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Earli Association News

European Association For Research on Learning and Instruction

EARLI started the year 2008 with a brand new initiative: we organised our very first EARLI Advanced Study Colloquium that took place from 14 until 18 January in Stellenbosch, South Africa. EARLI hopes to start a new tradition and has decided to organise at least one Advanced Study Colloquium (ASC) per year. You can find out more about the organisation of and participation in an ASC in this Association News and of course on the EARLI website. Besides this new initiative, EARLI has many more upcoming events this year. Nearly every Special Interest Group organises its biennial conference in 2008 and we have a 3rd edition of the Practice-Based and Practitioner Research conference, taking place in Bergen, Norway from 26 until 28 November. Indeed, also in 2008 EARLI will create lots of opportunities to meet your colleagues in the field of Educational Research. If you would like to become more involved in the EARLI association, you can visit our website for further information on becoming a SIG coordinator, establishing a new SIG, publishing in our journals, submitting a proposal for the writing of an EARLI position paper, etc.

1. Report of the 1st advanced study colloquium

The first EARLI Advanced Study Colloquium took place from 14 to 18 January. The theme of this colloquium was 'Research on cultural Differences and the Influence on Education in Teaching and Teacher Education'. Six professors and six PhD students gathered in the beautiful university of Stellenbosch in South Africa. Often referred to as the 'rainbow nation', South Africa was the perfect setting for an in-depth scientific discussion on cultural differences within education. The professors presented a review article of their research into cultural differences and the junior researchers presented (a part of) their research, based on a full paper. An evaluation of the event showed that these small-scale meetings are experienced as very useful and interesting, allowing the participants to focus on their research activities and receive valuable feedback from colleagues in their research field. Especially for the junior researchers, it was a great learning experience, providing them with an opportunity to meet experts in a small group setting. Are you curious about our future ASCs or maybe interested in organising an ASC yourself? We will keep you informed through the EARLI mailing list and all information will be available on the EARLI website.

2. Conferences organised by EARLI's special interest groups

The EARLI Special Interest Groups represent a group of researchers who study one or more parts and/or aspects of the field of Learning and Instruction. The SIGs are responsible for activities such as seminars, newsletters and publications and they give substance to the conference themes of the biennial conference. The EARLI SIGs propose the invited speakers for the EARLI biennial conference and every other year, they organise a SIG conference.

Below you can find a list of the SIG biennial conferences that are scheduled in 2008. We are looking forward to meeting you at one of these events!

Author <http://www.earli.org>,

SIG 1

The biennial SIG 1 meeting will take place at the Seminaris Seehotel in Potsdam (<http://www.seminaris.de/potsdam>) from 27 to 29 August 2008. It is the Fourth Biennial EARLI/Northumbria Assessment Conference hosted by IQB, Humboldt University, Berlin.

Conference theme: **Challenging Assessment.**

Conference website: <http://www.iqb.hu-berlin.de/veranst/enac2008>

SIG 2

The biennial SIG 2 Text and Graphics conference will be organised by/at Tilburg University, the Netherlands from 27 to 29 August 2008.

Conference theme: **Exploiting the opportunities: Learning with textual, graphical and multimodal representations.**

Conference website: <http://www.earlisig2-2008.org/>

SIG 3

The 6th International Conference on Conceptual Change will be held from 23 to 25 August 2008 in the city of Turku, Finland.

Conference theme: **Conceptual Change across Disciplines: Theoretical and Applied Issues.**

Conference website: <http://www.otuk.utu.fi/konferenssit/cc2008/>

SIG 4

SIG 4 is organising a meeting for the discussion of SIG members' work in progress in association with the 7th International Scholarship of Teaching and Learning conference. The conference will take place in London on 15 and 16 May 2008. The SIG sessions within the conference will have a similar format to the previous SIG meeting, where several papers were discussed in round table sessions.

