

Twenty-first Annual Conference  
#SCoTENS2023

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**SCoTENS**

THE STANDING CONFERENCE  
ON TEACHER EDUCATION,  
NORTH AND SOUTH

*CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SCoTENS • FICHE BLIAIN AG FÁS*

# Hopes, dreams and possibilities

## FOR TEACHER EDUCATION

**19 & 20 October**

Lough Erne Resort,  
Enniskillen,  
Co. Fermanagh





# HOPES, DREAMS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR TEACHER EDUCATION

The SCoTENS committee is delighted to host this conference to mark twenty years since SCoTENS was established. In this special year, our conference will be a celebratory one, and inputs will follow a slightly different format than those at previous conferences. The format has been designed to facilitate speakers and delegates in reflecting on the last twenty years, celebrating all that has been achieved in teacher education, and looking to the future with hope.

The conference has also been designed to facilitate conversation, creativity and connection. Each day will see keynote inputs by a selection of the speakers who have enthralled participants at previous conferences, and an opportunity to engage with them in a plenary discussion. In addition, the new *Round Table Conversation* segment will allow for a series of parallel conversations in the main conference room. Each conversation will take place at a round table, with seating arranged to allow for two contributors, one facilitator, and up to seven other delegates at each table. Contributors at each table will present separately on their chosen topic, while the facilitator will facilitate a conversation whereby delegates respond to what they have heard, offer feedback, or pose questions to the two contributors.

Moreover, reflecting the complexity of teacher education and the breadth of issues that capture our attention and imagination as teacher educators, all contributors have been afforded maximum flexibility in terms of the theme they would like to focus on. They have been invited to choose one of the themes from the past 20 years of SCoTENS conferences and, based on that theme, respond to the following questions:

- What should we be celebrating from the past 20 years?
- What should we be aspiring to / imagining for the next 20 years?
- What in the present gives you hope?

We believe that this will ensure an array of varied and vibrant inputs, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Lough Erne Hotel to join in our celebration.

Dr Maria Campbell and Dr Gabrielle Nig Uidhir  
*SCoTENS Co-chairs*

## THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

- 10.30 STUDENT TEACHER EXCHANGE GROUP** (Directors and Heads of School Placement)  
Facilitated by SCoTENS Committee Members
- 11.00 DOCTORAL WORKSHOP**  
Chaired by Dr Conor Galvin and Dr Pamela Cowan
- 12.30 LUNCH AND REGISTRATION**
- 13.15 WELCOME**  
by Dr Maria Campbell, SCoTENS Co-chair
- 13.20 OPENING REMARKS**  
by Dr Mark Browne, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education Northern Ireland
- 13.45 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: [Developing Reading Teachers: A matter of social Justice](#)**  
by Prof Teresa Cremin, Co-Director, Literacy and Social Justice Centre, The Open University
- 14.45 REFRESHMENTS**
- 15.00 FIRST ROUND TABLE CONVERSATION**  
Facilitated by Mr Des Carswell
- 15.50 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: [Resources of Hope for Teacher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#)**  
by Prof Ian Menter, Emeritus Professor of Teacher Education, University of Oxford
- 16.50 CLOSING REMARKS**  
by Dr Maria Campbell, SCoTENS Co-chair
- 18.30 DRINKS RECEPTION**  
Yvonne Jackson from Shared Island Unit, Department of the Taoiseach  
Focus on Shared Island / SCoTENS Research Initiative 2022 Reports - Projects SRASI and CRITERIA
- 19.00 CONFERENCE DINNER**

## FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

- 9.30 OPENING REMARKS**  
by Prof Noel Purdy, SCoTENS Committee Member
- 9.40 PANEL DISCUSSION**  
Chaired by Dr Conor Galvin, Director of PhD Programmes, School of Education, University College Dublin
- Prof Linda Clarke, Ulster University
  - Mr Andy Pollak, Former Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies
  - Mr Tomás Ó Ruairc, Assistant Secretary, Department of Education
  - Ms Rachel O'Connor, Deputy Director of National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
  - Mr Geoffrey Cherry, Principal, Pond Park Primary School, Lisburn
- 10.45 REFRESHMENTS**
- 11.00 SECOND ROUND TABLE CONVERSATION**  
Facilitated by Mr Des Carswell
- 12.00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: [SCoTENS at 20: Some Thoughts from Abroad](#)**  
by Prof Joanna Madalińska-Michalak, Titular Professor of Social Science at the University of Warsaw
- 13.00 CLOSING REMARKS**  
by Prof Noel Purdy, SCoTENS Committee Member
- 13.15 LUNCH AND CONFERENCE CLOSE**

## PARTICIPANTS IN ROUND TABLE CONVERSATIONS

**Table 1: Autism**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr Michele Dunleavy	Mary Immaculate College Limerick	An examination of teaching social skills and RSE for autistic students in primary, post primary and special schools with the Republic of Ireland.
Ms Wai Wan Choy (Stella)	Trinity College Dublin	Following on last year's SCoTENS presentation on wellbeing, what are the possibilities for teacher education?

**Table 2: Wellbeing**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr Annemarie Doran	Hibernia College	The impact of school leadership on teacher wellbeing.
Ms Emma O'Sullivan	Mary Immaculate College Limerick	An exploration of the well-being of leaders for inclusion, including SENCos and Principals, in Irish primary schools.

**Table 3: Social Justice**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Ms Julie Hamilton	St Mary's University College Belfast	Findings of the SHARED Research project.
Dr Annmarie Curneen	Hibernia College	An Examination of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

**Table 4: Changes in Education**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr TJ Ó'Ceallaigh	University College Cork	Supporting teacher professional learning in immersion education in Ireland: honoring the past, shaping the present and inspiring our future.
Ms Joanne Ferguson	Mary Immaculate College Limerick	The multifaceted journey of contemporary educators.

**Table 5: Critical Reflection**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr Brigid Golden	Mary Immaculate College Limerick	Critical thinking – hope for the future.
Dr Paul McFlynn	Ulster University	Peering In: what do we see and will we agree?

**Table 6: SCoTENS**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Ms Beverley McCormick & Dr Mairead Holden	Ulster University & Trinity College Dublin	Standing on the shoulders of giants: SCoTENS as hopeful space for early career researchers.
Dr Mags Amond	Trinity College Dublin	A round table conversation on the past, present, and future of the SCoTENS doctoral round table.

**Table 7: Community**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr Maria Stewart & Ms Richeal Ni Thiarnaigh	<b>Ulster University &amp; Marino Institute of Education</b>	We are also part of this community: supporting migrant pupils across the island of Ireland.
Ms Helen Lowe	Mary Immaculate College Limerick	Mary Immaculate College's (MIC) Embracing Diversity and Nurturing Integration Project (EDNIP).

## PARTICIPANTS IN ROUND TABLE CONVERSATIONS

**Table 8: Wellbeing**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr Eamon Costello & Ms Ruby Cooney	Dublin City University	What is kindness and where might we find it: A postdigital student-teacher narrative enquiry.
Dr Maria Campbell & Dr Deirdre Harvey	St Angela's College Sligo	Supporting and enabling the socio-emotional and academic development of hospital school learners.

**Table 9: Teachers Professional Learning**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr Sharon Coffey	Kilkenny and Carlow ETB	Exploring school conditions to support teacher professional learning.
Dr Ciara O Donnell	Maynooth University	The professional learning needs and experiences of teachers seconded to an Irish teacher education support service.

**Table 10: Inclusion**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr Carol-Ann Ó Síoráin	Dublin City University	Special Education Settings: Moving forward post pandemic.
Prof Noel Purdy	Stranmillis University College Belfast	Promoting Inclusion in Education and Teacher Education: Reflections on Progress in Ireland, North and South.

