



**Colleges of  
Education  
Research  
Consortium  
(CERC)**

**Executive  
Committee**

**Church of Ireland  
College Rathmines**

Ruby Morrow  
Finian O'Shea

**Coláiste Mhuire  
Marino**

Seán Delaney  
Gene Mehigan  
Damien French

**Department of  
Education & Science**

Risteard O'Broin

**Froebel College  
Blackrock**

Breda O'Shea  
Patricia Kennon

**St Patrick's College  
Drumcondra**

Karl Kitching  
Mark Morgan  
Michael O'Leary  
Mary Shine Thompson

**Mary Immaculate  
College Limerick**

Jim Deegan  
Teresa O'Doherty  
John O'Flynn

**CERC website:**  
<http://www.cerc.ie/>



**CERC**

**Achievements &  
Activities**

**2003-2007**

**Introduction**

The Colleges of Education Research Consortium (CERC) was established in 2003 as a locus of information, networking and collaboration for research and research-related activities in Primary Education in Church of Ireland College of Education, Dublin; Coláiste Mhuire, Marino, Dublin; Froebel College of Education, Dublin; Mary Immaculate College, Limerick; and St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin.

CERC brings together beginning and experienced researchers from diverse research traditions and methodological approaches, thereby capitalising on the potentials and possibilities for interdisciplinary, theoretical, conceptual and applied research in areas of education such as curriculum, learning, evaluation, teaching and teacher education. Its principal aim is to create an intellectual forum and critical mass of expertise for conceptualising and doing quality research in Primary Education in Ireland.

**CERC Management**

CERC is run by an executive committee comprising of no more than four representatives of each of the five participating colleges and one representative of the DES. Committee meetings are held at least twice each year with the meetings rotating between the colleges. Each college is required to send two representatives to each meeting. A member from the college hosting acts as chair and organises for minutes to be taken. Meeting agendas and minutes are maintained in hard copy in a dedicated folder. To date the CERC executive committee has met on over twenty occasions. An important strategic planning meeting is scheduled for Nov 21, 2007 which will provide an opportunity for the members to outline a programme of work until 2010.

**2004**

The first annual conference took place on the May 26, 2004 in St Patrick's College. The Conference Theme was: *Research on teachers and teaching in Irish Primary Schools: A vision for the future.*

The president of St Patrick's College, Dr Paucic Travers, welcomed the delegates and CERC was launched by Gearoid O'Conluin, Deputy Chief Inspector (DES).

Professor Marilyn Cochran-Smith, Boston College delivered a keynote address entitled, *Research on teaching and teacher education in the US: Reflections, directions and implication.*

Dr. Larry Ludlow, Boston College presented a paper entitled, *Some methodological issues pertinent to research on teaching.*

A round table discussion followed: *Issues and trends influencing the field of teacher education and research on teacher education.*

The conference was attended by representatives from the five colleges in the Republic, the Department of Education and Science (DES) and other educationalists from colleges and universities in Ireland.

**2005**

The second annual conference took place on the May 26, 2005 in Mary Immaculate College.

The Conference Theme was: *The challenges for research on teaching and teacher education.*

The President of MIC, Dr. Peadar Cremin, provided an opening statement on the conference theme.

Dr. Marilyn Cochran-Smith delivered a keynote address entitled, *Consensus and Debate: Standards and Accountability for Teacher Education.*

Responses to the address were provided by Dr. Mark Morgan, of Saint Patrick's College and Dr. Margo O'Sullivan of Mary Immaculate College.

A question and answer session followed with the plenary group in which Professor Cochran-Smith was joined in the discussions by Professor Larry Ludlow.

The conference attended by representatives from the five colleges in the Republic, the Department of Education and Science (DES), the American Embassy, and Fulbright Ireland.

**2006**

The third annual conference took place on the June 13, 2006 in St Patrick's College.

The Conference Theme was: *Towards an agenda for research on teaching and teacher education.*

An overview of the work of the AERA panel (*Studying Teacher Education*) was presented by Dr. Marilyn Cochran-Smith, Boston College.

The attendees were divided into four groups and worked on identifying key topics for future research on teaching and teacher education in Ireland.

An overview of the agenda for research was presented by Professor John Coolahan.

There followed a plenary to provide a forum for reporting on the outcomes of the group-work and to facilitate the exchange of ideas about how to proceed with an agenda and action plan for research projects on teaching and teacher education in the Irish context.

The conference attended by delegates for the five colleges, St Mary's College, Belfast, Stranmillis College, Queens University and University of Ulster, Coleraine, the Educational Research Centre, the DES Inspectorate, the Irish National Teachers' Organisation, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, the Teaching Council and two practising primary teachers.

## 2007

The fourth annual conference took place on the June 20, 2007 in Coláiste Mhuire, Marino. The Conference Theme was: *The Role of Research in Teaching and Teacher Education in Ireland*. The President of Coláiste Mhuire, Dr. Anne O'Gara welcomed the delegates. An overview of CERC and a Review of the CERC conference in 2006 was provided by Dr Michael O'Leary.

