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The Work of the Centre

Founded in 2004, the Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity (www.creid.ed.ac.uk) focuses on social justice and inclusion in relation to education, training, lifelong learning and related fields such as employment. We have a particular interest in issues of intersectionality, specifically in relation to social class, gender, disability and ethno-religious identity. CREID attracts research income from a diverse range of funders, including the UK and Scottish Governments, the European Commission, public bodies such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Universities Scotland, the voluntary sector and service user groups. Knowledge exchange activities during 2015 included the organisation of a number of high profile seminars and conferences and the publication of a series of research briefings. Below, we summarise the central themes of CREID’s work, as well as providing details of events, presentations, publications and press coverage.


In 2015, we were deeply saddened by the passing of our colleague Professor David Raffe. David was a distinguished scholar of sociology of education, with whom we collaborated for many years. An extremely kind and generous man, David made a huge contribution to knowledge not only in the School of Education, but also in the wider UK and international research arena. The following recently published books have been dedicated to David:


1. Education, Inclusion and Diversity

CREID continues to research policy and provision for children with additional support needs, including those at risk of school exclusion. Sheila Riddell and Elisabet Weedon completed work on the Leverhulme Trust international research network Special Education and Policy Change, exploring developments in the field of special and inclusive education in six jurisdictions: Scotland, England, The Netherlands, Sweden, California, US and New South Wales, Australia. In addition to a series of seminars and knowledge exchange events, the project has led to a number of journal special issues (International Journal of Inclusive Education, published in 2015 and Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education, published in 2016). Details of the project and associated publications can be found at: http://bit.ly/CREID-Leverhulme-project
The Work of the Centre

Jane Brown has been awarded a grant by the Gordon Cook Foundation to continue her work on children’s experiences of citizenship http://bit.ly/CREID-GordonCook-project. This project investigates the way in which children experience citizenship rights as they make the transition from primary to secondary school.

2015 marked the fiftieth anniversary of comprehensive reorganisation in Scotland. A seminar organised with the Centre for Educational Sociology explored the achievements and future challenges facing comprehensive schooling and its contribution to Scottish civil society http://bit.ly/creid-event-50yrs-scot-comp-schooling. This event proved to be of great public interest, with lots of media coverage (http://bit.ly/CREID-news-50yrs-comp-schooling-conf). The seminar was also used to publicise the book Everyone’s Future: Lessons from Fifty Years of Scottish Comprehensive Schooling, edited by Daniel Murphy, Linda Croxford, Cathy Howieson and David Raffe (Trentham, Institute of Education Press, 2015).

There was ongoing collaboration with colleagues working in PRIS (Platform for Research in Inclusive Education) at the School of Education, University of Gothenburg. A seminar took place in Gothenburg on 7th December 2015, focusing on the intersection of a range of social variables (social class, gender, race, religion) in relation to student experiences and outcomes in Scotland and Sweden http://bit.ly/creid-event-scot-swedish-edu.

Sheila Riddell was invited to the European Agency’s seminar on the inclusion of disabled students in European higher education as keynote speaker and rapporteur. The event took place in Rome on 11th November 2015 http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/news-events/news-in-2015/sr-presentation-he-inclusion-rome.

2. Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Social Justice


A seminar in December 2015 on widening access to higher education in Scotland and the rest of the UK received extensive press coverage http://bit.ly/creid-event-wa-seminar-2015. The seminar highlighted the conundrum that even though Scottish students do not pay tuition fees, compared with other UK jurisdictions, students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds have relatively low university participation rates. The growth of higher education participation in Scotland has been achieved by expanding the college sector, which caters for a significant proportion of those from poorer backgrounds.

An impact accelerator grant was awarded to Sarah Minty to conduct further research on young people’s knowledge and awareness of university funding. A guide for young people was produced and launched in September 2015: http://bit.ly/creid-event-student-finance-guide.

Sarah Minty also conducted a research study commissioned by the Widening Participation team in Student Recruitment and Admissions at the University of Edinburgh. This study
run from January to May 2015 and explored the reasons for differences in the type and class of degree obtained by widening participation (WP) students.

