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EARLI Association News, Summer 2011

Wondering if Bryan Adams will write a song about the 'Summer of '11'? Looking at EARLI's activities this season, he might! In August, EARLI organises its biennial EARLI conference in Exeter. The EARLI conference is preceded by a JURE pre-conference, organised by and for EARLI's Junior Researchers. If you plan on joining both conferences, be prepared to spend some time away from home; because this huge event will last all week! The first JURE 2011 welcome activities start on Sunday, 28 August, and EARLI's closing session is scheduled on Saturday, 3 September at 15h00. During the months before the conference 'physically' starts in Exeter, it's all happening online, on the world wide web. In April, a virtual conference environment has been opened to the public. In May, a number of 'Hot-Seat' events have been organised, where leading researchers lead discussions.

Furthermore, this edition of EARLI's Association News contain information about the JURE and EARLI 2011 (pre-)conference, an invitation for all EARLI members to join the General Assembly, news about the next EAPRIL conference, and an announcement for the JURE 2012 Summer School.

1. EARLI and JURE online virtual conference

The JURE and EARLI 2011 conferences are preceded by an online virtual conference. In keeping with the theme of the conference, 'Education for a Global Networked Society', this Virtual space was open to all: participants and anyone else who might benefit from the community of learning that EARLI provides but who will not be at EARLI 2011 in the flesh. It also proved to be an opportunity for those who are going to be at Exeter in August to make contact with each other, arrange meetings, prepare events and ask questions. The style of the space is influenced by Facebook. This means you have to actively join groups to be a member of them and it is easy to set up new groups and start new discussion topics.

In May a number of 'Hot-Seat' events were organised, where leading researchers, mostly SIG-invited Keynote speakers, will lead a discussion. These discussion spaces, and others that have been created, will continue and allow for working out ideas before sessions as well as discussion and reflection after sessions at the conference in the flesh. We hope that this virtual space will thereby have widened and deepened the learning experience of the Exeter EARLI 2011 conference.

For more information on this Virtual Conference, visit the Global Network section of the EARLI 2011 website.

2. JURE pre-conference 2011, Exeter, UK

JURE 2011 submission and review process

The first review round was finished in January 2011. Voluntarily participating junior reviewers in the field of learning and instruction supported by the members of the JURE local committee and the international committee gave feedback on the proposals of the participants and decided on the acceptance, rejection or format change. The participants were informed of the results of the first review round in January. For the second review round, participants were asked to write a full paper, a handout if they are presenting in a round table session or to design their posters. The second review round for papers included feedback on the paper by a senior researcher and a peer. In May, the second review round for posters and round tables has started. Posters and round tables will only be reviewed by a peer.

JURE 2011 workshops

JURE 2011 organises 8 workshops during the first day of the pre-conference, Monday August 29, 17.30–19.30 h.

The workshops cover a range of topics related to conducting and communicating educational research. They are run by experienced facilitators in their fields and are an excellent opportunity to work with experts to develop research in a friendly and thought-provoking environment.

We are very proud to be able to already announce the following workshops:

- **Conducting Effective and Efficient Conference Presentations**

Daniel Fasko, Jr., Bowling Green State University

Filip Dochy, University of Leuven

Sharla N. Fasko, University of Detroit Mercy

- **A Basic Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling Techniques**

Johannes Bauer, TUM School of Education, TU München

- **Motivation and Strategies for Publishing in Academic Journals**

Sanna Järvelä, University of Oulu

- **Careers in Academia**

Ros Fisher, University of Exeter

Wim Gijsselaers, Maastricht University

David Gijbels, University of Antwerp

- **Multiple Methods in Research on Learning and Instruction**

Michaela Gläser-Zikuda, University of Jena

- **Pitfalls and Opportunities in Evaluation Research**

Alexander Minnaert, University of Groningen

- **Qualitative Analysis of Classroom Dialogue**

Judith KleineStaarman, University of Exeter

Full description of the workshops and their presenters will be announced on our website soon.

Because the space is limited, this event requires registration. Registration for the workshops is available online. Please check our website for further details.

Best-of-JURE awards

JURE has a long tradition in giving awards to the best contributions. At each JURE Conference, Best-of-JURE Awards are presented for the best Paper, Poster and Round-table session. With the Best-of-JURE awards we want to support and motivate junior researchers in their career.

Best Paper Award

For the Best Paper Award, 3 papers will be selected for nomination (based on the reviewer evaluations). The nominees will present their papers in the special Best-of-JURE session at the start of EARLI on Tuesday. Paper and presentation are considered equally in the final decision on the award. An independent jury will decide on the winner of the award.

Best Poster and Round Table Award

Based on the (junior) reviewer evaluations and an independent jury, awards will be given for the best Poster presentation and Best Round Table presentation.

