

CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Below: Dr Tokeung Chan, Dr Jamila Aman, Dr Nagwa Mohammed, Dr Rhonda Blackman-Smith, Dr Anthony Edwards, Dr Kamaldeen Giwa, Prof Peter Kahn, Dr Maria Spies, Dr Valerie McGrath, Dr Nanette Christou, Rev Prof Dr David Taylor



Welcome to the inaugural EdD newsletter which is not intended to be just another information channel dealing with the day-to-day issues related to the programme. Rather it will provide a platform by which our successes in whatever form they take can be shared with all those involved in the EdD and beyond. We aim to produce an issue every three months. **Items you wish to be considered for inclusion should be sent to Ilona at docedd@liverpool.ac.uk.**

I want to briefly share my thoughts on the recent graduation. It is always very special to be at the Philharmonic Hall to witness those who could make the journey to Liverpool receive their EdD. It's a unique opportunity for us to directly share this very special moment with graduating students, faculty, family and friends. I hope you can get a glimpse of the excitement and sense of achievement that permeates the day from the articles written by some of those

attending in person. As the ceremony unfolds our thoughts also turn to those whose doctorate is to be conferred in absentia. Their achievement is no less for not being there. I'm sure they found their own ways of celebrating and it would be good to hear how they did so. **You can still watch the ceremony [here](#).**

Dr Anthony Edwards, Director of CHES and Director of Studies, EdD



Above: Dr Tokeung Chan, Dr Nagwa Mohammed, Dr Yazmin Ramirez, Dr Valerie McGrath, Dr Nanette Christou, Dr Jamila Aman, Dr Kamaldeen Giwa, Dr Rhonda Blackman-Smith, Dr Desryn Collins

CENTRE NEWS

Graduation Day

From Dr Desryn Collins

Graduation Day was singularly spectacular; yet, for me, it was also very surreal. The day that I had worked for and dreamt about finally arrived, wrapping me with joy, relief, pride, and a keen sense of accomplishment. These emotions carried me, almost dreamily, from the Student Guild to the Philharmonic Hall where, when my name was announced, I, joyfully, triumphantly, glided along the blue carpet and back to my seat, bursting with pride.

I walked around in my graduation gown, glowing from the admiring glances I was receiving from throngs of happy people who had

come to celebrate with the graduands. The sweet compliments I received from the members of my family also helped to make the day remarkable.

For a brief moment before the outstanding ceremony began, I reflected on the days of doubt and the many nights of writing and rewriting that I had endured to get to this illustrious day. The thesis stage of the doctoral journey, which seemed like such a meaningless burden at times, was definitely worth enduring. Every aspect of the day, from the process in the Student Guild to having my degree officially conferred, was precisely designed to represent a high standard and to make the

graduands feel special. I definitely felt special. I was excited to meet my peers from different continents and cultures, in person, for the first time. Meeting them filled me with new appreciation for the doctoral experience which we shared. I realised that we were connected in a unique way. Recognising that we had so much in common was precious.

Overall, Graduation Day was memorable. I feel like I have traded anticipation for accomplishment, and received the key to a castle of possibilities.



From Dr Val McGrath

It was a fantastic feeling to finally cross the stage on Friday! I never thought I would get to wear the red gown so Friday was an absolute dream come true. From the gowning process to the actual ceremony it was a unique experience that will stay with me for years to come and it was definitely worth all the hard work!

Congratulations to **Dr Maria Spies** for winning the **EdD Thesis of the Year Award 2022/2023** for her thesis titled **'Managing OPM Partnerships: An institutional Work Perspective'**

Right: Dr Nanette Christou, Dr Val McGrath, Dr Maria Spies

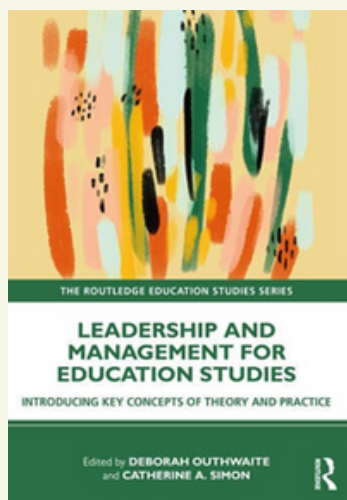
FACULTY NEWS

How does digital reflective practice in textile design education relate to creativity?