Conference website: <http://www.city.ac.uk/ceap/sotlconference/index.html>

If you wish to participate in the SIG meeting, please register for the main conference but APPEND 'EARLI' TO YOUR SURNAME so that the conference organisers know that you are coming to the SIG event.

SIG 6 and SIG 7

20–22 June, 2008, Heerlen, the Netherlands

Combined Meeting of the AECT Division Research & Theory and the EARLI SIG 6 Instructional Design and SIG 7 Learning and Instruction with Computers:

Conference theme: **Instructional Design for complex learning: whole-task versus part-task approaches.**

Conference website: <http://www.ou.nl/eCache/DEF/1/84/525.html>

3–5 September, 2008, Salzburg, Austria

EARLI SIG 7 Learning and Instruction with Computers in cooperation with SIG 6 Instructional Design announces the conference:

Beyond knowledge: the legacy of competence

Meaningful computer-based learning environments

Conference website: <http://www2.sbg.ac.at/earli2008/>

SIG 8

21–23 August 2008, Turku, Finland

Biennial SIG Motivation meeting.

Conference theme: **Motivation in Action.**

The 2nd Summer School on Motivation will be held from 18th to 20th of August, 2008 in the University of Turku, Finland.

Conference website: <http://www.otuk.utu.fi/conferences/icm2008>

SIG 9

22–24 May 2008, Kristianstad, Sweden

SIG Workshop Phenomenography and Variation Theory

Conference theme: **Implications of Phenomenography and Variation Theory in Practice.**

Conference website: <http://www.distans.hkr.se/sig9/home/EARLI.htm>

SIG 10-SIG 15-SIG 21

19-20 May 2008, Göteborg, Sweden

Joint SIG Conference:

SIG 10 Social Interaction in Learning and Instruction and

SIG 15 Special Educational Needs

SIG 21 Learning And Teaching In Culturally Diverse Settings

Conference theme: Social interaction, Learning and Diversity.

Contact: eva.hjorne@ped.gu.se

SIG 11

17-20 August 2008, Fribourg, Switzerland

EARLI SIG 11 Teaching and Teacher Education Conference

Contact: karin.buchs@unifr.ch

SIG 12

The 11th International Conference of the EARLI SIG on Writing will be held at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Sweden, from 11 until 13 June 2008.

Conference website: <http://sigwriting2008.sol.lu.se>

SIG 13

SYMPOSIUM OF THE EARLI SIG 13 MORAL AND DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION

28-30 August 2008 at Florina in Greece

Contact: Dimitris Pnevmatikos (dpnevmat@uowm.gr)

SIG 14

27-29 August 2008, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

The 4th EARLI SIG 14 Learning and Development Conference

Conference website: <http://ktl.jyu.fi/ktl/earli/>

SIG 16

The third meeting of the EARLI SIG on Metacognition will be hosted by the Laboratory of Educational Psychology, Counselling and Research, Department of Primary Education, University of Ioannina (Greece), 8-10 May 2008.

Conference website: <http://sig16.uoi.gr/>

SIG 17

6-7 October 2008, University of Education in Freiburg (Germany)

The next biennial meeting of the SIG 17, Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to Learning and Instruction' will take place at the University of Education in Freiburg <http://www.ph-freiburg.de>.

Conference theme: Integrative Perspectives on Research Methodologies

The programme will contain paper and poster sessions, two key-note presentations, as well as symposia.

SIG 18

28-30 August 2008, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

The German Institute for International Educational Research (DIPF) will host the next EARLI SIG 18 Educational Effectiveness Conference on "Educational Effectiveness: Theoretical and Methodological Challenges for Research"

Conference website: http://www.dipf.de/earli_sig18.htm

SIG 19

28-30 August 2008, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK

EARLI SIG 19 Religious and Spiritual Education Conference

Conference theme: World Views in Religious and Spiritual Education.

