

# ***First Call for papers***

**ESREA: The 8th European Research Conference**

***Imagining diverse futures for adult education:  
questions of power and resources of creativity***



## **Date**

**8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

## **Venue**

**Maynooth University, National University of Ireland  
Department of Adult Education & Community Education**

## Conference themes

### *Imagining diverse futures for adult education: questions of power and resources of creativity*

In the era of lifelong learning adult education has acquired a new prominence. Across the world the amount of time adults spend in education has steadily increased and new policy imperatives – often linked to notions such as the ‘knowledge economy’– has made adult education and adult learning major topics of research.

Within the body of research which has emerged from the dynamic and diverse field of modern adult education – in vocational, further, community, continuing and higher education as well as in civil society – **power** has always been a major concern. In particular there is a longstanding interest in the relationship between education and progressive social change. In a period of crisis characterised by deepening inequalities, a rise in racism and xenophobia, and in which we face grave ecological threats these questions of power and change have acquired a new urgency and relevance. We invite participants to submit papers on these topics and also to investigate a range of other questions related to power. Including but not limited to: how does power work in and through adult education? What is shaping and driving policy and what impact can adult education hope to have on socio-cultural, economic and political inequalities? How have shifts in economics, technology, work, migration and culture reconfigured adult education and learning? How is the ‘necessity’ to learn through the lifecourse affecting how students and educators think about education and how has the new language of standards and outcomes, which has become ubiquitous, reshaped conceptions of learning? And how can we, in the light of these changes, effectively research and theorise the complex, often ambivalent and sometimes fraught nature of student and practitioner experience in contemporary education?

Discussions and analyses of power can lead to a sense of private powerlessness in the face of seemingly intractable public issues. Resources of hope, however, reside in our capacities for reflexivity, imagination and creativity; capacities which allow us to question and trouble the givens of public discourses that limit our thinking, feeling and acting. Therefore we also wish to invite contributions on **creativity** in adult education and learning. This of course includes papers which explore the link between adult learning and creative forms of political agency but we mean more than this. We are interested the various definitions, sources, and uses of creativity and how this operates on different scales. How is, and can, creativity be used in classrooms, institutions and research? How can creativity – in language, practices and relationships – in formal and informal settings enhance adult learning? What histories and intellectual legacies can be drawn upon to feed a sense of creativity? Where are the new paradigms of practice and inquiry in adult education that combines the critical and the creative and challenge epistemologies and psychologies that erase the endless complexity and intrigue of subjectivities? In particular the conference wishes to foster conversations which explore how arts and narrative-based methodologies and new media are being used in adult education research and practice.

Participants may wish to explore either of these themes separately but the organisers especially welcome contributions that analyse and explore the relationship between power and creativity. The overall aim of the 2016 ESREA Triennial conference is to create a rich and layered dialogue about possibility and power, and to identify agentic ways to engage with our field. This dual focus brings us to the third theme of the conference – **the future of adult education**. Contributions which explicitly address this topic are also sought. By exploring questions of power and identifying resources of creativity we hope to create a collaborative, critical and imaginative space in which participants can envisage and discuss a diverse *range* of futures for adult education.

## Abstracts

Researchers on adult education and adult learning from various sectors and disciplines are invited to submit abstracts addressing the conference themes. Please note contributions from colleagues outside of Europe are very welcome.

The conference will feature a range of discussion and presentation formats including plenaries, papers, poster sessions, symposia, workshops and roundtables. In submitting an abstract please clearly specify at the beginning of the abstract whether it is a 1) paper 2) a poster session 3) a symposium 4) a workshop or 5) a roundtable that is being proposed.

**Paper** and **poster** presentations proposals should be no more than 500 words and include information on aims/objectives; main perspective or theoretical/conceptual framework; methods, research design, mode of inquiry; data sources or evidence; results and/or conclusions; significance in connection to the conference themes.

A **Symposium** should include a 500 word summary of the overall proposal specifying aims/objectives; main perspective or theoretical/conceptual framework; significance in connection to the conference theme, and a description of how the session will be structured, and a 200-250 word description of each individual presentation.

A **Workshop** proposal should include a 500 word summary describing the objectives, the target audience, planned activities, significance in connection to the conference theme, a description of how the session will be structured, and a list of equipment or room set-up requirements.

A **Roundtable** proposal should include a 500 word summary of the overall proposal specifying aims/objectives; a description of how the session will be structured; a 100 word description of the contribution of each participant; and significance in connection to the conference themes.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2016**.

The Scientific Committee of ESREA 2016 is responsible for the selection of the submitted abstracts. Latest notification of acceptance is **4<sup>th</sup> March 2016**. Please submit abstracts in two separate files: one including the title, type of session, the name, address, e-mail of each author; and the second one including the paper title and abstract. Please send your abstract in RTF-format. Abstracts should be submitted to [esrea2016@nuim.ie](mailto:esrea2016@nuim.ie). For details of the membership of the Scientific Committee, please see <http://content.web.nuim.ie/esrea>

## Papers/Contributions

Completed papers and other contributions should be submitted by **15<sup>th</sup> July 2016** and sent to: [esrea2016@nuim.ie](mailto:esrea2016@nuim.ie). Please send your paper in RTF-format. The final paper should be 5000 - 7000 words. Papers which are submitted as part of a symposium or a roundtable session should not be more than 4000 words. Further details and style guidelines will be available at <http://content.web.nuim.ie/esrea>.