From Dr Mike Mimirinis

This newly published article, written by an EdD supervisor and a recent EdD graduate, reports the results of a multiple case study conducted in Pakistan that sought to understand how textile design students engaged in digital reflective practice (DRP) and how such engagement related to creativity. The findings suggest that the use of digital tools for reflection in textile design studio courses can enhance students' creativity, self-consciousness or awareness, and understanding of tasks and concept development.

Hameed, U. & Mimirinis, M. (2023) How does digital reflective practice in textile design education relate to creativity? *Reflective Practice*, 24(3), 310-323. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14623943.2023.2194623>



21st Century Skills development among young graduates: a European perspective

From Dr Lucilla Crosta

This is a comparative study on 21st century skills development among young graduates. This was the result of a EU research study where 21st century skill training has been planned and piloted among some EU University students (Spanish, Turkish, Czech Republic and Bulgarian) and the results compared.

Crosta, L., Banda, V., & Bakay, E. (2023). 21st Century Skills development among young graduates: a European perspective. *GiLE Journal of Skills Development*, 3(1), 40-56. <https://doi.org/10.52398/gjsd.2023.v3.1.pp40-56>

From Dr Deb Outhwaite

In June, Deb Outhwaite, published a new co-edited textbook, the 14th in the Routledge education studies series: Outhwaite, D, and Simon, C. (2023) **Leadership and Management in Education Studies: Introducing Key Concepts of Theory and Practice**, Oxon: **Routledge**. <https://www.routledge.com/Leadership-and-Management-for-Education-Studies-Introducing-Key-Concepts/Outhwaite-Simon/p/book/9781032343013>

From Dr Martin Gough

Dr Gough's most recent publication is: "**Dimensions of Wellbeing in the Doctoral Research Environment: Implications for Quality**" (solely authored), in Marie-Louise Österlind, Pam Denicolo & Britt-Marie Apelgren (ed.), *Doctoral Education as if People Matter. Critical Issues for the Future (Critical Issues in the Future of Learning and Teaching series vol.24, Leiden: Brill, 2022)*

Dr Gough is currently acting as Guest Editor collating articles submitted to a Special Issue of the journal **Studies in Graduate and Postdoctoral Education**, due out in the first half of 2024. The theme of the Special Issue is Revitalising the Doctorate Post-Pandemic.

Deb officially became chair of BELMAS (British Educational Leadership, Management and Administration Society) on the 1st September, a role she will hold for the next three years. BELMAS are offering an Early Career Researcher (ECR) month in October, which will be of interest to all students on the EdD programme, as most events are online. **BELMAS have launched a new £25 membership for all students**, including those in full-time work who are engaged in part-time study, available at <https://www.belmas.org.uk/>

FACULTY NEWS CONTINUED

The Lives of Working Class Academics

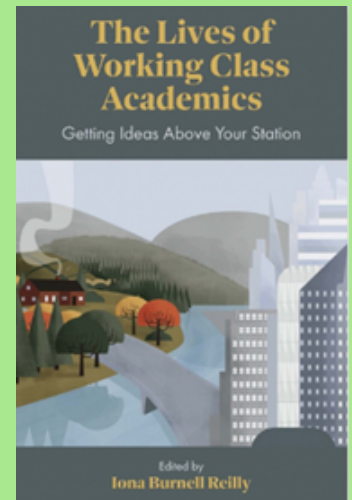
From Dr Iona Burnell

Traditionally academia has been seen as an elite profession, for those with an academic background and from the middle/upper classes. This is what makes the life of a working-class academic all the more interesting, rich and powerful. How have they become who they are in an industry steeped in elitism? How have they navigated their way, and what has the journey been like? Do they continue to identify as working class or has their social positioning and/or identities shifted?