**Table 11: Social Justice**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha	Marino Institute of Education	The SCoTENS North South Student Teacher Exchange Programme.
Prof Ann MacPhail	University of Limerick	Teacher Educators, Student Teachers and Social Justice: Reflecting Back and Looking Forward

**Table 12: Creative Arts**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Ms Fionnuala Bromell	Corpus Christi P.S. Moyross Limerick	Our schools Creative Arts programme focusing on drama, music, dance and film making.
Dr Brian Hanratty	St Mary's University College Belfast	Approaches to the teaching of poetry at third-level.

**Table 13: Learning**

PRESENTERS	INSTITUTION	TITLE
Dr Fiona McCaffrey	Middletown Centre for Autism	Neurodiversity and the evolution of neuro-affirming practices in the school and classroom.
Ms Karen McGivern	St Mary's University College Belfast	What influence did a design thinking, creative problem-solving workshop have on beginner student teachers?

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & CHAIRPERSONS



**Dr Maria Campbell** joined the Education Department, St. Angela's College, Sligo, as lecturer in 2000 and is currently, Director of Graduate Programmes. She also teaches on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and has worked on collaborative international research projects in Europe and Africa over the past twenty years.

Her research interests and publications focus on education in multicultural contexts, identity development, educational technologies and the reconceptualisation of Teacher Education. Her current research includes a project in Finland which examines education for sustainability; exploring how technology can support children in Hospital Schools who are 'distanced' and an examination of how best to support students teachers' as researchers in the field of education.

Maria was invited by NOKUT (the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education) to deliver workshops to Norwegian teacher educators in 2018, following the introduction of the five years master's programme for primary teachers in Norway. She is Southern Chair of the cross-border body for teacher education on the island of Ireland – the Standing Conference for Teacher Education North and South (SCoTENS 2019-2023).



**Dr Gabrielle Nig Uidhir** is Senior Tutor for Development in St Mary's University College Belfast. She lectures within the area of Irish-medium primary education and has published work from a range of immersion education perspectives. In her most recent research, she analyses pupils' competences in the target language and she is currently seeking to

develop pedagogies for teachers and teacher educators.

Dr Nig Uidhir leads research among her peers in St Mary's with a focus on research-informed teaching.



**Prof Noel Purdy** is Director of Research and Scholarship and Director of CREU (the Centre for Research in Educational Underachievement) at Stranmillis University College, Belfast.

A former Modern Languages teacher, he has worked in teacher education for 17 years. His main areas of research interest are in educational underachievement, special educational needs and pastoral care, with a particular interest in addressing on- and offline bullying in schools. He chaired the Expert Panel on Educational Underachievement in Northern Ireland (The final action plan *A Fair Start* was launched on 1 June 2021), and also chaired the DE Steering Committee in the Republic of Ireland which reviewed the national Action Plan on Bullying (The new action plan *Cineáltas* was launched on 1 December 2022).

He is Editor of Pastoral Care in Education - *An International Journal of Personal, Social and Emotional Development* and is a parent governor of a local special school outside Belfast.



**Dr Mark Browne** joined the NICS in 1985 as a statistician in the Department of Finance and Personnel, before moving in 1991 to the Department of Education where he worked for 18 years in a range of posts including policy, administration and Finance Director.

In 2009 Mark transferred, on promotion to Deputy Secretary, to the Department of Agriculture as Head of Central Policy Group responsible for Common Agricultural Policy, animal health and welfare, fisheries, research and oversight of the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute. Mark joined OFMDFM in 2013 as Head of Resources, Regeneration, International Relations and Institutional Review Directorate and Accounting Officer for the Department. He then moved, within what is now The Executive Office, to Head of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations Directorate. This included responsibility for Finance and Corporate Services, Good Relations (TBUC), Urban Villages, Equality, Victims and Survivors, Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, Social Investment Fund, Racial Equality and the Delivering Social Change Programme.

In March 2021 Mark took up post as Permanent Secretary in the Department of Education.



