Annual Research Report

Graduate School of Education

2020
Contents

Dean’s Message ........................................................................................................................................... 1
Overview of 2020 .......................................................................................................................................... 2
Publications .................................................................................................................................................. 3
   Books ....................................................................................................................................................... 3
   Edited books ........................................................................................................................................... 3
   Book chapters .......................................................................................................................................... 3
   Journal articles ........................................................................................................................................ 4
   Peer reviewed conference proceedings .................................................................................................. 9
Conference Presentations .............................................................................................................................. 10
   Keynote addresses/Invited presentations ................................................................................................. 10
   National/international conference presentations ...................................................................................... 10
Grants and Consultancies Won in 2020 ......................................................................................................... 11
   Australian Competitive Grants .................................................................................................................. 11
   Other Public Sector Research Income ...................................................................................................... 11
   Industry and Other Research Income ..................................................................................................... 12
   Organisations to which grant applications were submitted .................................................................. 12
Editorial Boards ............................................................................................................................................ 13
   Editorial roles .......................................................................................................................................... 13
   Editorial boards that staff are on ............................................................................................................... 13
   Series Editorship ..................................................................................................................................... 14
HDR Training ................................................................................................................................................ 15
   HDR completions .................................................................................................................................... 15
   Research training workshops ................................................................................................................... 16
   Fogarty Foundation Postgraduate Research Forum .................................................................................. 16
Staff with Fellowships ................................................................................................................................ 18
Research Entities .......................................................................................................................................... 19
   Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing Research Clinic (CAMHWRC) ......................... 19
   Education Policy, Leadership and Practice (EPLP) Research Group ..................................................... 20
International Collaborations ......................................................................................................................... 21
Staff and Research Expertise ........................................................................................................................ 22
   Academic Staff ......................................................................................................................................... 22
   Research Assistant/Officer ....................................................................................................................... 23
Dean’s Message

Kaya wanju wanju

Welcome to the 2020 Research Report

Research is not just about what we investigate and discover; it is also about how we communicate these insights and understand this new knowledge. The Graduate School of Education is an intellectually vibrant community of researchers and research candidates whose research focusses on many of the key educational issues and challenges of our local and global communities. We celebrate research, innovation and excellence and showcase the impacts of our work with educators, practitioners, industry professionals, policy makers and students. The publications and activities featured in this Research Report highlight the breadth and depth of our expertise.

Against the backdrop of a global pandemic our research focuses on the ‘wicked problems’ that are present in our ever changing world. Our publications and research activities continue to advance knowledge, tackle critical issues, and contribute to the educational challenges of our communities. I draw attention to the increase in income, as well as the establishment of two research entities which further draw us together in a scholarly community.

I take this opportunity to thank the Research Committee under the leadership of Associate Professor Christine Howitt for their foresight and work collating this volume. This has been a remarkable year and I acknowledge the collegiality, care, commitment and professionalism of all staff.

Professor Tanya Fitzgerald
Dean and Head, Graduate School of Education
### Overview of 2020

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<td>book chapters</td>
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<td>keynotes / invited presentations</td>
<td>national &amp; international conference presentations</td>
<td>journal editors</td>
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Publications

Books


Edited books


Book chapters


Lawrence, D., Carrington-Jones P., & Kyron M. (2020). Textual analysis of suicide notes: how a new approach could yield fresh insights? In A. C. Page & W. G. K. Stritzke (Eds.), Alternatives to...


Journal articles


https://doi.org/10.1002/pits.22352

https://doi.org/10.1080/19415257.2020.1787196

https://doi.org/10.3316

https://doi.org/10.1007/s11165-018-9715-x

https://doi.org/10.1080/02635143.2020.1830267


https://doi.org/10.1080/08957347.2020.1732384

https://doi.org/10.33788/rcis.69.3

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.104961


**Fitzgerald, T.** (2020). Mapping the terrain of leadership: Gender and leadership in higher education. *Irish Educational Studies, 39*(2), 221–232.  
https://doi.org/10.1080/03323315.2020.1729222

https://doi.org/10.1080/00309230.2019.1676270

https://doi.org/10.1080/00131911.2020.1861863


**Peer reviewed conference proceedings**


Conference Presentations

Keynote addresses/Invited presentations

Dawson, V. (February, 2020). Where can climate change fit into the Australian curriculum? Invited presentation for the UN Content Expert Contribution Workshop: Climate across the curriculum: Educational resources for teachers, Fremantle, Western Australia.