Professor Tom Collins, St Patrick's College, Maynooth delivered a keynote address entitled, *The Future of Teacher Education*.

Presentations on the CERC Teachers' Lives projects and other projects related to research on teaching and teacher education then followed.

*Teacher Motivation and Emotions* (Dr. Mark Morgan, Karl Kitching & Dr. Michael O'Leary, St. Patrick's College)

*Individual Freedom and Conformity in Student Teachers' Lives* (Dr. Jim Deegan, Mary Immaculate College)

*Researching Characteristics of Teacher Educators* (Gene Mehigan & Seán Delaney, Coláiste Mhuire Marino)

*Partnership' Rhetoric and the Realities of Educational Research: An Argument for a Public Policy* (Dr. Ciarán Sugrue, St. Patrick's College)

*Born or made? Tracing the epiphanic moments in the development of primary teachers' understanding of what it is to be a teacher* (Regina Murphy, St. Patrick's College)

*Student Teachers' Literacy Lives* (Finian O'Shea, Church of Ireland College of Education & Siobhan Cahillane-McGovern)

*Educating Global Citizens: The role of Development Education in Teacher Education* (Dr. Claire Lyons, Mary Immaculate College)

*Children's Looking and Responding: How Should Teachers be Prepared?* (Michael Flannery, Coláiste Mhuire Marino)

The final presentation of the day was made by Dr Jim Deegan (MIC) who outlined the rationale and plan for the Teachers' Lives 2 project.

The conference was attended by delegates for the five colleges, colleges in N. Ireland, the DES Inspectorate, the Irish National Teachers' Organisation, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, the Teaching Council, Professors Mailyn Cochran-Smith, Larry Ludlow from Boston College and Professor Jim Cummins from the University of Toronto.

**Teachers Lives 1: Irish Primary Teachers' Lives: Teachers' Lives Diary Project  
(Mark Morgan & Karl Kitching)**

This project has involved three phases to date.

Phase 1: Diary (qualitative) reports on weekly job satisfaction and dissatisfaction, as well as quantitative measures of teacher self-efficacy, self-esteem and commitment to teaching. 3 weeks; 17 teachers between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year teaching (summer term, 2005).

Phase 2: Repeat of Phase 1 with 39 teachers, in the five weeks leading to Christmas 2005.

Phase 3: Interviews with 4 teachers who completed the phase two diaries on emotion work and job satisfaction; May 2007; further interviews to be conducted in November/December 2007 with 10 other teachers.

**Teacher Lives 2: Bridging Teacher and Teacher Education for Diversity Across  
Schools, Colleges and Communities.**

**(Jim Deegan)**

This project is rooted in the conviction that teaching and teacher education are interrelated and irreducible phenomena (Cochran-Smith, 1995) and that 'good teaching' requires knowledge of both subject-matter and students (and the "contextual fabric in which they meet," Larkin and Sleeter, 1995, p. 7). The project goes beyond existing projects on diversity in scale and scope through a systemic investigation of race, culture and language diversity across the teaching and teacher education continuum. It will provide data on how existing provision, pedagogies and resources are meeting the challenges of diversity and yield meaningful and useful seminal findings relevant to policy and planning for initial, induction and in-career phases across schools, colleges and communities.

**Student Teachers' Literacy Lives**

**(Finian O'Shea, CICE & Siobhan Cahillane-McGovern)**

This cross continental study attempts to document the literacy histories and practices of student teachers in specific locations in Ireland the UK and in the USA. The project began in 2003 with quantitative data being collected by way of questionnaire. Over the intervening years this data has been added to using one-on-one and group interviews.

**Student Teachers' Lives: Career Choice, Expectations and Experiences.  
(Michael O'Leary, Mark Morgan & Karl Kitching)**

Survey of First Year B.Ed St Patrick's College 2005; Survey of Second Year B.Ed St Patrick's College 2006

Survey of First Year B.Ed St Patrick's College 2006; Survey of Second Year B.Ed St Patrick's College 2007

Survey of Third Year B.Ed St Patrick's College 2008; Survey of Third Year B.Ed St Patrick's College 2009

**Characteristics of Teacher Educators**

**(Gene Mehigan and Sean Delaney)**

Survey of all those involved in teacher education in Church of Ireland College of Education, Dublin; Coláiste Mhuire, Marino, Dublin; Froebel College of Education, Dublin; Mary Immaculate College, Limerick; and St Patrick's College, Dublin.

**Student Teacher Learning**

**(Regina Murphy)**

Monthly data gathering (indepth interviews/focus group) with 12 B.Ed students in St Patrick's College September 2005 until May 2008.

**National survey investigating teachers' interest and suggestions vis-a-vis a  
professional journal of teaching.**

**(John O'Flynn)**

Pilot project currently underway in schools. Roll out the full survey in early 2008.

