

### News Bulletin May 2016

Once again, there seems to be a lot of news to report!

- Turana Aliyeva from Baku State University, Azerbaijan visited the Centre on the 9-12th May. Turana is interested in developing a Research Centre with a focus on professional learning in her own university, which is in the process of reforming its traditional 'soviet style' of teaching and keen to develop a more innovative research culture. We hope to be able to source some funding for a reciprocal visit to consolidate the link and develop plans for further engagement.
- Karen Mattick visited the CRADLE research centre at the University of Helsinki, whose research focusses on Activity, Development and Learning (<http://www.helsinki.fi/cradle/>). She gave a seminar presentation and attended a number of their research centre events. Interestingly, one of our current PhD students in CRPL, Angelique Hilli, studied for her Masters degree at CRADLE. The visit has resulted in a collaboration to present a joint paper for the European Group for Organisational Studies next summer, using Activity Theory to explore tensions in the process of prescribing antibiotics by junior doctors.
- Rob Freathy has had an article published at The Conversation UK on ["Future of religious education under threat from drive to make all schools academies"](#).
- Sarah Dyer, who hosted the last Research Tea, told us about a research project that she undertook for the Higher Education Academy, using appreciative inquiry, and leading to the development of some very nice resources for educators called Appreciate cards. These are now available on the [Higher Education Academy website](#).
- The Mike Baker Doctoral Scholarship Scheme Seminar, which will be co-hosted by CRPL and the Higher Education Academy has been confirmed for Tuesday 26th July from 11-3.00 pm in SC 3.06 (third floor, South Cloisters Building, St Luke's Campus). At this seminar, those PhD students in higher education research who have successfully completed their Mike Baker Doctoral Programmes will present their work. Further details and instructions for registration will be circulated by the HEA.
- The publishing of the White Paper ['Success as a Knowledge Economy: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice'](#) has important implications for professional learning within universities and our core members that research Higher Education are busy considering the implications of that document for practice and research.
- There will be an 'Extraordinary Research Tea' on Thursday 14th July from 4.30 to 6.00 pm for Centre members and teachers, to enable us to learn from the teachers what they would want membership of ExPLAIN to involve and become.

- Following our BERA Research Commission seminars on, “Cost, Value and Quality in Professional Learning: promoting economic literacy in medical and teacher education”, we are in the process of confirming a date for a webinar to follow up on those discussions.
- More conference papers have been accepted since the last newsletter. They can be viewed on the [Centre’s news and events](#) webpage.

## Research Tea



The next Research Tea in the programme will be on Tuesday 7th June Room BC212 at 3.30 – 5.00 pm, St Luke’s Campus. [Dr Karen Walshe](#) will facilitate the conversation: *Co-construction, co-design and collaboration: developing a professional learning community in schools*. Please bring along a hot drink and we will provide cake!

Do let us know if you have recent presentations, publications or grant applications that we can highlight in future newsletters.

*Vivienne and Karen*

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Vivienne Baumfield  
Professor of Professional Learning  
Co-leader of the Centre for  
Research in Professional Learning  
[v.baumfield@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:v.baumfield@exeter.ac.uk)

Karen Mattick  
Professor of Medical Education  
Co-leader of the Centre for  
Research in Professional Learning  
[K.L.Mattick@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:K.L.Mattick@exeter.ac.uk)