**Prof Teresa Cremin** is Professor of Education (Literacy) at The Open University, UK, and co-Director of the Literacy and Social Justice Centre which creates space for research, practice and advocacy to enrich educational opportunities for all.

An ex-teacher, Teresa's socio-cultural research focuses on volitional reading and writing, teachers' and children's literate identities and creative pedagogies. A Fellow of the English Association, the Academy of Social Sciences, and the Royal Society of the Arts, Teresa is also currently a Trustee of the UK Literacy Association, a Board member of the Reading Agency, a Great School Libraries Champion and an appointed DfE reading for pleasure expert. Teresa has published over 30 books on teaching literacy and nurturing creativity, her recent publications, in addition to journal articles and chapters, include *Reading Teachers: Nurturing Reading for pleasure* (Routledge, 2022), and *Children Reading for Pleasure in the Digital Age* with Natalia Kucirkova (Sage, 2020).

Teresa is passionate about developing readers for life and leads a research and practice coalition to support the development of children's and teachers' volitional engagement in reading <https://ourfp.org/>

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & CHAIRPERSONS



**Mr Des Carswell** is currently a Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at Mary Immaculate College Limerick. Des lectures on the B.A. in Early Childhood Care and Education and the Graduate Certificate/M.Ed. in Middle Leadership and Mentoring in Primary and Post-Primary Schools at MIC Thurles Campus.

Inspired by ethico-political conceptualisations, Des' research interests include teacher competence frameworks, teacher identity and teacher reflection. Des is currently completing a PhD in Education at the University of Limerick researching primary school teacher identity (re)formation across the continuum of teacher education.

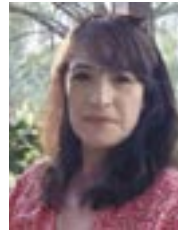
Des represents the Association of Secondary Teachers in Ireland (ASTI), the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT), the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) and Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI) on SCoTENS.



**Prof Ian Menter** is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in the UK and was President of the British Educational Research Association (BERA), 2013-15 and is also a past-President of the Scottish Educational Research Association. He is Emeritus Professor of Teacher Education and Emeritus Fellow of Kellogg College, at the University of

Oxford. He previously worked at the Universities of Glasgow, the West of Scotland, London Metropolitan, the West of England and Gloucestershire. Before that he was a primary school teacher in Bristol, England.

He is now a Visiting Professor at three UK universities. His main research interests are in research, policy and practice in teacher education, including comparative studies of this topic. Recent edited and co-edited publications include *Teacher Education in Russia* (Routledge) and *Teacher Education in Central and Eastern Europe* (Palgrave-Macmillan). His monograph, *Raymond Williams and Education*, was published by Bloomsbury in 2022. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Palgrave *Handbook of Teacher Education Research* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2023)



**Ms Yvonne Jackson** is an Assistant Principal Officer with a range of experience across a diverse range of policies and sectors. She currently leads on the research programme for the Shared Island Initiative within the Department of the Taoiseach.

In previous roles with the Department she has had responsibility for the management and co-ordination of the Cabinet Committees on Social Policy, and Economic Infrastructure. Prior to this she worked with the Office of Public Works, leading in areas of major capital project delivery, including flood risk management and public procurement policy analysis.



**Prof Ann MacPhail** is Associate Vice President Doctoral College at the University of Limerick. Ann's teaching and research interests include (physical education) teacher education, instructional alignment, curriculum, policy, learning communities and internationalisation.

Ann is PI on a Shared Island/SCoTENS Research Initiative funded project 'Shared Responsibility Across a Shared Island: Teaching social justice in initial teacher education' with colleagues from the University of Limerick and Ulster University. The aim of the project is to develop and share a teaching approach to social justice across two initial teacher education programmes from North and South.



**Dr Paul McFlynn** is Course Director PGCE PE and Postgraduate Tutor, School of Education at the University of Ulster. Paul's research to date has concentrated on the role of reflective practice in ITE, teacher education and physical education teacher education. Paul is a co-investigator on the SRASI project.