Iona Burnell Reilly presents a collection of autoethnographies, written by working class academics in higher education – how they got there, what their

journeys were like, what their experiences were, if they faced any struggles, conflicts, prejudice and discrimination, and if they had to, or still do, negotiate their identities. Told in their own words the academics chart their journeys and explore their experiences of becoming an academic while also coming from a working-class background.

Although a working-class heritage under-pins the autoethnography of each of the writers, the interlocking sections between class, race, gender and sexuality will also be relevant.



Burnell Reilly, I. (Ed) (2022) The Lives of Working Class Academics: getting ideas above your station. UK: Emerald Publishing. ISBN: 9781801170581

STUDENT NEWS

From Bratati Bhattacharyya

19th August 2023: The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) India's oldest institution of its kind, tracing its origins to 1833, invited me to be a Speaker, to the "**Symposium on Wellness Connect - Living Life 360**" on Saturday, 19th August 2023. I was a Speaker at the "**Women at Workforce**" in Technical Session II, scheduled between 2:15 PM- 3.00 PM.

This initiative has been taken up by the Wellness & Communities Committee of BCC&I to highlight the need to bring together leading professionals, experts, and enthusiasts from various sectors to explore the holistic concept of well-being. A platform to discuss the multidimensional aspects of wellness, including physical fitness, mental health, nutrition, mindfulness, and work-life balance, to empower individuals to lead fulfilling lives.

3rd September 2023: **The Teachers Excellence Award 2023** organised by SHE in collaboration with Rotary Club, was conferred upon me in the category of Honorary Awardee as Education Hero. The Consul General of People's Republic of China handed over the award along with Rotary President, Shagufta Hanaphie, the brain and Jute Revitalist.

STUDENT NEWS CONTINUED

Publishing as an EdD student

From Shereena Aruldason

The prospect of publishing as an EdD student is exciting and challenging because it provides an opportunity to insert your academic research into existing scholarly conversations with researchers from around the world.

When I was working on EdD thesis, an opportunity arose to publish a chapter with IGI Global for their upcoming book, 'Innovations in the Design and Application of Alternative Digital Credentials'. This opportunity was very appealing to me because the topic was directly related to my EdD research on micro credentials and their impact on academic quality, course

structure and delivery in higher education environments. While the opportunity seemed intriguing, I had never published academically before, so I wasn't exactly sure where to start or what the process would be, so I reached out to my primary supervisor, Dr. Anthony Edwards for guidance. He advised me on the publication process, timelines, and expectations on working with publishers. As a result of our discussions, we decided to co-author a chapter together on the topic of micro credentials. After months of writing and revisions and working closely with the publishers to ensure the formatting, citations and chapter specifications were met, Dr. Edwards and I successfully publish our chapter entitled "Micro

Credentialing in the Landscape of Higher Education" for the book 'Innovations in the Design and Application of Alternative Digital Credentials'.

In reflecting on the process, it was a valuable learning experience for me, and the skillset I gained has helped me tremendously with the EdD thesis. Working on a publication helped me to write more clearly and concisely. It also helped to strengthen my editing, revision, and document formatting skills. It was a challenging yet rewarding experience, which I would recommend to all students in the program!

Empowering EdD Journey: Embracing Participatory Decision Making

From Ibrahim Garba

I have greatly benefited from pursuing my EdD degree. Throughout the modules, I dedicated myself to reading numerous articles and engaging in discussions with my cohort. As I implemented some of the ideas gained from these discussions in my professional life, I witnessed a transformative impact. Among the various concepts that resonated with me, participatory decision making stood out significantly. I have always been an advocate for collaborative and

open discourse on ideas, and it has made perfect sense to actively foster a shared perspective. An excellent example of this was during the pandemic, where I applied the concept of collaboration to provide training to my colleagues. This experience even led to the development of my thesis.

In terms of my approach to studying and writing, I have discovered that I derive great satisfaction from observing and listening while others contribute to discussions. However, this does not

imply that I do not enjoy participating and sharing my own thoughts; on the contrary, I find value in maintaining a humble and unassuming attitude towards work.

I can confidently say that my studies have been a source of immense joy and have empowered me to embrace additional responsibilities within my professional role. I can say more, but I look forward to reading about your wonderful journeys.