

The Future of Education: Learning throughout the Life Course

Morning Keynote Speaker

Professor Nigel Thomas, Professor of Childhood and Youth Research, School of Social Work, Care and Community, University of Central Lancashire

Keynote title: **‘Human beings need something from one another when they come to places like schools’: participation, recognition and wellbeing**

Abstract: How does student participation contribute to wellbeing? Children’s rights to participation are clearly established in the CRC, but can it also be shown to be good for them, and for their schools? Newly published research in Australian schools aimed to explore the connections between different aspects of participation and measures of wellbeing, and the part played by intersubjective recognition (Honneth, 1995) in those connections. Focus groups with students and interviews with teachers produced rich insights and went on to inform a large online survey. The results demonstrate clear and specific links between participation and wellbeing, and also point to recognition as a mediator of those links. In this keynote lecture I will explain the results and discuss what they mean, both for practice in schools and for our theoretical understanding of how participation is grounded in interpersonal relationships.

Bio: Nigel Thomas's research with children and young people includes child welfare, children’s rights and theories of childhood, with a particular focus on children and young people’s participation. He has worked with children in care, young carers, school pupils and members of youth councils, using a range of innovative methods. He is co-director and co-founder of The Centre for Children and Young People’s Participation. For seven years he co-edited the journal *Children & Society*, whose editorial board he now chairs. He is internationally known for his work on children and young people’s participation, and recently featured in the book *Key Thinkers in Childhood Studies*. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Centre for Children and Young People at Southern Cross University, New South Wales, and a Fellow of the Institute of Welsh Affairs.

Afternoon Keynote Speaker

Professor Kalwant Bhopal, Professor of Education and Social Justice and Bridge Professorial Research Fellow in the Centre for Research in Race and Education in the School of Education, University of Birmingham

Keynote title: **BME academic flight from UK higher education**

Abstract: This presentation will explore inequalities in higher education for those from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds. It will examine the experiences of BME academics who consider moving overseas for career opportunities. It explores the barriers that BME academics report in UK higher education, which affect their decisions for overseas higher education migration. The presentation will draw on research funded by the Equality Challenge Unit which found that BME academics were significantly more likely than White academics to have considered moving overseas to work. Many respondents reported various barriers to career progression, such as processes of racism, exclusion and marginalisation. The study suggests that significant change is needed in the UK higher education sector in order to retain BME academics who consider moving overseas.

Bio: Kalwant’s research focuses on the achievements and experiences of minority ethnic groups in education. She has conducted research on exploring discourses of identity and intersectionality examining the lives of Black minority ethnic groups as well as examining the marginal position of Gypsies and Travellers. Her research specifically explores how processes of racism, exclusion and marginalisation operate in predominantly White spaces with a focus on social justice and inclusion. She is Visiting Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Kings College London (Department of Education and Professional Studies). She has been Visiting Professor at Queens University, Belfast and Visiting Scholar at the UCL Institute of Education, London.