**Ms Jessica Demori** is a preservice teacher on the second year of the Professional Master of Physical Education at the University of Limerick.



**Mr Simon Warrington** is a recent graduate of the PGCE Physical Education at the University of Ulster.

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & CHAIRPERSONS



**Prof Patricia Eaton** is the Director of Teaching and Learning at Stranmillis University College and has extensive experience in teaching and teacher education. Her degree and PhD were in Pure Mathematics and she taught mathematics in a post-primary school before joining the staff of Stranmillis University College where she has taught

on undergraduate initial teacher education and postgraduate degree programmes and has also held a number of leadership roles.

She has a research profile in the fields of mathematics, mathematics education, diversity and community relations and teacher development, from Initial Teacher Education through career-long professional learning. She is a Chartered Mathematician and Chartered Scientist, a member of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, a member of the Mathematics Association, a Fellow of the Leadership Foundation and a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

She is PI on the Shared Island/SCoTENS Research Initiative funded project CRiTERiA.



**Dr Conor Galvin** is Director of Doctoral Studies at the UCD Dublin School of Education where he also lectures and researches on various education, public policy and research methods programmes.

His research interests include policy networks, social capital, professional knowledge, and the impact of new and emergent technology on learning and society. He has been an external evaluator on several EU funded projects and an assessor on a number of EU Actions. Dr Galvin holds The President's Award for Teaching Excellence at UCD, and is also a Teaching Award Holder 2016 of the prestigious *Universities Teaching & Learning Forum / USI Award*. He was a Visiting Scholar at University of Cambridge Faculty of Education in 2000 and again in 2009.

He is a past-President of the Education Studies Association of Ireland and an Appointee to the Minister for Education's Working Group on the *Schools Excellence Fund – Digital, Ireland*. Before joining UCD, Dr Galvin worked at University of Wales, Swansea and University of Cambridge, England.



**Prof Linda Clarke** is Emeritus Professor at Ulster University. She served as Head of the School of Education at Ulster from 2009 to 2013. Linda was the Northern Chair of SCoTENS 2013-2016 and Chair of UCETNI (the Universities' Council for the Education of Teachers, NI) 2010-2011 and 2017-2019. She was Research Director for Education at Ulster and served as

member of the UK 2021 REF (Research Excellence Framework) Sub-Panel for Education.

Linda's key research interests lie in Teacher Education, particularly around Education Technology and Geographical Education.



**Mr Andy Pollak** was the founding director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies (1999-2013) and secretary of SCoTENS (2003-2013). He is a former Irish Times education and religious affairs correspondent and co-author of books on Ian Paisley and Seamus Mallon.



**Mr Tomás Ó Ruairc** is an Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Education with responsibility for reform, evaluation, policy, statistics, strategic development and international. From 2012 to 2022 he was Director of the Teaching Council in Ireland. Prior to that he worked as a post-primary teacher and also in the Froebel College of Education. He

was Deputy CEO of Foras na Gaeilge, the North-South body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language from 2007-2009.

He served on the council of the NCCA from 2006-2009 and was Chair of its Primary Languages Committee in 2009. During this time, he was also Southern Co-Chair of SCoTENS, working alongside Prof. Linda Clarke.



**Ms Rachel O'Connor** is the Deputy Director of NAPD, seconded from Ramsgrange Community School in Wexford where she became Principal in 2013. Rachel represents NAPD across a wide variety of Stakeholder fora in education. She is a Leadership Associate with OIDE, working on the Misneach Programme.

She is a co-founder of the WILL Network (Women in Learning and Leadership). Rachel also works with OIDE as a Mentor for newly appointed Principals.



## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & CHAIRPERSONS



**Mr Geoffrey Cherry MBE BEd DASE PQH (NI)** graduated from Stranmillis University College in 1985 with a Bachelor of Education degree. He then completed a Diploma in the Advanced Study of Education DASE (QUB) in Literacy and Numeracy (1992-3) passing with commendation.