Elisabet Weedon was commissioned by the Equality Challenge Unit to conduct research on participation rates of different social groups in Scottish higher education. Of particular interest was the intersection of social class with a number of protected characteristics such as gender, age and disability (http://bit.ly/CREID-project-ECU-attracting-diveristy).

We were delighted that ESRC PhD studentships were awarded to Lucy Hunter Blackburn to research the distribution of student debt, and to Sarah Minty to investigate families’ understanding of student debt and their strategies. Congratulations to both!

Work in this area will continue in 2016 with the award of a Sutton Trust grant to compare participation rates of those from less advantaged backgrounds across the UK http://bit.ly/CREID-project-SuttonTrust-Access-HE.

We were also delighted to hear towards the end of 2015 that the European Commission Horizon2020 bid, led by Professor John Holford at the University of Nottingham, has been successful. The ENLIVEN project http://bit.ly/CREID-ENLIVEN-Horizon2020 investigates lifelong learning opportunities and experiences of young people living with a range of disadvantages across Europe and the developed world. The Scottish arm of the project is led by Dr Ellen Boeren, with Professor Sheila Riddell as co-investigator. The project will begin in October 2016 and run for three years.
Professor Sheila Riddell: Director of CREID
Professor 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: Senior Research Fellow/ Deputy Director of CREID
Dr Elisabet Weedon has worked at CREID since 2004. Previously worked with the Open University and at Perth College mainly on UHI degree development and teaching. Her research interest include higher education with a particular focus on the intersection between social class and the protected characteristics, especially disability. She also works with Sheila in the area of additional support needs.

Dr Gillean McCluskey: Deputy Director of CREID/ Head of Institute for Education, Community & Society (ECS)/ Senior Lecturer
Dr Gillean McCluskey researches and teaches in the areas of school discipline, exclusion and disaffection, restorative practices and conflict resolution in schools. She has worked in mainstream schools and alternative settings with young people in trouble and at risk, and is interested in the achievements and experiences of marginalised groups in education.

Sarah Minty: Research Fellow
Sarah Minty is involved in a number of projects within the centre relating to higher education and social justice. She recently completed work on the ESRC project ‘Higher Education in Scotland, the Devolution Settlement and the Referendum on Independence.’ During her ten years in educational research, Sarah has worked on numerous projects in Scotland and England and her work has covered a range of educational settings, including schools, vocational education, higher education, and supplementary schools. She has particular interests in HE and schools policy evaluation - exploring the implementation and impact of government policies and initiatives on young people and other stakeholders.

Dr Ellen Boeren: Chancellor’s Fellow
Dr Ellen Boeren received a PhD in Educational Sciences from Leuven University (Belgium) in May 2011. Her thesis explored participation and motivation of adult learners in formal education. She worked on data gathered within the European Sixth Framework project ‘LLL2010: towards a lifelong learning society in Europe: the contribution of the education system’ and on data from the Eurostat Adult Education Survey. Together with Professor John Holford she won a BERA Meeting of Minds fellowship. She is now a Chancellor’s Fellow at Moray House School of Education. Ellen contributed to the literature review on widening access in higher education, a small grant awarded from
Universities Scotland and received small grants from the Carnegie Trust and the Data without Boundaries project of the European Commission. Apart from conducting research, she is the Programme Director of the School's MSc Educational Research.

http://www.ellenboeren.co.uk

Lyn Tett: Emeritus Professor of Community Education and Lifelong Learning
Professor Lyn Tett has been continuing to develop her work on adult literacy and lifelong learning policy in the OECD and EU. The work with Professor Viv Cree (PI) and Dr Hazel Christie on the longitudinal study of students who had entered the College of Humanities and Social Science with an HNC or HND qualification from Further Education Colleges has resulted in two presentations and two publications that are currently under consideration.