National/international conference presentations


Dawson, V. (June, 2020). Development of water socioscientific issues to assess argumentation skills with Year 7 students. Paper presented at the Annual Australasian Science Education Research Association (ASERA) Conference (Online), University of Wollongong, NSW.


Pegrum, M., Oakley, G., Kheang, T., & Seng, K. (November, 2020). ‘They just wanted to play’: A mobile-enhanced early literacy intervention in Cambodia. mLearn 2020 (Online).
Grants and Consultancies Won in 2020

Australian Competitive Grants


Other Public Sector Research Income


Industry and Other Research Income


Organisations to which grant applications were submitted

Australian Research Council

Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme

Federal Government National Research Priorities Fund

Healthway

Leverhulme Trust

Navitas Education Trust
Editorial Boards

Editorial roles

Australasian Journal of Early Childhood, Deputy Editor, Christine Howitt

British Journal of Educational Psychology, Associate Editor, Stephen Houghton

Critical Studies in Education, Editor, Glenn Savage

Frontiers in Psychology, Associate Editor, Elaine Chapman

International Journal of Bullying Prevention, Associate Editor, Simon Hunter

International Journal of Virtual and Personal Learning Environments, Associate Editor, Mark Pegrum

Irish Educational Studies, Co-Editor [Special Issue: Women Leaders in Higher Education], Tanya Fitzgerald

Paedagogica Historica, Co-Editor [Special Issue: Breaking Boundaries: Women in Higher Education], Tanya Fitzgerald

Professional Development in Education, Associate Editor, Simon Clarke

Stigma and Health, Consulting Editor, Simon Hunter

TalentEd, Editor, Peter Merrotsy

Editorial boards that staff are on

Applied Psychological Measurement
Australian Journal of Teacher Education
British Journal of Educational Studies
Education 3-13
Educational Innovations and Emerging Technologies
Educational Review
Educational Psychology
Educational and Developmental Psychologist
History of Education
History of Education Review
International Journal of Primary and Early Years Education
International Journal of Science Education
International Journal of Science and Mathematics Education
Interactive Technology and Smart Education
International Studies in Catholic Education
Irish Educational Studies
Journal of Applied Measurement
Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy
Journal of Education Policy
Journal of Educational Administration
Journal of Educational Administration and History
Journal of Informal Science and Environmental Learning
Language Learning & Technology
Psychological Test and Assessment Modelling
Research in Educational Administration & Leadership (REAL)
Research in Science Education
Research in Science and Technological Education
Technology in Language Teaching and Learning
The Australasian E-Journal of Catholic School Studies
The Internet and Higher Education

Series Editorship

Vaille Dawson

- Contributions from Biology Education Research, Springer

Tanya Fitzgerald

- Perspectives on Leadership in Higher Education, Bloomsbury Academic Press

Tom O’Donoghue

- Emerald Studies in Teacher Preparation in National and Global Contexts, Emerald
HDR Training

HDR completions

Doctor of Philosophy

Olivia Johnston. Students’ reconciling with their teachers’ expectations of them: A grounded theory. Supervisors: Emeritus Professor Helen Wildy, Dr Jennifer Shand and Associate Professor Christine Howitt (This thesis received an honourable mention on the Graduate Research School Dean’s List.)