In 2000 he was awarded the Professional Qualification in Headship (RTU). Geoffrey taught for 20 years in the Primary sector fulfilling roles as Music and Literacy Co-Ordinator, Head of Pastoral Care and Vice-Principal (Pastoral) from 2008-2012. He is presently Principal of Pond Park Primary School, Lisburn where he has spent the last 31 years. Under his leadership the school has become an Apple Regional Training Centre delivering and presenting courses to teachers, sharing good practice and supporting staff to attain Apple Teacher Status.

Geoffrey was awarded the MBE for Services to Education in 2020.



**Prof Joanna Madalińska-Michalak** is a Full Professor of Social Sciences (Education, Education Research). She is based at the Faculty of Education, University of Warsaw, Poland. In 2020 she was awarded the honorary title of Distinguished Professor at the University of Warsaw. She is a Honorary Professor at Aarhus University, Denmark, and a

Visiting Professor at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. She is a Head of the Chair of Didactics and Teacher Education, a member of the Board of Scientific Discipline, University of Warsaw and a member of the University Board of the Pedagogical University in Cracow, Poland. Professor Madalińska-Michalak has long-standing research and consultancy experience in the fields of teacher education, teachers' role and continuing professional development, teachers' professionalism and ethics, and educational leadership. Her research work focuses on successful school leadership in challenging circumstances, school development with a focus on the children and teacher development, teacher education, teachers' and school

principals' learning and development, teachers' competences, and research ethics. She is an author of more than 250 scientific publications, mainly articles in journals and books. Prof. Madalińska-Michalak currently serves as the series editor of a Brill Book series entitled: "Key Issues in Teacher Education: Research, Policy and Practice", and as a member of the editorial board of a Springer Book series entitled: "Evidence, Science and Public Good in Education". She is actively involved in many national and international research projects. She has delivered keynotes in a wide range of countries. She has acted as an expert advisor to international bodies and has been involved in research and educational programmes relating to school leadership, teachers' success, teachers' role, competences and professionalism, teachers' ethics, and teacher education. She was an expert at the European Research Funding 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (2007-2013). She is expert of The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

She serves for global, international, and national scientific organisations. She is a vice-president of International Association of Educators (INASED), a member of the Board of Directors of International Council of Education for Teaching (ICET, since 2017), and a member of Council Board of European Educational Research Association (EERA, since 2008). She is representative of the Polish Ministry of Education and Science in European Network on Teacher Education Policy, ENTEP (since 2018). She was a Vice-President of World Education Research Association (WERA, 2018-2022), a President of Polish Educational Research Association (PERA, 2014-2019), Chair of Teacher Education Policy in Europe Scientific Network (TEPE, 2016-2020), and a member of the Executive Body of the Board of Scientific Associations at the Polish Academy of Science (since 2017). She serves as a member of editorial boards for such scientific international journals as *Teachers and Teaching: Theory and Practice*, and *South African Journal of Education*.

Professor Madalińska-Michalak received the 2022 the Insitute De Republica Award honouring her outstanding achievements in the social sciences and international activities. In 2022 she was also awarded the Medal of the Polish Educational Research Association in recognition of her special merits for the development of educational research and the popularisation of their achievements in Poland and abroad.

## MEMBERS OF THE SCoTENS COMMITTEE 2023

Dr Maria Campbell (Southern co-Chair), Dr Gabrielle Nig Uidhir (Northern co-Chair), Prof Kathy Hall, Prof Noel Purdy, Dr Conor Galvin, Dr Pamela Cowan, Des Carswell, Carmel Kearns, Dr Lorraine Harbison, Dr Shauna McGill, Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha, Prof Gerry MacRuairc, Nuala O'Donnell

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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 Anthony Soares, and its Administrator is Tricia Kelly.

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**SCoTENS website:** [www.scotens.org](http://www.scotens.org)

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