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The Team

Professor Sheila Riddell: Director
Sheila Riddell has worked at the University of Edinburgh since October 2003 and was previously Director of the Strathclyde Centre for Disability Research at the University of Glasgow. Sheila’s research interests include education policy, additional support needs, lifelong learning, equality and human rights.

Dr Elisabet Weedon: Research Fellow, Deputy Director
Joining CREID in May 2004, Elisabet previously worked with the Open University and at Perth College mainly on UHI Millenium Institute developments. Elisabet has a particular interest in lifelong learning and plays a key role in our European comparative study research on lifelong learning. She has been the lead researcher on the ESRC project investigating experiences and outcomes of disabled students in higher education and is also working on the ESRC project on Alternative Dispute Resolution in Special and Additional Support Needs.

Linda Ahlgren: Research Fellow
After working in a number of education and social care posts in Sweden, Linda moved to Scotland and undertook a degree in Psychology at Glasgow University. Joining CREID in September 2005, Linda has worked on a project looking at workplace literacies in SMEs (small to medium sized enterprises) funded by the EU Managing Progress Programme and is currently the lead researcher on the EU Sixth Framework project exploring formal learning in SMEs. Linda is also working on her PhD.

Michalis Kakos: Research Fellow
Michalis undertook a BA in Psychology, Philosophy and Education at the University of Athens, before doing an MEd at Manchester University. He recently completed his PhD at the University of York on the interactions between students and teachers in citizenship education. His research interests include citizenship and human rights education and social inclusion. Michalis joined CREID in early 2008 and is working on the EU Seventh Framework project on Religious Education in a Multi-Cultural Society (REMC). He is also contributing to the ESRC project on Alternative Dispute Resolution in Special and Additional Support Needs.

Sheila Edward: Research Fellow
After an MA in Italian with French at this University, and a first career in academic librarianship, Sheila moved into education research nearly 20 years ago. After completing an MSc in Human Resources Management and working at the Scottish Council for Research in Education, she has researched and lectured at the Universities of Northumbria and Newcastle, and most recently spent 3 years at the Institute of Education, University of London. Her research interests are in lifelong learning, inclusion and professional practice. She joined CREID in 2008, working initially on a literature review on attitudes to vocational learning.

Richard Purves: Research Associate
Richard completed his first degree in criminology and Psychology at the University of Teeside, before undertaking and MSc in Research (Education) at the Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh. Richard joined CREID in 2007 and is currently working on a PhD looking at Further Education colleges and their role in the promotion of lifelong learning. He has also been the lead researcher on a study of care co-ordination for disabled children and their families.

Helen Christie: Administrator
Helen joined CREID in early 2007 having moved on from the CLAN Edinburgh Partnership, and has gained considerable secretarial experience through her previous roles at Ethicon Ltd, Dundas & Wilson CS and Cairn Energy plc.
The Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity was launched in November 2004 and its work has continued to develop since then. CREID’s research focuses on inclusion in school and lifelong learning, equality and human rights. CREID continues to attract research income from a diverse range of funders, and is working in partnership with other universities, public bodies, the voluntary sector and service user groups. A number of high profile seminars and conferences have been organised, sponsored by the Scottish Government, the Scottish Funding Council and the ESRC. Research briefings on recently completed projects are published regularly and widely disseminated.

CREID’s current research is grouped within the following themes:

1. Education and Social Inclusion

Projects focus on provision for children with additional support needs, including those at risk of school exclusion. Recently, funding has been obtained from the ESRC for a project investigating alternative dispute resolution in special and additional support needs in England and Scotland. This work is being carried out in collaboration with Professor Neville Harris, School of Law, University of Manchester. In addition, under the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme, a project investigating religious education in a multi-cultural society has been funded.

2. Lifelong Learning

Projects focus on the experiences and outcomes of disabled students in higher education, the development of workplace learning in SMEs and European lifelong learning policy and practice. These projects all involve collaboration with other UK and European universities, FE colleges, voluntary and training organisations.

3. Equalities and Public Policy

On behalf of the Scottish Funding Council and in collaboration with Professor Nick Watson at the University of Glasgow, CREID completed a feasibility study on the establishment of a Scottish Research Centre on Equality and Human Rights.
CREID’s Projects

**Lifelong Learning in Europe** (consortium of 13 countries led by Ellu Saar, Estonia) funded by the EU Sixth Framework Programme, 2005-2010

**Workplace Literacies in SMEs** funded by the EU Managing Progress Programme and leg by Leigh Berridge at Adam Smith College, 2006-2008

**A Feasibility Study for a Centre for Equality and Human Rights** (with Nick Watson, University of Glasgow), funded by the Scottish Funding Council, 2006-2007

**The Experiences and Outcomes of Disabled Students in Higher Education** (with Mary Fuller and Mick Healey, University of Gloucestershire, Alan Hurst, University of Central Lancashire, Moira Pelo, University of Lancaster) funded by the ESRC Teaching, Learning and Research Programme, 2004-2007

**A Literature Review of Attitudes to Vocational Education in Scotland** funded by the Scottish Government, 2007-2008

**New Projects**

**Alternative Dispute Resolution in Education: A Study of SEN and ASN in England and Scotland** (RES-062-23-0803) with Professor Neville Harris, University of Manchester, funded by ESRC, 2008-2009

**Religious Education in a Multi-Cultural Society: School and Home in Comparative Context (REMC)** led by Dr Emer Smyth, Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin, funded by the EU Seventh Framework, 2008-2009

**The Delivery of Care Co-ordination for Disabled Children and their Families in Scotland** funded by CCNUK, 2008

The Commission for Equality and Human Rights: Defining a New Research Agenda  28 September 2007, Round table discussion including Heidi Safia Mirza, Centre for Equality and Human Rights, Institute of Education, University of London, Paul Chaney, Cardiff School of Social Sciences, University of Cardiff, Nick Watson, Strathclyde Centre for Disability Research, University of Glasgow, Rowena Arshad, Centre for Education in Racial Equality in Scotland, Sheila Riddell, Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity, University of Edinburgh

Disabled Students in Higher Education: Experiences and Outcomes  24 October 2007, Moray House School of Education, Edinburgh University

Experiences of Workplace Learning in SMEs: Lessons for Good Practice  21 November 2007, Radisson SAS Hotel, Glasgow, chaired by Leigh Berridge, Adam Smith College


Journal articles


McCluskey, G., Lloyd, G., Stead, J., Kane, J., Riddell, S. and Weedon, E., 2007 ‘I was dead restorative today’ from Restorative Justice to Restorative Approaches in School Cambridge Journal of Education (accepted for publication Sept 07)


Book Chapter


Short Publications

CREID Briefing 9, ‘Experiences of Workplace Learning in SMEs: Lessons for Good Practice’, December 2007
Commissioned Reports


Report of Sub-Project 1