

## Research Methodologies in Educational Research

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

- 30 January 2020 BERA blog post written by participants from 19 October 2019 Walk and Talk Event at the Open University <https://www.bera.ac.uk/blog/walking-and-talking-as-and-for-methodological-development>
- 1 August 2020 Podcast Alison Fox and Carmel Capewell – What no face to face research <https://www.bera.ac.uk/media/what-no-face-to-face-contact-with-participants-what-are-the-alternatives> (part of COVID-19 series pointing to relevant BERA blog posts)
- 3-24 August Principles into Practice Online events with asynchronous presentations; two key notes one of which was Claire Tyson of Practitioner Research SIG; Live panel discussion with international contributions. Follow the link below for an overview: <https://www.bera.ac.uk/event/principles-into-practice-supporting-practitioner-research-presentations>
- 2 October 2020 Walk and Talk at a distance event held by walkers meeting remotely during September organised through WhatsApp groups and then panel discussion supported by Padlet walls <https://www.bera.ac.uk/event/walk-and-talk-at-a-distance> This has led to resources being curated on a Padlet wall accessible to all participants. A BERA blog post has been written by participants to be published December 2020.
- 9 November 2020 Joint podcast with Practitioner Research SIG linked to a survey about evaluating the quality of vlogs, blogs and podcasts and advertised in Joint newsletter <https://www.bera.ac.uk/media/the-use-of-vlogs-blogs-and-podcasts-in-education-research-teaching-and-professional-development>
- November - Joint newsletter with the Practitioner Research SIG – which we trialed as being accompanied by an audio version
- Regular bi-monthly newsletters

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

- We have embraced the opportunities to work online and provide events for members, which is evident from point 1. The support from the BERA office has really helped us to develop our ideas and technology skills.
- We have been looking at developing the involvement of International members and were really pleased to be able to do so in the Principles into Practice event. This wider accessibility is something that we would like to continue to develop.
- The continuing COVID-19 situation has meant that all researchers are challenged by the need to avoid F-F research methodologies and to find ways of working around this. In part the Podcast by Alison and Carmel was one way of addressing this but it may be that we need to think about this as a theme to track the implications of this moving post-COVID in 2021. We will take this to the SIG Forum meeting in February, 2021.

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

- We plan to continue our bimonthly newsletters and are looking to continue with the alternative audio format for these.
- We are planning to hold a Forum SIG meeting in February to replace the one that did not take place at Conference. We find these really helpful in taking our planning forward, getting feedback on our activities and ideas and being a member-driven SIG.
- We are exploring a book or special issue of a journal as a follow-on from the October Walk and Talk at a distance event with participants.
- We are developing an event follow-up from the Principles into Practice Event, jointly organised with the Practitioner Researcher SIG. As an outcome from the panel, there was a request for input from Head Teachers and Senior Management Teams who have research active schools or use research-informed interventions as examples of best practice. We are looking to put a flyer out in December asking for contributions for recorded 15 minute presentations then a panel discussion on-line in March/April.

**What other organizations does your SIG collaborate with?**

This is something we can explore at the SIG Members Forum in February 2021.

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

The development of asynchronous on-line events has meant far greater access to participate due to no physical travel being involved.

We encourage participation from international members to the events we run. One of the key notes at the Principles into Practice event is from a Black African background, as was one of the participants and subsequent blog post authors referred to above (Jan 2020). We included connections with a member from Indonesia, in Indonesia as part of the Walk and Talk at a distance event (Oct 2020). Ensuring diversity from a range of contributors helps to raise the profile of people with diverse backgrounds. Providing open invitations to contribute mean that we are trying to work beyond our own networks. We actively seek collaboration with other SIGs. For the Walk and Talk events, we were aware of the need to ensure that people with disabilities felt welcomed to participate and suggested that the 'walk' element could be virtual. Flexibility as to where, whether, how to walk were modelled and discussed as part of the event.