Dr Jane Brown: Senior Research Fellow
Dr Jane Brown originally worked in residential care with troubled children and subsequently trained as an art therapist specialising in child protection. She began her career as a researcher at the Centre for the Study of the Child and Society at the University of Glasgow. A member of staff at Moray House School of Education for the past 13 years, she has published widely in the fields of citizenship education and violent behaviour in childhood.

Dr Charles Weedon: Honorary Fellow
Dr Charles Weedon worked in schools as a teacher of English and Maths before becoming involved in Support for Learning. His masters and doctoral degrees both focused on literacy in learning. He has a particular interest in specific learning difficulties and current ambiguities in perceptions of dyslexia. He has published a range of assessment approaches, as well as contributing to a national working group, to books on learning difficulties and to teacher CPD. He is currently working part-time as a learning support teacher in Midlothian and will be starting a revision of the SNAP assessment tools for online delivery in 2016.

Dr Grace Chung-yan Kong: Academic Coordinator
Dr Grace Kong’s first degree was in Translation and Interpretation, followed later by an MA in Translation Studies. She has recently obtained her PhD in Translation Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Grace joined CREID in 2005 and previously tutored at the Open University of Hong Kong and worked for the Information Services Department of the Hong Kong Government. Grace is currently employed as a research assistant and academic coordinator in CREID. Her research, which is part of the ESRC Higher Education project includes examining the experiences and perceptions of Chinese students studying at Scottish universities.
Associated PhD Students

Enid Quesada Alfredo
Supervisors: Professor Sheila Riddell and Dr Cathy Howieson
Thesis title: The Accreditation of Higher Education in Costa Rica

Lucy Hunter Blackburn
Supervisors: Professor Sheila Riddell
Thesis title: The Social Distribution of Student Debt in Scotland and the Rest of the UK

Ania Byerly
Supervisors: Professor Sheila Riddell and Dr Rowena Arshad
Thesis title: Multi-cultural Education in Scotland

Katherine Friend
Supervisors: Professor Sheila Riddell and Dr Gale Macleod

Siti Abdul Latif
Supervisors: Dr Jo Williams and Dr Elisabet Weedon
Thesis title: Designing a culturally sensitive screening tool in identifying students with Emotional and Behavioural difficulties in Brunei Darussalam.

Geetha Marcus
Supervisors: Dr Gillean McCluskey and Dr Akwugo Emefulu
Thesis title: The educational experiences of Gypsy/Traveller girls in Scotland.

Sarah Minty
Supervisors: Professor Sheila Riddell and Dr Cathy Howieson
Thesis title: Families’ Attitudes to Student Debt in Scotland

Stuart Moir
Supervisors: Dr Jane Brown and Dr Shereen Benjamin
Thesis title: Learning for democracy and critical citizenship: Towards a reassertion of really useful knowledge

Melissa Moncrieffe
Supervisors: Dr Elisabet Weedon and Professor Lyn Tett

Michelle Waldron
Supervisors: Professor Carolin Kreber and Professor Sheila Riddell
Thesis title: Young Offenders and Transformative Learning in Scotland

Yuchen Wang
Supervisors: Professor Lani Florian and Dr Jane Brown
Thesis title: Imagining inclusive schooling: an ethnographic inquiry into disabled children's participation in regular schools in urban Shanghai
Jenestar Wanjiru  
Supervisors: Dr Gillean McCluskey, Dr Gale Macleod and Dr Deirdre Torrance  
Thesis title: Educational leadership and inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable children in school.

Jaye Ware (with Sociology)  
Supervisors: Professor Lyn Jamieson and Dr Jane Brown  

Kevin Wright (Completed in 2015)  
Supervisors: Professor Sheila Riddell and Dr Gillean McCluskey  
Thesis title: Classroom assistants use of talk in the construction and negotiation of identities.

