

Invitation to Centre Launch and Inaugural Distinguished Lecture

Centre for Language Education Research at Aston

Venue: Main Building, Room G8

Date: Wednesday, 26 October 2011

Time: 4.00-5.30: Inaugural Lecture

5.30: Official launch by Vice Chancellor, Prof.
Julia King, followed by reception

Distinguished Visitor:

Prof. Donald Freeman, University of Michigan, will deliver the inaugural *CLERA Distinguished Lecture*.

Title: "Rethinking how language 'goes to school': Social capital in teaching and learning new languages."



Abstract:

When language 'goes to school', a basic contradiction ensues: It stops functioning as language and becomes a subject matter. This lecture examines the problem in terms of social capital, and outlines how learning new languages involves developing new forms of capital although most classroom language teaching mediates against that development. Drawing from experiences as a language teacher and teacher educator, I will discuss pedagogical and program designs that work to bridge the gap.

About the Centre

CLERA draws on over two decades of research into language education to investigate communication, discourse and culture and their impact on language education.

The key goal of CLERA is to promote collaboration among researchers in these areas and to establish international research networks and partnerships.

Major research areas

- ▼ First and second language learning and teaching, particularly in relation to classroom-based research, immigrant and workplace-related education
- ▼ Language teacher education
- ▼ European languages and cultures, including English
- ▼ English as a global language
- ▼ Language contact, regionally and internationally
- ▼ Language education for professional and intercultural communication in organisations, language teaching, and translation and interpreting

Upcoming events

CLERA will host regular lectures, seminars and workshops on Language Education.

For more information, please email lss_clera@aston.ac.uk or go to

<http://www1.aston.ac.uk/lss/research/centres-institutes/language-education-research/>

To join our mailing list, please email info_clera@lists.aston.ac.uk

The centre is led by



Prof. Pam Moores OBE
Dean of LSS



Prof. Anne Burns
Director of CLERA



Prof. Gertrud Reershemius
Co-Director of CLERA

Current projects of CLERA researchers

- ▼ *Investigating Global Practices in Teaching Young Learners*, funded by the British Council
- ▼ *Taking Steps towards CLIL*, funded by LinkedUp
- ▼ *Spoken Academic Discourse in Contrast*, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation

Recent publications

- Burns, A. (2010). *Doing Action Research in English Language Teaching: A Guide for Practitioners*. New York: Routledge
- Garton, S., Copland, F. & Burns, A. (2011). *Investigating Global Practices in Teaching Young Learners*. British Council
- Reershemius, G. (2010). Deutschunterricht in Großbritannien. In: Fandrych, C. (ed.) *HSK Handbuch Deutsch als Fremdsprache*. Berlin / New York: de Gruyter