

## The IOE Geography Special Interest Group 2014-15

### Geography Education Research Seminars (GERS)

The 2014-15 GERS programme is oriented to addressing the conceptual and theoretical basis for current and future developments in teacher education.

The overarching question is:

How and in what ways does the university contribute to the education, training and development of geography teachers (in both primary and secondary phases of school)?

This question is explored in the context of continuing change. External changes include: changing Ofsted frameworks; new GCSEs and A levels; new National curriculum arrangements; 'assessment without levels'; continuing 'academization' of schools; emergence of academy chains; Training Schools; School Direct. Internally, changes include: 'curriculum renew'; merger; links with UCL geography; LGA; projects development.

Thinking about how to develop our core work (teacher education) needs to be informed by scholarly debate. This should lead us into a position possibly to inform further scholarly endeavor (both within the field of geography education and beyond) - *and* how to prioritise our collective efforts.

The format of the GERS will normally be a paper(s) presented as the basis for open critical discussion. GERS are open to colleagues in schools and to students. In practice, we hope they will contribute to course development based on the growth of intellectual capital of geography teacher educators and the wider geography education community.

This may give rise to deliberation on (for example):

- What do we mean by subject knowledge development in geography?
- What overall principles govern the course design and contents?
  - PGCE
  - Teach First
  - MA Geography Education
- What is the place of theoretical perspectives on
  - Curriculum
  - Educational aims
  - Pedagogic practices
  - Assessment practices
  - Historical and conceptual developments in the discipline

Some baselines:

- We do *not* have to accept the current external narrative which seems endlessly to focus on perceived deficiencies in teacher education
- We do need to be forward looking and anticipate what, in a changing world, excellent teacher preparation consists of – and what the university has to contribute to this.

**2014-5**

**Programme**

Normally, GER seminars assemble from 4.30pm: the seminar starts at 5.00pm, finishing at 6.30pm.

This provides informal time for networking and consultation, eg between students and tutors.

The geography seminar room is Room 805

**GERS1**

**Monday October 13**

**Geography Teacher Education: what are we trying to achieve?  
Clare Brooks**

Saturday 11 October

IGU Research Forum (13:30-15:30 all welcome)

Wednesday October 15

(5.30-7.30)  
Book Launch '*Knowledge and the Future School: curriculum and social justice*' (all welcome)

**GERS2**

**Monday November 10**

**Panel Discussion  
(PGCE: Teach First: School Direct: MA GeogEd)  
Examining questions/issues arising from GERS1  
Chair: David Lambert**

**GERS3**

**Monday December 8**

**Reconsidering Theory-Practice Debates  
Alex Standish**

**GERS4**

**Monday January 19**

**Curriculum Making Research: some initial finding and questions arising  
David Mitchell**

Friday January 30

GTE Annual Meeting (Oxford)  
Date and precise venue tbc

**GERS5**

**Monday March 9**

**Exploring the Accountability question  
Leigh Flaxman**

Friday April 10-11  
Monday April 13-15  
Wednesday April 22-15

GA Annual Conference (Manchester)  
IGU London conference  
AAG (Chicago)

**GERS6**

**Monday May 11**

**Curriculum making with GIS: what, how, why?**  
**Mary Fargher**

**Wednesday July 1**

**GEReCo annual seminar (1.30-3.30)**  
**Title to be confirmed**