Paper Presentations	<p>Jim Deegan, <i>Between Finger and Thumb: Writing Emotionally in Search of Deep Politic in an Irish Teacher Education Programme</i>. AERA, 2006.</p> <p>Mark Morgan, Michael O'Leary &amp; Karl Kitching, <i>Diary Methods for the Study of Teachers' Experiences</i>. AERA, 2006.</p> <p>Michael O'Leary &amp; Mark Morgan, <i>Attitudes to the study of an academic subject to degree level in teacher education programmes. Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities and Social Sciences</i>, Dublin City University 2006.</p> <p>Mark Morgan, Karl Kitching &amp; Michael O'Leary, <i>The Psychic Rewards of Teaching: Examining Global, National and Local Influences on Teacher Motivation</i>, AERA 2007</p> <p>Karl Kitching &amp; Mark Morgan, <i>Teachers and Negative Emotional Propriety</i>, ECER, Ghent, Belgium 2007.</p> <p>Finian O'Shea &amp; Siobhan Cahillane-McGovern. <i>Student Teachers' Literacy Lives</i>, UKLA Conferences 2006 and 2007; European Reading Conference 2007.</p>
Publications	<p>Morgan, M. &amp; O'Leary, M. (2004). A study of factors associated with the job satisfaction of beginning teachers. <i>Irish Journal of Education</i>, 35, 73-86.</p> <p>Shine Thompson, M. (2005). "Skill'd to rule": the teacher and Irish literature, in <i>The world of Bryan MacMahon</i>, ed. Gabriel Fitzmaurice. Cork: Mercier Press, pp 140-162.</p> <p>Morgan, M., Ludlow, L., O'Leary, M. &amp; Kitching, K. (2007). What Makes Teachers Tick? Understanding the Motivation of Classroom Teachers. Paper submitted for review.</p> <p>Morgan, M. &amp; Kitching, K. (2007). Taking the Credit: An Exploration of the Prevalence and Consequences of Emotion Work in Teaching. Paper submitted for review.</p> <p>Morgan, M., Kitching, K. &amp; O'Leary, M. (2007). Affective Events in Early Career Teachers' Lives: An Exploration of Teacher Motivation Using Diary Methods. Paper submitted for review to <i>Teachers and Teaching: Theory and Practice</i>.</p> <p>Drudy, S., Martin, M., O'Flynn, J. &amp; Woods, M. (2005). <i>Men in the Classroom: Male Teachers in Today's Primary Schools</i>. RoutledgeFalmer: London.</p>
Collaborative Initiatives	<p>In association with CERC: <b>Conference on Minority Ethnicities and Minority Languages in Irish Education</b>. Speakers included Professor Jim Cummins, OISE Toronto, Dr. Dympna Devine, UCD and Dr. Barbara Lazenby Simpson, TCD/Integrate Ireland Language and Training</p> <p>In collaboration with the <b>Teaching Council</b>: A proposed project involving a new publication aimed at disseminating research findings to teachers and, A proposed research project on pathways into teaching</p> <p>In collaboration with the <b>DCU School of Nursing</b>: A funded project entitled Moral Distress among teachers and nurses. This is due for completion in 2008.</p>

Awards	Professor Cochran-Smyth's visit in 2005 was supported by a grant from the <b>Fulbright Commission</b> , who has nominated her a Fulbright Senior Specialist.
Professional Development	<p>The CERC executive committee organised <b>professional development days</b> during:  2005 for the staff of Colaiste Mhuire and MIC  2006 for the staff of St Patrick's College  2007 for the staff of Froebel College and CICE.</p> <p>Over 120 staff members attended sessions delivered by Marilyn Cochran-Smith and Larry Ludlow on <i>The Essence of teacher Education</i> and the Carnegie Corporation and the Ford and Annenberg Foundations sponsored, <i>Teachers for a New Era</i> initiative.</p>
Database	CERC has just begun planning for the process of compiling a <b>database of research</b> on teaching and teacher education in Ireland and elsewhere has just begun. It is envisaged that the database will provide researchers, policy makers and all those with an interest in this area with a very valuable resource. The initial stage of the work is due to be completed at the end of 2008.
CERC Website	A website ( <a href="http://www.cerc.ie">www.cerc.ie</a> ) has been developed to help the process of disseminating information about CERC and its research. The site will also be the location for accessing the database for research on teaching and teacher education.
PhD	Student: Áine Nic Gabhann Topic: Teachers in 20th century Irish literature Supervisor: Mary Shine Thompson
Reports	Kitching, K & O'Leary, M. (2007). CERC Conference Proceedings 2006. Dublin: St Patrick's College.  Drudy, S., Martin, M. O'Flynn, J., & Woods, M. (2005). <i>Gender Differences in Patterns of Entry to the Colleges of Education</i> . Report submitted to the Department of Education and Science.