William John Mortimer. The construction of the geography curriculum as a subject for the senior years of state secondary schooling in Western Australia: A historical analysis of developments from 1917 to 1997. Supervisors: Professor Tom O’Donoghue and Dr Loretta Dolan

Dragana Surla. Application of the Rasch model of modern test theory to equate multiple tests using their total scores. Supervisors: Emeritus Professor David Andrich and Dr Stephen Humphry

Doctor of Education

Amalia Hasanah. Madrassa School Leadership in Remote Districts in Indonesia. Supervisors: Professor Tom O’Donoghue and Professor Simon Clarke

Pratima Majal. Teaching adult learners online: A Case study in Singapore. Supervisors: Emeritus Professor Anne Chapman and Dr Elaine Chapman

Ramesh Narayanan. Public Art Museums: Their Work in the Visual Arts in Singapore with Special Reference to Sponsorship. Supervisors: Emeritus Professor Keith Punch and Professor Stephen Houghton

Jeannine Wishart. Informed choices: Investigating the resources used by Western Australian primary school teachers to inform the teaching of written grammar. Supervisors: Associate Professor Grace Oakley and Dr Jennifer Shand

Master of Education (Thesis & Coursework)

Alexander Robins. Youth Peace Building Programs in Post-Conflict Societies: An Interpretivist Study. Supervisors: Professor Tom O’Donoghue and Professor Simon Clarke

Rachael Stevens. Montessori educators and the Australian early years learning framework in Montessori early childhood environments in Western Australia: A qualitative study. Supervisors: Dr Gerardine Neylon and Professor Tom O’Donoghue
Master of Educational Leadership (Thesis & Coursework)

Wayne Houden. Western Australian teachers' perspectives on delivering road safety education to Year 10 students. Supervisors: Associate Professor Christine Howitt and Professor Stephen Houghton

Research training workshops

David Andrich: A seven day international workshop in Rasch measurement theory and applications in conjunction with the Centre for Educational Measurement and Assessment at The University of Sydney.

Tom O'Donoghue: A one day workshop to doctorate (PhD) students at the Thurles Campus, University of Limerick, Ireland.

Fogarty Foundation Postgraduate Research Forum

The Fogarty Foundation Postgraduate Research Forum provides an opportunity for Western Australian postgraduate education students to present their research and explore their ideas in a supportive environment. It provides an excellent opportunity for the sharing of minds in education related research. Due to COVID there was no forum in 2020.
Olivia Johnston runner up in the international 3MT competition

UWA PhD graduate Olivia Johnston was awarded runner up in the Matariki Network of Universities’ Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. After a round of local competition at UWA, Olivia was selected as one of three finalists to enter the international round of the competition. Bringing students from UWA, Queen’s University, Durham University and the University of Otago together, the competition challenges research students to communicate the significance of their projects to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes.

“My 3MT condensed my whole thesis into a 3 minute talk, with one slide only. I had to focus on the very essential core of the PhD, which was all about teachers’ expectations of students. I chose to research teachers’ expectations because I’m interested in how schools and teachers perpetuate disadvantage, and what we might be able to do to challenge and change that. Even one student who decides to give up on education because their teachers don’t believe they will ever amount to much is one student too many. Every single student deserves better than that.

I entered the 3MT because I love a challenge. My first draft was 10 minutes, so getting it down to 3 was the first major challenge. Then there was memorising it … I rehearsed while I was on a 6 day hike on the Bibbulmun Track, and I think I will have it memorised for the rest of my life. Talking in front of a live audience was very scary but quite an adventure. The whole experience was very helpful for me in terms of consolidating what has been accomplished through my PhD. Now, when people ask me what my PhD was about, I have some go-to lines and phrases from my 3MT talk that summarise it really well.”
Staff with Fellowships

David Andrich - Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia
Simon Clarke - Fellow of the Australian College of Educators
Simon Clarke - Fellow of the Australian Council of Educational Leaders
Vaille Dawson - Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology
Vaille Dawson - Honorary Fellow of the Australia-India Institute
Tom O’Donoghue - Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia
Tom O’Donoghue - Fellow of the Royal Historical Society
Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing Research Clinic (CAMHWRC)

Childhood and adolescence are critical junctures for developing effective prevention and intervention, and young people themselves are powerful agents for the promotion of their own mental health and wellbeing (Patton et al., Lancet Commission, 2016). However, young people experience co-occurring multiple problems or challenges to their mental wellbeing each day. These tend to be multiple and inter-related, and often wax and wane with the everyday environmental pressures from school, peers, and family (Arbel et al., 2017). Mental health and wellbeing is therefore a complex issue. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing Research Clinic (CAMHWRC) aims to provide a local, national and international focus for multidisciplinary research in child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing and developmental psychopathology. This field is the primary concern in educational contexts and family settings, and seemingly more so since the coronavirus event. CAMHWRC is aligned with UWA’s Vision and Strategic Planning in that it incorporates a leading team of researchers that seek to resolve real world challenges (mental health and wellbeing, including loneliness and suicidal behaviours and their management) that are critical to the planet and its people.