## Information for Contributors of Abstracts

A proposal is submitted in the form of an abstract by one person. Up to three other people can be named as co-authors in the abstract proposal. For each participant, a maximum of two such proposals may be submitted in which the person is named as an author or co-author. The abstract proposal must indicate which of the named authors will be presenting the paper. All those authors attending must register for the ESREA 2016 Conference. The author or one of the named co-authors is responsible for communicating with the ESREA Conference Organizers about the paper. The conference organizers will allocate facilitators and, where appropriate, discussants for papers. For symposia and roundtables one designated participant should liaise with the organizers on behalf of all the participants for their session.

Accepted abstracts will be downloadable in PDF-format on the ESREA 2016 Conference website: <http://content.web.nuim.ie/esrea>. Given the focus on creativity in adult education, we are cognizant that different media may be appropriate for presentation. It will be recorded in an appropriate format (i.e. audio- and visual means) with the consent of presenter(s) and participants. Conference papers and presentations will be downloadable from a website which will be only accessible to conference participants.

## Criteria for Review of Abstracts

Abstracts for papers and other types of sessions are welcome from *all* fields of research on adult learning.

The criteria used in reviewing each abstract will be as follows:

- Should be connected to the education and learning of adults;
- Should make reference to a theoretical framework, involve systematic enquiry of an analytic or empirical nature;
- Background, method, results and implications should be set out clearly in a manner which is accessible to an international audience.

The same criteria will be used for workshops, symposia and roundtables as well as the additional criterion:

- Clear description of the rationale and format for the session

## Language

The abstract, the paper and its presentation should be in English. Simultaneous translation will not be available in plenary sessions. However, where possible, in line with the ESREA language policy, efforts will be made to provide some translation in the parallel sessions. Please bear in mind when presenting a paper that you are speaking to an international audience, the majority of whom may not be familiar with your own country let alone its adult educational system. Please avoid the use of acronyms and do not use expressions which relate to your adult educational system/learning setting without providing a contextual explanation.

## Publication

Submitted papers will be made available electronically on a password protected site shortly before the conference. The Scientific Committee and conference organizers will consider a number of papers/contributions for inclusion in an edited collection for publication.

### Important dates 2016

Deadline for submission of abstracts **15th January 2016**

Acceptance of abstracts will be confirmed **4th March 2016**

Deadline for early bird registration (If payment have not been received by this date, the higher fee will be applicable) **8th April 2016**

Final deadline for registration and payment of the conference fee **15th June 2016**

Final papers must be submitted **15th July 2016**

Date of 2016 Phd pre-conference **7th September 2016**

Date of 2016 conference **8th – 11th September 2016**

## Registration

Please register at our website at <http://content.web.nuim.ie/esrea>

Registration will begin on **6<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

## Conference Fees

Conference Fees	
<i>ESREA-members:</i>	
Early Bird [registering before 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2016]	€180
Registering after 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	€250
<i>Non-members:</i>	
Early Bird [registering before 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2016]	€230
Registering after 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	€280
<i>Phd students:</i>	
Early Bird [registering before 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2016]	€100
Registering after 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	€150
Conference Dinner (per person)	€ 40

The conference fee includes conference pack, refreshments and light lunches.

### ***Pre-Conference for PhD students***

A pre-conference for Phd students will be held on the opening day of the conference on **7<sup>th</sup> September 2016** including masterclasses and workshops. Affordable budget accommodation will be available for doctoral students attending the conference.

### ***Conference Dates***

The conference will be held from **8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of September**. The conference will take place on Maynooth University campus. A number of optional cultural activities and events in Dublin and Maynooth are also planned outside of the main conference schedule for conference delegates on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Keynote speakers***

To be confirmed. Details will be made available on <http://content.web.nuim.ie/esrea>

## ***Bursaries and Support for Participating Graduate Students***

As a way to support graduate student's participation in the conference, there will be several bursaries available in the form of free accommodation during the entire conference. To be able to apply, one needs to be a graduate student (e.g. doctoral student, Masters student); a member of ESREA (either individual or covered by an institutional membership) and one need to submit a paper to the main conference. The bursary will cover accommodation costs at Maynooth.

Applications or questions regarding the application procedure should be directed to [esrea2016@nuim.ie](mailto:esrea2016@nuim.ie). please include the words Bursary Application in the subject line.

### ***ESREA membership***

Membership of ESREA is open to all individuals and institutions engaged or interested in research on the education of adults and adult learning. PhD students are actively encouraged to become active individual members of ESREA.

Members of ESREA benefit from reduced registration fees for ESREA networks and conferences. PhD students are encouraged to participate in all the activities of ESREA. A limited number of bursaries are available to support PhD students at ESREA networks and conferences. The ESREA Scientific Committee has decided to award a prize for the best paper presented by a PhD student at the triennial conferences. Members will also receive the ESREA newsletter several times each year with information on forthcoming ESREA activities, conferences and new books within the field of adult education and much more.

Membership fees for a year is:

Individual member = € 50

PhD student members = € 25 (PhD students who have full time positions as lecturers should pay the full membership fee)

Institutional members = € 150

To become a members of ESREA fill out the form available at: [www.esrea.org](http://www.esrea.org)

### ***Getting there***

Maynooth is situated 27 km outside of Dublin. Flying into Dublin is straightforward and usually affordable and there are direct flights from most large European cities.

It is 25 minutes from Maynooth from the airport by taxi. There are also regular buses running from the airport to the city centre and from the city centre to Maynooth. The train trip from Dublin city to Maynooth takes forty five minutes, runs regularly and is affordable.

For further details on transport, see <http://content.web.nuim.ie/esrea>

## ***Accommodation***

Accommodation will be available in Maynooth at special delegate rates and a wide range of accommodation options are available in Dublin city.

Details will be posted on the website <http://content.web.nuim.ie/esrea>