Contact: michael.radford@canterbury.ac.uk

3. JURE 2008 Conference, 8–11 July 2008, LEUVEN, BELGIUM Conference theme: Innovative and creative perspectives: New directions in educational research

The JURE 2008 conference will be held in the beautiful and vibrant city of Leuven in Belgium. The conference presents a great opportunity for junior researchers to discuss and receive feedback on their research and to get involved with other researchers in the same area. Please consult the conference website for more information: <http://www.earli-jure2008.org>.

4. 13TH BIENNIAL EARLI CONFERENCE 2009, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS. Conference theme: Fostering Communities of learners

The University of Amsterdam (Graduate School of Teaching and Learning, and SCO Kohnstamm Institute) and the Free University (Educational Center) have joined forces in organising the biennial EARLI conference in 2009. The conference will take place at the University of Amsterdam, Roeterseiland complex.

The collaboration between these three institutes is reflected in the organisation of the local organising committee. Prof. Dr. Jos Beishuizen (Free University) was elected conference president; Hans Prein, director of the SCO Kohnstamm Institute, is conference manager and the University of Amsterdam has eight members in the local organising committee.

The conference theme will be Communities of learners. Brown and Campione (1996) laid down the framework for the educational concept of the community of learners. In a community of learners students are treated as partners in the process of knowledge building. Together with teachers and researchers they work on conducting research in order to shed light on questions related to core concepts and ideas in the domain of interest. Students become members of the community of learners as soon as they learn to adopt and apply the methods of research and rules for co-operation and communication, which are generally adhered to in the community. Through the process of reflection students become aware of these methods and rules, which enable them to apply the methods and rules in new situations. In a community of learners students are allowed to access and use the same resources as teachers and researchers.

Your next EARLI 2009 deadline: 31st October, 2008.

Full details can be obtained from the conference website: <http://www.earli2009.org/>.

Kindly note that EARLI members who pay their membership fees for 2008 can benefit from reduced conference fees when registering for the EARLI conference in 2009.

5. Position paper: Invitation to comment

In EDUREV 2 (2007) 145–157, you could read the EARLI position paper entitled “Towards a new, complexity science of learning and education” by T. Jörg, B. Davis and G. Nickmans. The authors argue that the field of learning and education is in a crisis and that current paradigms in educational science are unable to resolve the problems that are encountered in pedagogical practice. The nature of educational research is scrutinized and the authors elaborate on the possibility of a new science, better fitted to our rapidly evolving, ever-more-complicated times. The authors refer to the new complexity paradigm which involves implications not only for educational research but also for current practices in education. It involves for example an abandonment of the desire to pre-determine outcomes when taking the complexity of reality into account. Education then should become possibility-oriented instead of ends-oriented. Since this paper concerns the fundamentals of social science, EARLI thought it worthwhile to stimulate discussion on this issue in the educational research community. In this issue of EDUREV, we publish the comments and feedback that we received from various educational researchers. Through this we hope to contribute to the discussion and stimulate reflection about our scientific roots. If you want to comment on the position paper, please e-mail to goele.nickmans@ped.kuleuven.be. All comments will be published on the EARLI website.

6. 3rd Practice-based and Practitioner Research Conference 2008, Bergen, Norway

After the successful Practice-Based and Practitioner Research conferences in 2006 and 2007, EARLI has decided to organise a third edition of this event in Bergen, Norway, from 26 until 28 November 2008. This conference welcomes persons who are interested in the promotion and development of educational practices in educational and business context. The conference covers inquiry activities from different stakeholders within the broad field of education: practitioner researchers, educational developers, educational technologists, instructional designers, educational policy makers, people involved in organisational change in educational institutions, teachers, trainers, academic researchers in the field of applied education, and any other persons who wish to contribute to the development of education. We hold the view that knowledge creation and knowledge application are bound to one another, which is why the involvement of these different stakeholders and the promotion of interaction between these persons are seen as of utmost importance. For more information about theme, submission procedure and deadlines, please visit the conference website: <http://www.earli-pbpr.org/>.