

**SCoTENS**

THE STANDING CONFERENCE  
ON TEACHER EDUCATION,  
NORTH AND SOUTH

Eleventh Annual Conference



# Learning Teaching: Reimagining the Profession

## Keynote speakers

Professor John MacBeath, University of Cambridge  
Dr Sotiria Grek, University of Edinburgh

Thursday 10 - Friday 11 October 2013, Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Sligo

# Learning Teaching: Reimagining the Profession

## PROGRAMME

**10 October 2013**

Benbulbin Suite, Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Sligo

Chair:	<b>Professor Linda Clarke</b> , Head of School of Education, University of Ulster and co-Chair SCoTENS
9.30	Registration – reception area Benbulbin Suite
10.00	Official opening by the Northern Ireland Minister for Education, <b>Mr John O'Dowd MLA</b> and the Republic of Ireland Minister of State for Training and Skills, <b>Mr Ciarán Cannon TD</b>
10.30	Keynote address: <b>Professor John MacBeath</b> , University of Cambridge – <b>Teachers, Teaching and Schooling: Quo vadis?</b>
11.30	Refreshments
12:00	Debate: <b>Enhancing leadership in the profession of teaching in the 21st Century</b> <b>Chaired by: Dr Tom Hesketh</b> , Director, Regional Training Unit, and with a panel comprising: <b>Professor John MacBeath</b> , University of Cambridge; <b>Mr Ronnie Hassard</b> , Principal, Ballymena Academy, Ballymena, Co. Antrim; <b>Mr Bryan O'Reilly</b> , Principal, Scoil Mhuire Junior Primary School, Ballymany, Newbridge; <b>Dr Carmel Gallagher</b> , CEO/Registrar, General Teaching Council Northern Ireland (GTCNI); <b>Mr Tomás Ó Ruairc</b> , Director, the Teaching Council, Maynooth, Co. Kildare and co-Chair SCoTENS
1.15 pm	Lunch
2.15 pm	<b>Parallel Workshops:</b> (participants can choose to participate in two of these four workshops)

### **Workshop 1 – Teachers as consumers and producers of research**

facilitated by: **Ms Joanne Brosnan**, Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork

**Ms Rhonda Glasgow**, Spa Primary School, Ballynahinch, Co. Down

This presentation/workshop will contrast the experience of two practising teachers who have recently conducted research in different educational contexts. They have taken issues which affect their teaching and have had the opportunity to review current research, while testing out the findings in their classrooms. The facilitators will draw on their research experience to examine how teachers can benefit from being both consumers and producers of educational research.

4.45

5.15

### **Workshop 2 – The practice of teaching**

facilitated by: **Dr Sean Delaney**, Marino Institute of Education, Dublin

**Ms Mary McHenry**, St Louise's Comprehensive College, Belfast

7.15

This workshop will explore various aspects of the practice of teaching and how prospective teachers learn to teach. One presenter will describe a new module that bridges the college and school experiences of student teachers. High leverage practices of teaching are represented and decomposed for the novices in college before they in turn approximate the practices with their peers and with children in local schools. The assessment of the module will also be outlined.

### **Workshop 3 – Creative classrooms: Insights from Imaginative and Innovative Teaching in Ireland**

facilitated by: **Ms Nicola Marlow**, University of Ulster, Coleraine  
**Ms Anne McMorrough**, Marino Institute of Education, Dublin

This workshop will explore the nature and detail of 21st Century teaching and learning activities within a number of creative classrooms, North and South. For a really interactive experience participants will be invited to contribute via Twitter at #CCIT (\* Laptops and/or mobile devices and a Twitter a/c are recommended but not essential!)