Sujin Yoon  
Supervisors: Dr Gillean McCluskey and Dr Deborah Fry  
Projects

Keeping Youth Away from Crime: Searching for Best European Practices
Professor Sheila Riddell, Professor Kay Tisdall and Dr. Gillean McCluskey; April 2013-April 2015
URL: http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/projects/youth-away-from-crime

Improving young people’s knowledge of student finance in Scotland
Sarah Minty, October 2014-October 2015
URL: http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/projects/esrc-improving-yp-knowledge

Attracting diversity: identifying underrepresented groups
Dr Elisabet Weedon, November 2014-July 2015
URL: http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/projects/ecu-attracting-diversity

Research into widening participation at the University of Edinburgh: the student’s perspective
Sarah Minty, January 2015-July 2015
URL: http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/projects/wp-uoe-student-perspective

Pupils as citizens: Pupil views on school citizenship and the transition from primary to secondary school
Dr Jane Brown, Dr Linda Croxford and Sarah Minty, September 2014-August 2016
URL: http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/projects/gordoncook-pupils-citizens

ENLIVEN: Encouraging Lifelong Learning for an Inclusive and Vibrant Europe
Dr Ellen Boeren and Professor Sheila Riddell, October 2016-September 2019
URL: http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/projects/enliven-encourage-ill-for-inclusive-vibrant-europe

Access to higher education for people from less advantaged backgrounds in Scotland and the rest of the UK
Professor Sheila Riddell, Dr Elisabet Weedon, Lucy Hunter Blackburn, Dr Gitit Kadar-Satat
URL: http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/projects/access-to-he-less-advantaged-ppl
Events

Improving young people’s knowledge of student finance: NEW guide launched
Friday 11th September 2015, University of Edinburgh

Conference: What have we learned from fifty years of Scottish comprehensive schooling?
27th October 2015, University of Edinburgh
Events

Seminar - Widening Access to Scottish Higher Education: Getting in and Getting on
Tuesday 1st December 2015, University of Edinburgh

Conceptions of social justice and inter-sectionality in Scottish and Swedish education
Friday 7th December 2015, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
URL: http://bit.ly/creid-event-scot-swedish-edu
Presentations


Edited book

Refereed journal articles


Chapters in books


Publications


Other publications


14th December 2015

4th December 2015
The Times. Hamish Macdonell. Bursaries for students fall by £60m under the SNP.

The Herald Scotland. Bursary support for students falls £40m

3rd December 2015
The Times. Hamish Macdonell. Free university is not helping poor, claim academics.

The Independent. Chris Green. Inequality in Scotland is set in stone by free university tuition.

i from the Independent. Chris Green. No university fees ‘causes inequalities’ and Free university tuition in Scotland ‘has failed to halt social inequality.

2nd December 2015
The Herald Scotland. Andrew Denholm. Free university tuition ‘fails to break social inequalities’: No evidence SNP’s flagship policy boosts access to higher education, say academics.

The Herald Scotland. Andrew Denholm. Leader letter: True test is to help students from poorest backgrounds.

6th November 2015
Times Educational Supplement Scotland (TESS). A balancing act between freedom and equality.

28th October 2015
The Telegraph. Simon Johnson. SNP minister defends free university tuition despite bursary cuts for poor.

27th October 2015
The Herald Scotland (Opinion). Daniel Murphy. Agenda: How to ensure comprehensive education continues to deliver for Scotland.

26th October 2015
BBC News. Comprehensive school system ‘better and fairer’.

The Herald Scotland. Andrew Denholm. Comprehensive schools led to ‘increased equality’ in Scotland.

22nd October 2015
VOX.com. Libby Nelson. What Scotland learned from making college tuition free.

3rd October 2015
The Economist. Scottish higher education: A costly promise.

18th September 2015
The Independent. Jamie Merrill. Tuition fees divide changes the way students in Scotland and England view their education.
Press coverage

28th August 2015
The Times Educational Supplement Scotland (TESS). Will mediation have to raise the white flag?

18th August 2015
BBC News. (Interview with Sheila Riddell on the re-introduction of classroom testing) News at Six.

28th June 2015
The Scotsman. Leaders: New ideas needed on university access.

2nd/3rd May 2015

1st May 2015
Financial Time. John McDermott. The SNP has let down Scotland’s poorest students.
If you would like any further information about the work of the Centre please contact:

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