

Creativities in Education

Please describe below the main activities and events of the SIG in the past year.

Our SIG event, planned for June 2020 was planned to both continue the questions raised by our 2019 focus upon evaluative and methodological emphases evident in the wider field (OECD and non-English nations – see [Disentangling and debating creativity in education: methodologies for research and assessment](#)) and affirmed from our consultations with the SIG membership at conferences and informally. The 2019 event provoked debate and thought into how we might better research, evaluate and perhaps assess creativity in education; the 2020 focus recognised the need to reaffirm and re-direct attention to what has been learnt and what needs to be learnt to take the field forward. We wished to build on heightened national (Welsh and Scottish particularly) and international interest in creativity (OECD's international PISA tests in 2021). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic our live event was cancelled and as this was conceived to involve physical enactive activities, we decided at the time to postpone the event and to try to initiate our intentions with this event in alternative ways. We explored whether some of the collaborative enactive work might be facilitated by different platforms: Twitter and Padlet. This allowed for a small amount of collaborative dialogue, which maintained interest and discussion around the potential event.

As the likelihood of live events has diminished, and we have become more agile in virtual practices, we have built on this to develop a two-phase online iteration of our plans. We are aiming to share further plans with SIG members in the new year regarding an invited experts workshop and an open BERA Creativities SIG webinar for the summer.

What are the key issues currently affecting your Special Interest Area?

Covid-19 restrictions are primary. Education, the arts and creative education continue to occupy a lower status position in society and research.

Continued centralised, narrow accountability of English curriculum and assessment – whilst Wales and Scotland offer some different parameters.

Are there any particular developments for your SIG on the horizon, e.g. newsletters,

We have a series of planned developments from January towards conference, once our new events and dates are approved by BERA. This will include a newsletter in January, podcast in February, online workshop and online event (including the Anna Craft memorial lecture) in May/June through into conference 2021 in September.

What other organizations does your SIG collaborate with?

We work with research and practice-led groups at Exeter, in Coventry and Birmingham. We have collaborated with Research methods SIG and discussed some options with both arts-based and practitioner-led SIGs.

How has your SIG worked to engage members across the four nations? How does your SIG plan to encourage engagement from across the 4 nations in the future?

Our workshop event and seminar in May/June will involve participants from across the 4 nations which we hope will stimulate wider interest in working with us.

How has your SIG worked to encourage diversity amongst your membership? How do you plan to encourage diversity in the future?

Our workshop event and seminar in May/June will involve participants who are active in both creativity and in positive representation of minority and diverse voices. This is a conscious decision which we hope will stimulate future interest in working with us.

Are there any particular comments you have for the BERA Office? Do you have any needs you would like to discuss?

Thanks for developed online and continued support.

Opportunities for more flexibility on events (and about event processes) might be helpful