### **Workshop 4 – Teacher as leader:**

**'Only when the position of the individual teacher is supported and developed will we ensure that the perspective, potential and talent of each individual child is fostered'**

facilitated by: **Mr Ronnie Hassard**, Ballymena Academy, Ballymena, Co. Antrim

**Mr Bryan O'Reilly**, Scoil Mhuire Junior Primary School, Ballymany, Newbridge

The key to this fostering is the relationship that each leader has with their colleagues, and the kinds of relationship that colleagues have with each other. In order to share and communicate the developing and evolving methodologies such as Reading Recovery; Literacy Lift Off; Better Basics; Maths Recovery; Stop Ask Listen Tell (SALT) the quality of the relationships that the leaders have is very significant. This workshop will discuss the practicalities of implementing programmes while maintaining and fostering relationships. It will give glimpses of feedback from teachers during the school self-evaluation of June 2013.

### **Refreshments**

### **Training Session**

SCoTENS 'Seed Funding' training workshop led by **Dr Conor Galvin**, Lecturer, University College Dublin

### **Launch of Reports:**

**Creative Teachers for Creative Learners, Implications for Teacher Education: SCoTENS 2012 Conference and Annual Reports;** launched by **Professor Anne Moran**, University

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of Ulster and ***The role of research capacity-building in initial teacher education in the North and South of Ireland*** launched by **Professor Kathy Hall**, University

College Cork

8.00 Conference Dinner: After Dinner Speaker: **Mr Andy Pollak**, former Director of Centre for Cross Border Studies and former Secretary of SCOTENS

### 11 October 2013

Benbulbin Suite, Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Sligo

Chair: **Mr Tomás Ó Ruairc**, Director, the Teaching Council, Maynooth, Co. Kildare and co-Chair SCOTENS

9.30 **Dr Sotiria Grek**, University of Edinburgh, **Governing by Inspection: inspecting as a learning act**

10.30 Round Table Discussions

11.00 Refreshments

11.30 **Reimagining the professional policy perspective: Ms La'Verne Montgomery**, Department of Education, Bangor and **Mr Eddie Ward**, Department of Education and Skills, Dublin

## Learning Teaching: Reimagining the Profession

There has been much debate about the future of teacher education and, indeed, about what it means to be a teacher. At the heart of this debate is an expansion of the concept and context of teacher education. Competing conceptions of teaching as a craft, the teacher as an executive technician or as a critically reflective professional also inform such debates. In this context, teacher education is still seen as being rooted in the period of initial teacher education. But the idea of the continuum of teacher education is driven by the idea of the teacher as reflective practitioner throughout their lives – or lifelong learners. This reimagining of the profession flows from the idea that teachers are always learning, so that they can always teach. Our conference seeks to explore how this lifelong learning can unfold in a variety of contexts. Conference discussions will range from the nexus between practice and research to reflections on the implications for policy development. SCOTENS invites all those with an interest in teacher education to inform, enrich and inspire the discussion around these issues.

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS



**Mr John O'Dowd MLA** was born and grew up in a rural community between Lurgan and Banbridge. He was educated at Lismore Comprehensive in Craigavon before moving on to Newry Catering College, after which he pursued a successful career as a chef. He has been a member of Sinn Féin for over 25 years, spending 14 years as a Councillor on Craigavon Council and being elected, in 2003, as MLA for Upper

Bann. Between 2007 and 2011 he was Sinn Féin group leader in the Assembly and served as Chair of the Public Accounts Committee before becoming a member of the Education Committee in 2008. On 16 May 2011 he was appointed Minister of Education in the North's Executive.



**Mr Ciarán Cannon TD** was appointed Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills in March 2011. He has been a public representative since 2004, was nominated to Seanad Éireann in 2007 and in 2011 was elected as a TD representing the people of East Galway. Minister Cannon has delegated

responsibility for Further Education and Training and School Transport. As Minister for Training and Skills, he is leading the modernisation of the Further Education and Training sectors through the establishment of the new authority SOLAS (Seirbhísi Oideachais agus Scileanna). He is determined that SOLAS will deliver on the lifelong needs of adult learners especially unemployed people and those seeking to up-skill and re-skill.



