

Higher Education

Main activities and events of the SIG in the past year.

We had two excellent workshop events planned for BERE HE members to attend. one was for Early Career Researchers, on the theme of 'Anything but linear: post-PhD careers inside and outside of academia, and everything in between'; the other event was on the the theme of 'Dystopian Realities and Utopian Thought: Alternative Futures for Academic Practice'. Both of the events are summarised in the last HE SIG newsletter that was published. Unfortunately, COVID-19 meant that the events were not able to take place.

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

Staying with the theme of COVID-19, there are a number of issues that the Higher Education sector is having immanently confront – and will have to confront in the near future. The impact of Learning Technology (and the rapidity by which academics and educators had to change their teaching practice and get to grips with new and virtual modes of teaching and communication) was/is laudable. However, the longer term impact of this quite fundamental transition on pedagogy, instructional priorities and funding, and of course, student expectation is yet to be fully understood. Also, the government approach to prioritising higher technical education, also threatens to destabilise and shift the ethos of HE and its provision.

Are there any particular developments for your SIG on the horizon, e.g. newsletters, publications, blogs, events, projects?

The events that were arranged and scheduled (but were psotponed) will be rescheduled and delivered by the SIG at a later date. We are currently looking at the feasibility of running them as virtual events in 2021

What other organizations does your SIG collaborate with?

Early Career Researcher Network Post-Compulsory and Lifelong Learning

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

We are currently directly working with colleagues across England, Scotland and Ireland. We will be looking to develop more networks contacts with colleagues across all nations in 2021 and beyond.

We work actively with colleagues across the full range of HE institutions; e.g., Russell Group, Post-92 universities and College Based University Centres (CBHE). More work needs to be done to generate an effective, representative and influential voice influential voice for CBHE colleagues.