The winners in each award category will be announced at the presidential address on Tuesday.

JURE 2011 social programme

The social programme is a vital part of the JURE Conference – a chance for early career researchers to meet researchers from across the world and to build networks and friendships. We also want participants to enjoy themselves and to get a flavour of Exeter, and of the South West of England. With this in mind, we have designed the social programme to be informal, flexible and fun.

- **Sunday excursions**

Given that Conference is short and intensive, Sunday will be the main opportunity to explore Exeter and the surrounding area. We have two trips to choose from, both designed to allow participants to get to know each other in a relaxed environment.

Trip 1: Boat trip from Exeter Quay to the Double Locks Inn (up to 55 participants). We will rent a boat for a late afternoon cruise on the Exeter Canal, with the opportunity for walking and drinks at the Double Locks, the head of a beautiful nature reserve and bird sanctuary. A JURE local group member will lead a party from Streatham Campus, and maps will be provided. The trip will last around 2 h.

Trip 2: Beach trip by train to Teignmouth (up to 100 participants). A trip to a classic English seaside town via one of England's most beautiful railways. Participants can explore by themselves or tour the town with JURE local group members. There will be several designated meeting places and times, and maps and guides will be provided. Teignmouth offers a range of attractions: a beach, a harbour, a pier and arcade, adventure golf, a lovely range of local shops, and good cafés, pubs and restaurants – including an excellent fish and chip shop. Participants are invited to meet and form groups for travel at the JURE reception desk, and will then be free to leave and return when they want.

- Monday – JURE dinner
JURE participants will also be welcomed with an inclusive dinner on Monday 29th, held at Holland Hall, Streatham Campus, starting around 8 pm. This beautiful space has views over Exeter.
Also in an informal style, the dinner will offer a good range of hot, self-service, buffet food – encouraging participants to circulate. There will be a bar in the room for alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. There will also be opportunities for further socialising after the dinner, which will be announced at a later date.
- Rest of the week
To avoid clashing with the EARLI social programme, JURE will not run a separate programme for the rest of the week. However, the guidebook will give suggestions for where the participants of JURE might like to go, and we will establish an informal network of message boards (physical and virtual) so that participants can organise and meet up with others. JURE committee members will try their best to lead by example in making sure participants have a good time!

For any question about the JURE 2011 Social programme, get in contact with Rupert Higham JURE2011social@yahoo.co.uk.

3. EARLI biennial conference 2011, Exeter, UK

Academic programme

We are extremely grateful for the hard work of the review team. Before April, everyone who submitted a proposal for EARLI 2011 will have received an email from Debra Myhill, our conference manager, informing you of the review decision that has been made regarding your proposal.

The Local Committee is now very busy preparing all the accepted submissions to create what we hope will be a lively and intellectually stimulating conference. Certainly we are impressed by the range and quality of the proposals. Presenters may well want to look at the Conference formats, included below, so that you prepare appropriately. You will notice, for example, that symposia have three papers, not four, to allow time for discussion – so discussants will need to be very expert at encouraging participation from the audience! We are using the very successful poster and round table formats used in Amsterdam: again these are intended to bring academics together for fruitful research conversations. Don't forget to check the updated conference website: all EARLI 2011 keynote speakers' abstracts are now online on http://www.earli2011.org/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=428.

Conference formats

The range of formats is designed to create a diverse and lively academic atmosphere and to allow for different preferences in style of presentation. Each of the formats outlined below are equally valuable, but serve different purposes.

Symposia provide an opportunity to present research on one topic, providing a coherent set of papers for discussion. Symposia sessions are directed by a chairperson, involving three presenters and one discussant, from at least three different countries.

Timing: A symposium is scheduled for one and half hours, comprising 20 min presentation per speaker, 10 min for the discussant, and 20 min for open discussion.

Room set-up: Lecture theatre or large seminar room with computer and data projector.

Paper sessions are oral presentations of four papers, followed by a discussion with the audience. It is important that empirical papers have data and results, or they will not be accepted. Research which is at an earlier stage is very suitable for Round Table or Poster sessions. Theoretical papers, of course, are welcome.

Timing: Paper sessions are scheduled for one and a half hours, normally with four presenters, each with approximately 20 min for their presentation.

Room set-up: Lecture theatre or large seminar room with computer and data projector.

Interactive poster sessions involve five or six posters, visually presenting research studies. A short oral presentation of about 5 min for each poster is given to an audience gathered as a group. After the authors' brief presentation, an in-depth discussion between them and the audience follows. The Poster sessions offer researchers the chance to present their work in a visual format and offer more opportunities for interaction and discussion.

Timing: Poster sessions are scheduled for one and a half hours, following the format above.

Room set-up: Seminar room with wall space to display posters. Please bring posters in A4 or A3 format, and materials for fixing to the wall will be provided.