**Professor Linda Clarke** is Head of the School of Education at the University of Ulster. Her primary teaching responsibilities at the University of Ulster relate to initial teacher education and continuing professional development of teachers. After graduating with a BSc (Hons) (Geography and Education) from the New University of Ulster in 1983, she taught in post-primary schools in Northern Ireland and in England (Comprehensive and Grammar, Private and Public Sectors) for approximately 15 years. In 1999 she completed her Masters in Education Technology and in 2008 her PhD, a case study of student teachers' online learning. Her research is predominantly focused on the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to enhance teaching and learning; and Communities of Scientific Enquiry and Teacher Education. Linda is currently co-Chair of SCOTENS.



**Professor John MacBeath** is Professor Emeritus at the University of Cambridge where he held the Chair of Educational Leadership from 2000 to 2013. From 1997 to 2001 he was a member of Tony Blair's Task Force on Standards and from 1997 to 1999 Scotland's Action Group on Standards. In 1997 he received the OBE for services

to education. International consultancies have included OECD, UNESCO and ILO (International Labour Organisation), the Bertelsmann Foundation, the European Commission and an EU working party on European indicators. In 2006 he assumed the Presidency of the International Congress on School Effectiveness and Improvement. In June 2008 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Edinburgh. Since 1997 he has been a consultant to the Hong Kong Education Bureau on school self-evaluation, and external school review and since 2011 consultant to Education International who commissioned the book *The Future of the Teaching Profession*.

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**Dr Tom Hesketh** is Director of the Regional Training Unit which has the responsibility for leadership training across the Northern Ireland Education Service, including the Professional Qualification for Headship. He taught for 11 years before entering the schools' advice and support services in Northern Ireland working for two of the

five Education and Library Boards. He has chaired a number of departmental working groups on themes such as school development planning, pupils' emotional health and wellbeing and Specialist Schools. He has also undertaken consultancy work for the Department of Education in Malta and is a visiting fellow with the International Leadership Centre, University of Hull and with the University of Lincoln. He is a regular contributor to the Ed.D at Queen's University, Belfast.



**Dr Sotiria Grek** is a Lecturer in Social Policy at the School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh. She works in the area of Europeanisation of education policy and governance and is currently funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to do research in the areas of transnational policy learning

(RES-000-22-3429) and governing by inspection (RES-062-23-2241). She has recently co-authored (with Martin Lawn) *Europeanising education: governing a new policy space* (2012, Symposium).



**Mr Ronnie Hassard** has been Principal of Ballymena Academy since 2004. He began teaching 38 years ago. With experience in five schools, his career includes Head of English and Senior Teacher, Vice-Principal in Grosvenor Grammar School and Principal in Wellington College Belfast. Ronnie is active in the Governing Bodies Association,

and also chairs the Post-Primary Transfer Consortium. An assessor for the Professional Qualification for Headship he is a trained mentor for new and serving Heads. He is also a founder member and chair of the successful partnership of 10 post-primary schools known as 'Ballymena Learning Together'. The school's most recent Inspection Report published by Education and Training Inspectorate in June 2012, refers specifically to the '*distributive approach to leadership and the culture of reflective practice which he has established*'. This reflects Ronnie's perspective on school leadership and the development of school leaders for the 21st century.



**Mr Bryan O'Reilly** has been teaching for 33 years, and is a Graduate of St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Maynooth University and University College Dublin. He is currently Principal of Scoil Mhuire Junior Primary School, Ballymany, Newbridge Co. Kildare. The school is part of the Developing Equal Opportunities in Schools (DEIS)

Initiative run by the Department of Education and Skills in the Republic of Ireland. The school is running initiatives in Reading Recovery, Maths Recovery, Self-Assessment Learning Folders

and Better Basics. An INTO activist for most of his career, Bryan is currently a member of the National Executive representing 4,000 teachers from District 7 - Offaly, Meath, Westmeath, Kildare and Longford. He is an INTO nominee on the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. He is also a member of the INTO Early Childhood Education Committee. Ronnie is a trained mediator and a former secretary of the Mediator's Institute of Ireland.



