



World Education Research Association

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the World Education Research Association (WERA)

Issue 1 / 2017

## Highlights



WERA Council Meeting and Symposia at APERA-TERA, Taiwan, Nov 2016



Upcoming WERA Council Meeting at AERA, San Antonio, May 2017



WERA Focal Meeting, Hong Kong, Nov 2017: Call for Submissions



WERA/AERA Convene Meeting of the Americas, Washington, Sept 2016

## Welcome from President of WERA



As President of the World Education Research Association (WERA), I am excited to introduce the launch of WERA's first quarterly newsletter. You'll find that it is filled with WERA information, events and news. We want this newsletter to be valuable for you, so *please* share

your feedback and suggestions.

In 2009, WERA was formed as an international association of associations to advance education research worldwide. WERA aims to exchange ideas and scholarship on education research, develop networks, and promote collaborations among scholars on an international scale. A major goal of WERA is to build capacity, and support communities of scholars in developing countries and the global South. The World Education Research Association (WERA) is an association of 22 national, regional, and international specialty research associations aimed at advancing education research as a scientific and scholarly field.

Currently, we welcome the active engagement of associations and individual members. With the change in [Executive Committee Officers](#) on July 1 2016, I want to say to all of you how honored I am to continue to serve WERA now as President. On behalf of the incoming officers, we welcome this opportunity. I want to thank in particular Sari Lindblom-Ylänne for her wonderful leadership over the past two years as President and to YC Cheng and John Lee, Past President and Vice President, who we expect to continue to remain active and engaged in WERA. Their contributions were substantial. With Ingrid Gogolin as President Elect, Sari as now Past President, and Yunus Eryaman as Vice President, along with Liesel Ebersöhn providing absolutely invaluable leadership as Secretary General, the WERA Executive Committee aims to support WERA Council in its important role.

I very much look forward to working with you as we further advance education research and the capacity of our field worldwide.

Sincerely,

**Felice J. Levine**

*President, World Education Research Association*

## WERA Elects New President-Elect and Vice President

Two outstanding scholars have been elected to serve as officers of WERA in the positions of President-Elect (**Prof Ingrid Gogolin**) and Vice President (**Prof Mustafa Yunus Eryaman**) with effect from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2018. The President-Elect's term as President commences on July 1, 2018. Please [click here](#) for more information about the newly elected officers.



President-Elect:  
Ingrid Gogolin



Vice President:  
Mustafa Yunus Eryaman

## WERA Council Meeting and Symposia at APERA-TERA 2016



The [Fourteenth WERA Council Meeting](#) took place in Kaohsiung, Taiwan on November 12, 2016. Member association's in attendance were AERA; ANPED; COMIE; EASA; ERAS; GERA; HKERA; JERA; KERA; MAE; AMIE; PERA; SAERA; TERA-Taiwan and TERA-Turkey. WERA furthermore, sponsored a set of symposia sessions during the [APERA-TERA Conference in Kaohsiung](#), Taiwan from November 10 -12, 2016 and David Osher (American Institutes for Research, United States) presented a workshop on Measuring Conditions for Learning Worldwide. Please [click here](#) for more information on the symposia and [workshop](#).



## Call for Submissions: WERA Focal Meeting & HKERA International Conference 2017

*"Innovation, Reform and Education Change in a Contemporary World"*



30 November – 2 December 2017 at The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), Hong Kong

The World Education Research Association (WERA) invites submissions for papers and symposia for the [WERA Focal Meeting](#) to be held in Hong Kong on 30 November to 2 December, 2017. The WERA 2017 Focal Meeting is an integral part of the Hong Kong Educational Research Association (HKERA) International Conference 2017 and consists of a program of paper and symposia sessions on topics of world-wide scope that are embedded in the conference of a WERA member association.

WERA symposia and paper sessions are intended to complement and extend those presented at the HKERA conference under the HKERA Call for Submissions. In general, the WERA Focal Meeting seeks to feature research that includes more than one country or is comparative, cross-cultural, international, or transnational in conceptualization, scope, or design. [Paper submissions](#) need to meet these criteria; [symposia submissions](#) can include papers from single sites or countries as long as the presentations combined are from different countries and the aims of the symposium are anchored in worldwide or global issues. Duplicate submission through the HKERA and WERA online submission systems is not allowed.

