

## Re-imagining teacher education; letting go of the constraints and thinking differently

*Rachel Lofthouse*

Have you become used to, even immune to, the language of teacher *training* and of *trainees*? Perhaps you work for, or are in partnership with, an Initial Teacher Training provider. Maybe you facilitate in-service teacher training, or perhaps undertake a quality assurance role. It's possible your research focuses on the impact of teacher training. Being part of the machinery of teacher training, and adopting the associated language, allows us to articulate to others in each education sector what we do. We become recognisable in Higher and Further Education and schools and in policy-making; and accountable to our target audience and consumers. So, perhaps we all too quietly put away our claim to be educating teachers.

The question of teacher training versus teacher education is often characterised as a semantic squabble and a mythologising of the past. In this keynote I will plead guilty to yearning for a future of teacher education characterised by a renewed and energetic scholarship and an engagement in social activism by those new to, immersed in, and educating the teaching profession. I will invite you to engage in collective imagination, and to share how it is possible to let go of the constraints and think differently.

**Rachel Lofthouse** is Professor of Teacher Education in the Carnegie School of Education, Leeds Beckett University, moving there in 2017 after 17 years at Newcastle University. She has a specific research interest in professional learning, exploring how teachers learn and how they can be supported to put that learning into practice. Rachel is a practicing teaching educator, as well as a researcher. Her interest starts with student teachers, but extends to teachers and educators at all career stages and in all sectors. Rachel has founded a new university Research and Practice Centre 'CollectivEd: The Hub for Mentoring and Coaching'. Rachel is Chair of the University Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET), and one of the editors of the BERA blog. She can be followed on twitter at @DrRLofthouse.