where the Link Convenor decides to accept, all comments and if chosen also the scores go out/ in case of rejection: all comments and if chosen also the scores are sent).
In general Link Convenors asked that the option to re-direct is used carefully. The current group of Link Convenors rather feels that a reviewer should be able to generally filter between weak proposals and potentially good proposals, even if the theme is not within their original field of research.

6 ECER 2017 Copenhagen

Please find the ECER 2017-Overview PowerPoint in the NW Seminar 2017 Dropbox

Angelika presented first statistics and reminded networks of the programme planning deadlines. She also described the conference venue as very modern and creative building with loads of open spaces. All but 9 seminar rooms will have a capacity for 30, the rest will be between 60 – 400. So whoever needs a larger room for certain session needs to be in touch with office.
When speaking about hotels in Copenhagen and the self-paid social event, convenors remarked on the prices and generally on Copenhagen being too expensive. There was a general fear that people would withdraw or only stay for short periods, leading to more time constraints to be considered.

This again triggered the request if and how link convenors could get more support from EERA for ensuring their stay. They would need to make themselves available throughout the full conference, which was not always supported by their universities.
Jani said that a while ago EERA had decided against a financial support beyond the free entry, but that the issue could also be raised again.

Regarding the capacity building workshops, Angelika informed Networks that currently 4 workshops were planned and said that office would inform conference participants about the opportunity of registering for these. One email will go out to all accepted authors and office will develop a registration system for the WS, including waiting lists.

Friday, 21 April

7 New Network Applications: Criteria and Procedure

Maria highlighted the decision process on new network applications, which would need the approval of Link convenors and the approval of Council, whereby Council decides after the link convenors discussed the applications. She then introduced the criteria and procedure for reviewing applications for new

networks as set up by the General Regulations and based on previous discussions. It is important that applications have or could show evidence of

a) a clear scope: a distinct and relevant thematic research field that is about Educational Research;

b) existing research on the specific topic/field: journals, other associations, conferences and meetings, research groups that show the area is relevant, solid, educational, quality research, etc.;

c) a relevant contribution to EERA's mission by expanding its already established action;

d) relationship to other networks: the new network expands research topics covered by the networks, deepens the approach to one area/topic, and/or establishes complementary relationships with existing networks;

e) attracting a significant number of researchers with relevant research activity (link and co-convenors) that is representative of European and international research on the topic/field and has previous connections to EERA: either through ECER, the national associations, the season schools or other activities.

The following discussion showed that networks were worried both about creating too many networks and also about structurally excluding certain topics. Some also asked to include the "European dimension" as a criterion for any new network, but as there was no common definition of the European dimension, EERA decided to refer in general to the European mission. Some networks suggested considering temporary working groups/standing groups instead of introducing new networks. Maria stated that EERA may have to return to this discussion, which was already on the table a while ago. She mentioned a series of joint sessions as an example of research fields which can be explored for a short time.
It was agreed that the next network seminar should again address the network structure of EERA, including exchange of experiences with sub-themes within networks.

7.1 New Network Application "Gender and Education (GEN)": Working Groups, and Discussion,

DECISION: In summary, despite the topic being challenging due to intersectionality, the Link Convenors respond positively to this new network, but asked for some editing/clarification in the submitted papers

Link Convenors were partly divided if it would be better to establish a network focusing on Gender vs strengthening the gender aspects within other networks. A new and specific network on Gender should not have the result that the topic is neglected in other networks.
The group suggesting the network will be invited to comment on how they would want to address the intersectionality of the field and will also be asked to include the people who have already been active on Gender issues within existing networks.

7.2 New Network Application "Education, Pedagogy and Psychoanalysis": Working Groups and Discussion

DECISION: While many agreed to the relevance of the suggested focus, it was also doubted that a large enough number of papers / researchers could be addressed for justifying a new network.

The general reservation was that the group would be too closed and narrow to attract a critical mass for a lively network to function. It was therefore suggested that the group should first start with nesting within NW 13, Philosophy of Education, who saw similarities in the hermeneutic approaches.

1 News from EERA Council

Theo Wubbels presented news from EERA council

- Summer schools:
  the second one to take place in Linz 2017, the next EERA summer school will then be in Brno (2018-2019)

- Council awarded Honorary Network Membership to:
  - **David Bridges** from NW 13: Philosophy of Education
  - **Linda Hargreaves** and **Rune Kvalsund** from NW14: Communities, Families, and Schooling in Educational Research
  - **Jenny Ozga** from NW 23: Policy Studies and Politics of Education
  - **Martin Lawn** from NW 28: Sociologies of Education

- EERA is still working on restructuring the general regulations (eg Emerging Researchers)

- As an association of associations, EERA recently welcomed the Ukraine as a new full member and Luxembourg as a candidate member.

- Budget: EERA is dependent on the conference income. The fee structure foresees reductions for Low GDP Countries. While the general level of GDPs went down over the last years, the EERA threshold remained the same. This is something that may need to be considered for the future.

- ECERs
  - Keynotes Bolzano are currently invited
  - The Theme for Hamburg in under discussion
  - Bids are welcome for 2020 onwards
  - EERA works on a general evaluation of the conference, to see how it fulfills its mission

- New EERA Officers
  - Treasurer (elect), Prof. **Herbert Altrichter**, Johannes Kepler University Linz (Austria)
  - President (elect), Prof. **Joe O'Hara**, Dublin City University (Ireland)

2 Reminders and Updates

Jani reminded networks that

- the General regulations induction of link convenors had been updated
- that nomination for the best poster award would again be due on Wednesday
- that if they have not been in touch with office, they need to be to ensure their free entry for Networks to ECER 2017
- there is a revised template for honorary membership (see dropbox and website)
- they still can hand in proposals for network funding until 1 June
- the dates for future ECERs are:
  - Bolzano, 3.–7.9.2018
  - Hamburg (2. – 6.9.2019)

3 AOB

New network representative on Council is to be elected in August.
The election committee will be:
Rocío García Carríon (chair)

Paolo Landri
Martin Goy

Please find the Network Seminar PowerPoint in the NW Seminar 2017 Dropbox