The Call for Submissions is posted on the [WERA website](#). Please note that the Call includes an invitation to submit proposals for individual papers and symposia. The online submission system can be found on the [WERA-HKERA website](#).

## WERA Invited Keynote and Symposia Presentations 2016

The WERA Keynote and Symposia Planning Committee organizes keynote and symposia presentations at conferences of member associations. Invited Symposiums and Keynotes in 2016 included the following:

### Invited WERA Symposium @ GERA, 13-16 March 2016 Kassel Germany

The title of this Symposium was 'Movers in Educational Space'. The Symposium addressed the burning issue of wars, natural disasters and hunger as well as the consequence of refugees and the question, in what ways the (national) education systems reacted to this in history/worldwide. The HIV&AIDS pandemic and the associated high poverty challenges have required of education research, policy makers and so forth to not only be reactive but also proactive. Is education research well-placed to give advice and support in such constellations, or is it rather not because of the 'inertia' of categories and schemata that set the frame for it?



Three invited speakers and one discussant formed part of the Symposium: Prof Dr Louis Henri Seukwa, Dr Frank van Tubergen, Prof Linda Theron, and Prof Sara Dryden-Peterson.

### Invited WERA Symposium @ CIMIE, Seville, 30 June-1 July 2016

2016 CIMIE Annual Meeting hosted a WERA Invited Symposium that took place as part of the closing session on July 1st 2016 in Seville (Spain). The Symposium focused on Social Impact of Educational Research from four different national perspectives. The speakers and the discussant opened a global discussion on how educational research may achieve social impact in disadvantaged communities across the globe.



Veronica Villaran, Sociedad de Investigación Educativa Peruana (Peru) addressed the question 'What we mean when we talk about social impact?' and raised the implications of interventions, programs or policies in diverse communities. Camille M. Wilson, University of Michigan, talked about 'Developing Inclusive School-Family Partnerships: A U.S. Case on the Relevancy of Race in Educational Ideologies, Practices, & Policies'. The third speaker was Jo Lampert, Queensland University of Technology (Australia) presented the impact of the program she is the co-director the Australian National Exceptional Teachers for Disadvantaged Schools Program (NETDS). The three presentations were followed by Roseli Rodrigues de Mello, Universidade Federal de São Carlos (UFSCar) who offered some critical comments and questions on the topics discussed. The symposium was chaired by Rocío García-Carrión, President of AMIE and member of WERA. It was very well attended with more than 250 delegates in the Main Hall of the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Seville

### Invited WERA Symposium @ ECER 2016, University College Dublin 22-26 August, 2016

The title of this Symposium was 'Global challenges for international research in didactics – learning and teaching: epistemological, pedagogical and methodological issues and questions'. This symposium addressed some key global challenges for international research in didactics – learning and teaching and also consider some of the associated epistemological, pedagogical and methodological issues and questions that arise in this process. In doing perspectives from the UK, South Africa and Australia were included.

The first paper addressed issues of social justice and human rights in education by focussing on the relation between equitable learning and epistemic quality and illustrated this through a focus on developing mathematical thinking in the primary classroom in the UK. The second paper addressed vocational education and training (VET) from a context in South Africa. The question was raised as to whether there are distinct pedagogies in vocational education and training and the needs of teachers who 'face both ways' in relation to the classroom and the workplace were considered. The third paper from Australia addressed methodological issues in relation to international comparative research. In particular, it proposed that pursuit of commensurability through the imposition of a general classificatory framework misrepresents the way in which valued performances and school knowledge are actually conceived by each community and sacrifices validity in the interest of comparability. The invited speakers and discussant formed part of the Symposium:

- On the relation between epistemic quality and equitable learning in the mathematics classroom: Brian Hudson, Sussex University
- Vocational pedagogy or just good teaching? Education research and the development of a knowledge base for training TVET teachers: Volker Wedekind, University of the Witwatersrand
- International comparative research: Constructing and concealing difference: David John Clarke, University of Melbourne
- Discussant: Kirsti Klette, University of Oslo

### **WERA Keynote Address @ The International Conference on Education Research for Development in Africa (ICERDA), 3-5 October 2016.**



Liesel Ebersöhn (Director: The Centre for the Study of Resilience, Faculty of Education, University of Pretoria, South Africa) presented a WERA Keynote Address "Education research in challenging contexts: resilience

and cultural capital as a vision for sustainable development in Africa" at the International Conference on Education Research for Development in Africa (ICERDA). The conference was held 3-5 October 2016 at the Alisa Hotel in Accra, Ghana.