Round table sessions offer opportunities for a more discursive exploration of research issues. About five or six presenters will be allocated to each session. Each researcher explains the research and the research issue, and invites the participants to help to discuss emerging data or to solve a research issue or problem.

Room set-up: Seminar room with tables board-room style.

Panel Discussions provide an opportunity for public discussion amongst a selected group of panellists. Central to the success of a panel discussion is the choice of a good topic as the focus for discussion and panellists who bring differing perspectives and are confident in making clear arguments in a live situation. Panels should comprise a maximum of five scholars who present their arguments; a discussant offers critical comment on the arguments made and the discussion is opened up to the participating audience.

Timing: Panel discussions are scheduled for one and a half hours.

Room set-up: Lecture theatre or large seminar room with computer and data projector.

ICT Demonstrations allow presenters to display, explain and familiarise users with a potentially useful teaching or research tool or method. The presentation may include references to completed research, but the point of the session is to demonstrate the tool, not present the research for criticism. The audience may offer their viewpoints and share their experiences with similar tools or different tools for the same purpose.

Timing: Demonstrations are scheduled for one and a half hours.

Room set-up: Seminar room.

Workshops provide an opportunity to familiarise participants with some aspect of research or teaching practice, so that questioning and discussion are suitably informed. Learning-by-doing occupies most of the session, and any presentations are brief. Adequate time for reflective discussion is important.

Timing: Workshops are scheduled for one and a half hours.

Room set-up: Seminar room.

4. Invitation to the General Assembly meeting at the biennial conference in Exeter

We are happy to invite all EARLI members to the biennial General Assembly meeting, taking place on Friday 2 September 2011 during the EARLI 2011 conference. Members will be informed on the activities, membership development and financial status of the association. Furthermore, the old EARLI president will delegate her power to the new EARLI president, the Executive Committee election results will be announced, and much more. All EARLI members will receive a detailed agenda well in advance. For EARLI members all meeting materials will be accessible on the EARLI website.

We are looking forward to your participation in this meeting!

5. EAPRIL 2011 conference, 23–25 November 2011, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

EAPRIL – European Association for Practitioner Research on Improving Learning (in professional practice and education) – is unique by bringing together those interested in the crossroads between research and practice and between professional learning and education. For the upcoming EAPRIL conference we invite researchers and practitioners who can inspire colleagues, are active in the context of workplace learning and/or would like to share their ideas and experiences with regard to practice-based research.

Conference theme: “Balancing workplace learning and practitioner research across professional fields”

Learning and training in the workplace is one of the most important ways of preparing young people for a vocational career, but is also vital for continuous professional development. Although workplace learning has proven to be a classical way of learning, it does not always automatically result in effective learning results. From that perspective we can conclude that practitioner research on effective workplace learning is in its infancy.

Workplace learning is of special interest in dual education as dual education gets its shape and stature by learning in and through working activities. An illustrative example is the teachers and students in so-called professional development schools (PDS). Professional development schools provide an important and rich learning environment within teacher training. Training activities and responsibilities are increasingly transferred from the teacher training college to the PDS. This transfer includes developing research competencies: becoming a teacher–researcher by being a teacher–researcher in the context of a PDS.

We increasingly recognise that practitioners are not only the object of study but also co-researchers, studying quality improvement of their own work, working situation or work place learning. As a consequence more attention should be paid to the question how practitioners and researchers can collaborate in doing practice-based learning in order to optimise learning within professional contexts.

Examples of questions that can be addressed at the conference are:

- How can practice based research contribute to the quality of (workplace) learning?
- How can practice based research be organised within the context of workplace learning?
- Which roles can be defined in practice based research and what is the role of the practitioner?
- How to shape the dialogue between practitioners and researchers from a relevant practical question to a research question and research design?
- What are effective approaches to assure ownership of the research in the professional field?
- What are critical and success factors in practice based research?

‘Interaction’ is a keyword at the EAPRIL Conference. To stimulate this interaction the EAPRIL conference introduces new interactive presentation formats. More information can be found on our conference website: <http://www.eapril.org/EAPRIL2011>.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Nijmegen!

6. JURE 2012 conference pre-announcement

The next JURE 2012 Summer School will take place in the University of Regensburg, Germany, from 23 to 27 July 2012. This conference is organised by an international committee, appointed by EARLI's Executive committee: Anett Wolgast from Germany, Markus Hirschmann from Germany, Eva Wennas from Sweden, Miguel Pereira from Portugal, Iro Xenido-Dervou from The Netherlands, Eriijn Van Genuchten from Germany, Jake McMullen from Finland, Gregor Maxwell from Sweden. The theme will be "JURE 2012: A Learning Odyssey" Exploring new horizons in Learning and Instruction.