The team are very active and currently have external research funding for the following investigations:

- Reducing Self-harm and Suicidal Behaviours in Young People in Western Australia. (US$850,000). Stan Perron Charitable Foundation Research Round (child health and medical research), Western Australia. 2020-2024. (Associate Professor David Lawrence, Professor Stephen Houghton, Dr Elaine Chapman, Professor Andrew Page, Professor Michael Small, Dr Barbara Sheil, Professor Dawn Freshwater, Professor Helen Milroy, Professor Michael Sawyer, Professor Tanya Fitzgerald)

- Supporting the ongoing wellbeing and resilience of Australia’s first responders following the 2019/20 bushfires. (US$678,000). National Health and Medical Research Council – MRFF scheme 2020-2023 (Three years) (Associate Professor David Lawrence, Ms Wavne Rikkers, Dr Miranda Van Hooff, Professor Sharon Lawn and Professor Stephen Houghton).

- A whole of school mindfulness approach in schools. (US$35,000). Mindfulness Meditation Australia. (One year) (Associate Professor David Lawrence, Professor Stephen Houghton).

- Loneliness in adolescents as a component of developmental risk for vulnerability to suicidal behaviours. (US$10,000). Young Lives Matter Foundation, UWA. (One year). (Professor Stephen Houghton, Professor David Lawrence, Professor Andrew Page, Dr Sashya Gunasekera, Professor Simon Hunter).

- Neurodevelopmental disorders and loneliness: School predictors and outcomes (US$425,150). The Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grants Scheme, 2018-2021 (Four years). (Professor Stephen Houghton Dr John Wray Senior Paediatrician WA Child Development Centre; Professor John Hattie, University of Melbourne; Professor Annemaree Carroll, University of Queensland; Professor Simon Hunter University Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland).
• Online for a Healthy Mind: Promoting Mental Health the Health(y)way. ($401,000). Healthway, 2017-2020 (Three years). (Professor Stephen Houghton, Professor Colin MacLeod; Professor David Lawrence; Dr Ben Grafton UWA; Professor Andrew Page; Dr Simon Hunter, Strathclyde; Mr Chris Gostelow, WA Department of Education).

Education Policy, Leadership and Practice (EPLP) Research Group

The Education Policy, Leadership and Practice Research Group (EPLP) research group was established in May 2020 as an interdisciplinary cluster of experts with a reputation for quality research that shapes contemporary education debates in Australia and beyond. EPLP researchers have close links to government and the education profession. They are committed to working strategically at the nexus between research, policy and practice to lead conversations across the education lifespan from the early years to higher education. Our researchers are engaged in a rich variety of research projects ranging from large-scale government and commissioned grants to smaller-scale bespoke projects.

In the first 8 months the groups has achieved:


2. A series of development workshops, which led to the establishment of five strategic research strengths to guide the development of the group into the future: 1. Equity and inclusion; 2. Curriculum and pedagogy; 3. Leadership for learning; 4. Education politics and governance; 5. Globalisation and policy mobilities.

3. Development of research partnership with the University of Manchester’s ‘Critical Education Policy’ research group, with the plan to organise a webinar series in 2021.

4. A diverse range of new research grants and initiatives have been pursued, with several projects under review by the ARC, WA Department of Health, and the Economic and Social Research Council.