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## **Doctoral and Early Career Network**

The purpose of the [Doctoral and Early Career Network \(DEC\)](#) is to provide doctoral and early career scholars the opportunity to network with and meet each other, as well as to build relationships with expert researchers in the field of education. The purpose of the Doctoral and Early Career Network (DEC) is to provide doctoral and early research career scholars the opportunity to network with and meet each other, as well as to build relationships with expert researchers in the field of education.

Prof Mustafa Yunus Eryaman (WERA Vice President, July 2016 – June 2018) is the senior mentor for the DEC. In our last WERA Council meeting in Kaoshiung, Taiwan, the council discussed what organizational structure would be most effective for the DEC Network. It was concluded that every WERA member association should be represented in the Network by one emerging researcher.

We have asked all associations to identify an early career scholar who can be part of the leadership of the DEC Network and serve as an important liaison between WERA and the association. If you haven't done so yet, it would be most helpful if you would send the name and contact information of your association's representative for the Doctoral and Early Career Network to the WERA Secretariat at [WERA@aera.net](mailto:WERA@aera.net).

There is no one single definition of an Emerging Researcher. However, in the Council meeting, emerging researchers were broadly defined as masters and Ph.D. students, and those with up to 4 to 5 years of postdoctoral experience.

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## IRN Call for WERA-IRN Proposals, October 2016

The World Education Research Association (WERA) invited proposals to establish possible new [International Research Networks \(IRNs\)](#). The purpose of WERA-IRNs is to advance education research worldwide on specific scholarly topics. IRNs are collaborative groups of scholars working on a specific research topic primarily through virtual communication or other channels. IRNs synthesize knowledge, examine the state of research, and stimulate collaborations or otherwise identify promising directions in research areas of worldwide significance. Sixteen IRN proposal, from various institutions and countries, were submitted to the IRN Committee in October 2016. Proposals had to adhere to set criteria and standards. The review process of the submitted proposals is currently underway by the [WERA International Research Network Committee](#).

## AERA and WERA Convene Meeting of the Americas Education Research Associations, September 2016



On September 8–10 2016, AERA and the World Education Research Association (WERA) jointly convened the first-ever meeting of education research associations in the Americas. The meeting, held in Washington, D.C., brought together 23 representatives from 16 associations and related research organizations from throughout the Americas.

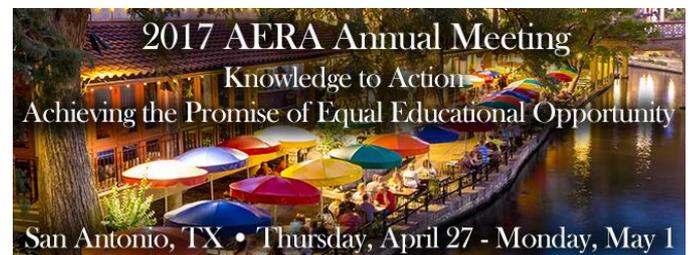
The overall aims of the meeting were to (1) share information about the substantive issues and emphases of education research in these countries, (2) consider

burning issues and research priorities, (3) discuss the organizational structure of education research in each country, and (4) address substantive research topics and scholars, including those cross-cutting beyond each country's borders. Based on discussion and exchange, the meeting participants developed possible topics for a series of Americas symposia to be held at the San Antonio meeting in April 2017. Each symposium will focus on research areas or issues across the Americas.

At the conclusion of the first full day of meeting, participants unanimously adopted the following resolution:

*"On this 9th day of September in the city of Washington, D.C., in the United States, 16 Americas associations and related organizations unanimously affirmed a commitment to work together to advance education research in the Americas and worldwide, building upon the capacities that reside in the Americas and a commitment to their use."*

## WERA Council Meeting at AERA Annual Meeting, May 2017



We encourage you to participate in the 2017 AERA Annual Meeting to be held Thursday, April 27 – Monday, May 1 in San Antonio, TX *"Knowledge to Action: Achieving the Promise of Equal Educational Opportunity."* [Click here for more information on the AERA meeting.](#)

The next WERA Council Meeting will take place during the AERA Conference in San Antonio on Tuesday, May 2, 2017.

## Connect with the World Education Research Association (WERA):



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