**Mr Tomás Ó Ruairc** was appointed Director of the Teaching Council in May 2014, prior to which he held a senior position in the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Prior to that, he was Deputy CEO and Director of Education Services in Foras na Gaeilge. He has considerable experience in the field of education, having

served as a member of the NCCA from 2006 to 2009 and as Head of Irish and Chair of the Academic Council in Froebel College of Education from 2000 to 2005. He was a teacher in Athlone Community College and has produced syllabus and teaching materials in the area of teaching of Irish to adults. He has a B.A., M.A. and a Higher Diploma in Education. Tomás is currently co-Chair of SCOTENS.



**Ms Joanne Brosnan** is a post primary teacher of Physics, Chemistry, Science and ICT at Christ King Girls' Secondary School in Cork City. Joanne holds a BSc and a Masters in Education from University College Cork, along with a Higher Diploma in Educational Administration. Joanne is actively involved in Continuing Professional Development

both within and outside the school. Recently she has taken part in initiatives such as the Instructional Leadership Programme and the Learning Schools Project. She is presently Chairperson of the Cork Instructional Leadership Network. As a result of her M.Ed studies, Joanne took part in the VIP Project in University College Cork – a knowledge exchange project funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) which was primarily concerned with issues of inclusion and student voice, identity, and participation in Irish primary and secondary schools.



**Ms Rhonda Glasgow** has taught in primary schools in Northern Ireland for over 20 years. She is currently Vice Principal and Year 7 teacher in Spa Primary School, Ballynahinch, Co. Down. She has been involved in curriculum development for many years, and was seconded to the South Eastern Education and Library

Board for three years to assist in the implementation of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Her own continuing professional development includes a MEd completed at QUB, a Professional Qualification for Headship (PQH), and a research fellowship at QUB, funded by the GTCNI (January to March 2013).

**Dr Sean Delaney**, is registrar and a mathematics educator at the Marino Institute of Education in Dublin, where he

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teaches a course around “approximations of practice.” Before becoming a teacher educator, he spent 11 years teaching, mostly in the Kilkenny School Project National School, where he spent a year as principal. His research interests include teachers’ mathematical knowledge, the teaching of mathematics in primary school, the

quality of mathematics textbooks and approaches to teacher education. He has studied at Harvard University where he was awarded a Masters in Education (Technology in Education), and at the University of Michigan where he received a PhD (Teaching and Teacher Education) in 2008. He is on the Board of Studies of Project Maths. He presents and produces *Inside Education*, a weekly programme about education, on 103.2 Dublin City FM. He blogs at the website [www.seandelaney.com](http://www.seandelaney.com).



**Ms Mary McHenry** is currently the Vice Principal of St Louise’s Comprehensive College, Belfast. Mary completed her BA in Geography and Economics in 1997 at QUB. Having achieved her PGCE from the university of Ulster, she joined St Louise’s as a Geography teacher in 1998. In 2007 Mary was appointed Vice Principal for

Pastoral Care/Curriculum in St Louise’s. Through her role as VP she has led many developments in Learning and Teaching. She has been involved in a number of research partnerships on teaching and learning and is currently involved in ‘Teaching and Learning Schools NI’, contributing to the development of teaching staff across Northern Ireland in effective classroom practice.



**Ms Anne McMorrough** is a primary school teacher currently seconded to Marino Institute of Education, Dublin where she lectures in ICT/eLearning. Her research interests include the affordances of digital technologies, creativity and innovation in education. She is currently collaborating on a SCoTENS funded project that explores

‘Creative Classrooms’. She is an Ambassador for eTwinning and has actively participated in a wide range of European projects and teacher professional workshops. In 2010 she began her doctoral studies at the School of Education, University College Dublin.



**Ms Nicola Marlow** is a lecturer in Education and course director of the PGCE English with Drama and Media Studies programme at the University of Ulster. Her research interests include writing pedagogy and how curriculum design and policy have led to particular teaching styles and pedagogical choices when writing is

taught in the secondary English classroom. She is currently an early stage researcher and this body of work is linked to her PHD studies. Other research areas of interest are a SCoTENS research project that examines creative teaching as well as research on the value of tablet technology as a reflective tool within ITE programmes.