5. Multiple book projects. Various members are producing books to be published in 2021.
International Collaborations

[Map showing international collaborations with lines connecting countries like Australia, Russia, China, Canada, and the United States.]
Staff and Research Expertise

Academic Staff

Professor David Andrich
Educational measurement and assessment, Item response theory, Psychometrics, Rasch measurement

Dr Elaine Chapman
Social psychology of education, Research methods

Professor Wai Chen (Adjunct Professor)
ADHD, neurodevelopmental disorders, emotional dysregulation, dissociation, resilience and social recovery

Professor Simon Clarke
Educational leadership, School improvement, Change in education, Teachers' work, Industrial relations in education

Professor Vaille Dawson
Science education, STEM education, Thinking skills, Disadvantaged schools, Scientific literacy

Dr Loretta Dolan (Honorary Research Fellow)
History of education, History of childhood, History education

Professor Tanya Fitzgerald
Higher education, Gender, Policy, Leadership, History

Professor Stephen Houghton
Neurodevelopmental disorders in childhood and adolescence, Child and adolescent loneliness, mental health and developmental psychopathology, Development of 3-D animated gamified platforms.

Associate Professor Christine Howitt
Young children's science learning, Science identity, Learning in informal contexts, Participatory research, Rights of the child, STEM education

Dr Steve Humphry
Educational Assessment, Educational Measurement, Physics Education, Quantitative Methods, Philosophy of Science

Professor Simon Hunter (Adjunct Professor)
Children and young people’s experiences of bullying, Loneliness, Screen media use, Mental illness stigma

Associate Professor David Lawrence
Child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing, Youth suicide prevention, Mental health and wellbeing of emergency services personnel

Dr Ida Marais
Psychological and educational measurement, Psychometrics, Rasch measurement, Quantitative research methods in Psychology and Education, Data simulation

Dr Fiona Mayne
Early childhood education, Participatory research, Rights of the child

Professor Peter Merrotsy
Creativity, Mathematics education, Education of gifted and talented children,
Academic acceleration, Creative problem solving, Hermeneutics

Dr Gerardine Neylon
Quality in early childhood education and care

Associate Professor Grace Oakley
Literacy and technology, Reading comprehension, Mobile technologies for learning schools and Higher Education, Literacy across the curriculum, Innovations in Higher Education

Professor Tom O'Donoghue
Comparative education/international education, History of education, Education in conflict, Teacher education, Curriculum theory, Parental involvement in education

Associate Professor Mark Pegrum
Digital learning, e-learning, Mobile learning, m-learning, Digital literacies, New technologies

Associate Professor Glenn Savage
Education reform, Federalism, Intergovernmental relations, Global policy mobilities

Dr Gemma Scarparolo
Differentiation, Inclusive practice, Gifted education, Student voice, Professional development

Dr Jennifer Shand
Literature education, Writing pedagogy, Young adult fiction and reading

Emeritus Professor Lesley Vidovich
Education policy and practice, Globalisation and internationalisation of education, Comparative education, Educational leadership, management and administration

Emeritus Professor Helen Wildy
School leadership, School improvement, Educational measurement, School reform, Educational standard, Educational leadership, Professional standards

Research Assistant/Officer

Jennifer Bartlett
- Mental health and wellbeing of fire and emergency service personnel
- Evaluation of a whole school mindfulness program

Ken Bredemeyer
- Educational psychometrics, specialising in pairwise comparisons of student assessments

Anna Hunt
- Mental health and wellbeing of fire and emergency service personnel

Michael Kyron
- Quantitative research methods and advanced statistical modelling in mental health and loneliness.

Leslie Macqueen
- Adolescent mental health and wellbeing: 3D-animated, school-based program designed to therapeutically alter unhelpful negative thought patterns in young people

Wavne Rikkers
- Help-seeking experiences of families of veterans and emergency services
first responders with mental health problems
- Positive mental health in young (16-25 year old) emergency services volunteers
- Validation of the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Severity Scale

Sonia Sappl
- Psychometrics using the Rasch measurement model - analysis of educational assessment data using psychometric and statistical software

Vivienne White
- BASE early childhood education assessment
- InCAS interactive education assessment

Corinne Zadow
- Adolescent friendships and mental health, neurodevelopmental disorders, loneliness and depressive symptoms