

# RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3



DECEMBER 2007/  
JANUARY 2008

## DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS

### Public Lectures

5.00 - 6.30 pm

15 Norham Gardens, Seminar Rooms G & H

**Monday, 14 January 2008**

“Learning about Letters as a Foundation for Learning to Read and Spell“

Convenor: Prof Terenziha Nunes

Speaker: Dr Rebecca Treiman, Burke and Elizabeth High Baker Professor of Child Developmental Psychology,  
University of Washington St. Louis

**Monday, 21 January 2008**

To be confirmed

**Monday, 28 January 2008**

To be confirmed

**Monday, 25 February 2008**

Convenor: Prof John Furlong

Speaker: Prof Kathryn Ecclestone, Oxford Brookes University

### Quant SIG meeting

*Every Monday*

*(beginning 21 January 2008)*

Seminar Room J (Computer Lab),  
28 Norham Gardens

There are 2 parts to the SIG meetings; people can attend either or both.

\* 12.45 - 2.30pm: Discussion of advanced quantitative methods (e.g., CFA, structural equation modelling, multilevel modelling) and presentations by SIG members of new/advanced methods.

\* 2.30-4.30: Quant SIG practical workshops. This is a hands-on practical session, covering topics such as using MLwiN to conduct multilevel model analyses.

To be included in the mailing list please contact Alison O'Mara  
(alison.omara@education.ox.ac.uk)

### FELL Seminar

**Wednesday, 5 December 2007**

5.00 - 6.30 pm, Seminar Rooms K & L,  
30 Norham Gardens

Placement students from Bath University -  
dissertation presentations

### FELL Birthday Celebration

**Monday, 17 December 2008**

One-day celebration of past and present research of FELL members, including papers and posters presented by FELL graduates and current students.

More details at [www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/fell/events.php](http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/fell/events.php) or Fiona Roberts  
(Fiona.Roberts@education.ox.ac.uk).

### OSAT Seminar

**Tuesday, 22 January 2008**

5.00 - 6.30 pm, Seminar Room E

Dr Kyoko Murakami,

Centre for Sociocultural and Activity Theory Research, Department of Education,  
University of Bath

“How can discourse analysis contribute to sociocultural research?”

### OSAT Reading Group

**Tuesday, 15 January 2008**

5.00 - 6.30 pm, Seminar Room E

Chapter 7, Chapter 8 and the '36 Learning Principles' appendix of Gee, J.P. (2003) *What video games have to teach us about learning and literacy*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

For a copy of the reading, contact Heather Trevino ([research.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:research.secretary@gmail.com)).

## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 'Food for Thought', the Bruner Building Brown Bag Lunchtime Discussion Series

This informal biweekly gathering is intended to give us an opportunity to talk about our work and get to know one another in a relatively unthreatening, low pressure environment. The sessions take place on Tuesdays, from 12.45 - 2.00 pm in Seminar Room L (unless otherwise noted). If you would like to present Hilary term please contact one of us as soon as possible ( Sandra Mathers, David Mills and Vassiliki Papatsiba).

### Research Staff Forum Stammtisch

One Monday a month, all Contract Research Staff are welcome to join us for a relaxing evening out. Join our facebook group or contact Harriet Dunbar-Goddet ([harriet.dunbar-goddet@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:harriet.dunbar-goddet@education.ox.ac.uk)) or Andrea Laczik ([andrea.laczik@edstud.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrea.laczik@edstud.ox.ac.uk)) for more information. January's date to be announced.

## RESEARCH NEWS

### Reviewing Diploma Development: An Evaluation of the Design of the Diploma Qualifications

Dr Hubert Ertl (OUDE), Principal investigator ([Hubert.Ertl@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Hubert.Ertl@education.ox.ac.uk))

Dr Andrea Laczik (OUDE), Project officer ([Andrea.Laczik@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Andrea.Laczik@education.ox.ac.uk))

The White Paper *14-19 Education and Skills* (DfES, February 2005) set out reforms to ensure that young people benefit from an appropriate and engaging curriculum and qualifications offer. This includes a choice of Diploma programmes, where learners acquire a range of widely applicable skills and knowledge within the context of a specified employment sector. Diplomas will recognise achievement at levels 1, 2 and 3 along 14 lines of learning covering broad occupational areas of the UK economy. The first group of 14 Diplomas are under development, and will be implemented in three phases. The first 5 will be offered from September 2008, a further 5 in 2009, and a further 4 in 2010.

The aims of our evaluation study are twofold: (1) to provide an understanding of how Diploma specifications have been developed and the connections between development processes and development outcomes; and (2) to develop recommendations for the ongoing work on Diplomas in the second, third, and subsequent phases. The project runs from October 2007 to September 2008.

The project is funded by the Department for Children, Schools, and Families (DCSF) in collaboration with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). The project is based at the Department of Education and we collaborate with colleagues at the Centre for Education and Industry (CEI), University of Warwick.

## EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE CONFERENCE

On 22/23 November, FELL hosted the Early Years Foundation Stage Conference, the first international conference to focus on a new framework for providers who care for and teach children from birth up to school entry. The Minister for Children, Beverley Hughes MP, opened the two-day conference. This conference attracted some of the world's leading educational experts including Professor Lilian Katz, from the University of Illinois, and Professor Ingrid Pramling-Samuelsson, from the University of Goteborg who is President elect of OMEP World Organization of Preschool Education. Interest in attending the conference was enormous and both days filled up quickly.

## RESEARCH OFFICE

### Copy Date for February Research Newsletter:

The deadline for submissions for the next Research Newsletter is 24th January 2008. Please send items to the Research Office, which can be contacted by email at [research.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:research.secretary@gmail.com), by telephone on 01865 284 898 or in person in Room NG.10.53 of 15 Norham Gardens.