

Press release

18 August

The Stirling Network for Curriculum Studies

The Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Stirling is delighted to announce the formation of a new Network for Curriculum Studies. Building upon the Faculty's internationally-known work in this area, the Network's aim is to promote scholarship and research in the area of curriculum studies, by bringing together scholars, policymakers and practitioners from around the world.

This is a timely initiative: many education systems across the world have recently developed new forms of national curriculum, with an increasing focus on the centrality of the learner, and the importance of teachers as school-based curriculum developers. These developments come at a time when curriculum studies has been in decline, meaning that new approaches to developing curricular policy and practice are occurring when there is a shortfall in the system capacity needed to make the most of new policy intentions.

The Director of the Network will be **Professor Mark Priestley**, supported by a core group of scholars from the Stirling Faculty of Social Sciences (**Professor Fiona Copland; Professor Walter Humes; Dr Greg Mannion; Dr Dalene Swanson**). Additionally, the Network will be supported by an international advisory group comprising senior policymakers and policy developers, and international curriculum scholars.

- **Alan Armstrong**, Director of Lifelong Learning Education Scotland; President of the Consortium of Institutions for Development and Research in Education in Europe
- **Professor Gert Biesta**, Brunel University
- **Dr Kathy Hibbert**, Western University, Ontario
- **Ken Muir**, Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland
- **Dr Nienke Nieveen**, SLO, Netherlands
- **Professor Anne Phelan**, University of British Columbia
- **Dr Stavroula Philippou**, University of Cyprus
- **Associate Professor Annamaria Pinter**, University of Warwick
- **Professor Ninni Wahlström**, Linnæus University
- **Professor Dominic Wyse**, UCL/loE
- **Professor Lyn Yates**, University of Melbourne

The Network will be launched formally at a high-profile, full-day event on 9 November 2016. The event will focus on the recommendations of the OECD review of Scotland's curriculum, and will feature a keynote address by **Professor Jan van den Akker**, former Director of the Netherlands Institute for Curriculum Development (SLO), and an internationally recognised expert on curriculum development.

A full programme of further events is planned for the coming year, including a full-day seminar on 10 March 2017, focusing on languages and the curriculum, and featuring a keynote by Stirling's **Carnegie Professor, Claire Kramsch** (University of Berkeley).

The Network will also host the *3rd European Conference on Curriculum Studies* at Stirling on 16/17 June 2017. Keynote speakers for this event are **Professor Lyn Yates** (Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor, University of Melbourne,

<http://www.findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/display/person29621>), and **Professor Nicholas Ng-A-Fook** (University of Ottawa, <https://education.uottawa.ca/en/people/ng-fook-nicholas>).

Full details about the Network and how to contribute can be found by visiting <http://bit.ly/2bbZtYT> or by emailing curric-stir@stir.ac.uk.