

News Bulletin December 2015

Defining the scope of our Research Centre

In the last news bulletin, we explained that we were conducting a scoping exercise by inviting colleagues to identify what is 'in' and 'out' in terms of their own interest in professional learning and membership of CRPL. The challenge is to balance inclusivity with coherence, and to play to our strengths such as being well placed to compare and contrast developments across sectors, for example teacher education and medical education. The most recent version, which we invite you to comment on, is as follows: *"Members of the Centre for Research in Professional Learning (CRPL) share an interest in comparing and contrasting experiences of learning across different professional contexts. Our research focuses on understanding the relationship between formal and informal learning at key transition points in a professional career, with a view to improving outcomes. In particular, the interplay of theory and practice in decision making, the exercise of judgement in the uncertain and complex situations characteristic of professional work across disciplines, and the boundaries around professional work (including work/life balance) are of interest to us. CRPL seeks to develop innovative approaches to professional learning and support and promote partnerships to maximise value"*.

BERA Research Commission

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded one of three BERA Research Commissions: <https://www.bera.ac.uk/project/bera-research-commissions>. The stated aim of the BERA Research Commissions are to: *'identify and address issues of current importance to the study and practice of education. The Commissions will explore how educational research can respond to the challenges and opportunities raised by the changing nature of education across the four nations. The Commissions' findings will provide both theoretical rigour and an evidence base that can help set the strategic direction and aspirations of BERA and influence how it engages with other learned societies, Research Councils, Government and the education community more broadly'*. Our research commission is entitled **'Cost, Value and Quality in Professional Learning: promoting economic literacy in medical and teacher education'**. It will invite a series of 'expert witnesses', representing a range of perspectives, to contribute to the interrogation of the types of evidence used in the evaluation of the relationship between the cost of provision for professional learning and impact on the value and quality of education. The overarching theme will be addressed in two intersecting contexts: the interface of education with economics, and between teacher education and medical education.

Research Teas



The Research Teas are opportunities for anyone interested in research in professional learning to get together and share ideas in an informal setting. They also provide an opportunity for members of the Exeter Professional Learning and Inquiry Network (ExPLAIN) to meet physically and build links between research, policy and practice. **The research teas are held on the St Luke's Campus of the University of Exeter on the first Tuesday of the month at 3.30 pm.** The sessions begin with a short

introduction from a member of the group focusing on a particular area of interest; a topical issue, an area of current research, ideas they are interested in developing in the future or indeed anything in the field of professional learning that they want to share. The next Research Tea of the 2015/16 session will be on the 1st December and will look at 'School-University Partnerships for Professional Learning' led by Emese Hall, a core member of CRPL. Please see the attached invitation; we do hope you can join us.