**Dr Conor Galvin** is a University Lecturer and Researcher at UCD College of Human Sciences (CHS), where he teaches on various education, development practice, ICT and research programmes. His research interests include the impact of new and emerging technology on learning and society, the politics of professionalism,

literacy in an information age and technology enhanced learning. Dr Galvin is Director of the UCD CHS Graduate School and of the Masters in Development Practice programme and coordinates the Foundation in Sustainable Development Practice for the Dublin alliance. He also contributes to peace support education programmes at the UN Training School Ireland (UNTSI) where he directs field exercises for both humanitarian and military personnel preparing for PSO deployment. Dr Galvin holds The President’s Award for Teaching Excellence at UCD.



**Mr Andy Pollak** retired as founding Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies in July 2013 after 14 years. For 10 of those years he was also secretary of SCoTENS and Universities Ireland. Andy is a former education correspondent, religious affairs correspondent, assistant news editor and Belfast reporter with the *Irish Times*. In

the early 1990s he was co-ordinator of the Opsahl Commission, an independent ‘citizens inquiry’ into ways forward for Northern Ireland. He is co-author of a biography of Rev Ian Paisley and former editor of the Belfast magazine *Fortnight*.



**Ms La’Verne Montgomery** was appointed Director of Education Workforce Development within the Department of Education (DE) in September 2009. The Education Workforce Development Directorate was established during the Department’s transformation process, in line with and in preparation for the

establishment of the Education and Skills Authority (ESA). The Directorate’s aim is to provide the vision and set the framework to enable an education workforce to be trained, qualified, rewarded and motivated to raise standards and close the educational achievement gap through partnership, consultation and the generation of legislation and policy. Prior to her appointment to DE, La’Verne was Head of Human Resources and Corporate Services with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) since February 2002. La’Verne began her career in Human Resources in 1994 in the Clothing and Textile Industry and has subsequent experience in various private sector organisations prior to her appointment to CCMS in 2002.



**Mr Eddie Ward** is Principal Officer in the Department of Education and Skills with responsibility for the Teacher Education and ICT Policy since 2010. Previously, he was CEO of the National Education Welfare Board for eight years, an agency then under

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the Department. Prior to that, he held a number of other roles in the Department and has also worked in other Government departments.



**Dr Carmel Gallagher** was recently appointed as CEO/Registrar to the General Teaching Council Northern Ireland (GTCNI) commencing 1 October 2012. Carmel has over 30 years' educational experience as a teacher, head of department, curriculum support officer, senior policy adviser, educational researcher, teacher trainer and international consultant. For ten years she was the Manager in charge of Curriculum Development within the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and was the driving force behind the development of

the Revised Curriculum, which has been implemented since 2007. She has just completed a PhD analysis of strategic policy development related to that work. She has recently worked with both Queen's and the University of Ulster supporting various educational research projects and aspects of teacher education; with the NI Council for Integrated Education supporting development work on the decade of historical anniversaries; and with various primary and post-primary schools offering strategic support on curriculum, learning and assessment development at whole school level. She also has widespread experience of international consultancy in challenging contexts, having worked with The British Council in Iran, The Council of Europe in several Eastern European countries, the World Bank in Sri Lanka and most recently with UNESCO in Kosovo. She is the author of several curriculum texts, guidance materials and academic articles.

### SCOTENS COMMITTEE (2012-2013)

Professor Linda Clarke and Mr Tomás Ó Ruairc (joint chairs), Dr Noel Purdy, Dr Geraldine Magennis, Mr Eugene Toolan, Dr Anne O'Gara, Professor Kathy Hall, Dr Carmel Gallagher, Dr Deirbhile Nic Craith, Dr Billy McClune, Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Dr Conor Galvin

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The Department of Education and Skills, Dublin; the Department for Employment and Learning, Belfast; the Department of Education, Bangor.

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### CONTACTS

#### The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS)

The Secretary of the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South is Ruth Taillon, and its Administrator is Patricia McAllister

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