

Welcome and opening address

Helen Lees and Max Hope

Dr Helen E. Lees is Reader in Alternative Education Studies at Newman University, Birmingham, UK. She is founding Editor-in-Chief of *Other Education* – the journal of educational alternatives (www.othereducation.org) and founding co-convenor of the British Education Research Association Alternative Education SIG. A recent book - co-edited with Professor Nel Noddings - is *The Palgrave International Handbook of Alternative Education* (2016). Other books include *Education without schools: Discovering alternatives* (2014) and *Silence in Schools* (2012).

Dr Max Hope works part-time at the University of Hull and part-time as an independent academic, educator and activist. Her key areas of interest are about radical, democratic and student-led education. She is co-founder of the Freedom to Learn Project (www.freedomtolearnproject.com), an international project that explores whether alternative and radical education can contribute towards social justice. She is convenor of the Alternative Education SIG for BERA (alongside Dr Helen Lees). She is a Trustee at The Warren (Hull) and at Phoenix Education Trust (London).