

Annual Conference for Research in Education (ACRE)

Faculty of Education, Edge Hill University, UK



Edge Hill
University

Seeking Equity in a World in Crisis: Critical Engagements through Educational Research

6th and 7th July 2023

Many educators concerned with promoting greater equity seek to address the challenges posed by a post-pandemic era which is characterised by global crises of learning poverty, austerity, war and environmental destruction. These concerns are reflected in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” (SDG4); and to “Reduce inequality within and among countries” (SDG10). Yet what exactly these goals might mean in different contexts, who defines those meanings, how these goals might best be achieved, who the beneficiaries are in practice and what barriers may need to be overcome, remain contested issues.

At the same time, the impact of the MeToo and Black Lives Matter movements continue to shape the research landscape, propelling gender-based and racial injustice research and scholarship higher up the agenda. An intersectional lens is increasingly seen as indispensable in understanding the complexities of equity in education, in relation to cultural heritage, language, socioeconomic disadvantage, disability, race, gender and sexuality for example. More fundamentally, the decolonial critique highlights epistemic injustices and demands our engagement with re-imagining the struggle for equity in and for education.

The 2023 ACRE conference at Edge Hill University offers a forum for exploring critical engagements through research with broad issues of equity in education. The conference encompasses all phases of education, from the early years to adult learners, embracing both formal and non-formal educational settings and sectors. We welcome opportunities to promote interdisciplinary collaboration through contributions from colleagues working in areas related to education.

Within the overall theme of ‘Seeking Equity in a World in Crisis: Critical Engagements through Educational Research’, there are a number of sub-themes, reflecting the focus of the Research Networks and Special Interest Groups hosted by the Faculty of Education:

- Equity and intersectionality
- Equity and access to education
- Equity and social justice in education
- Equity, inclusion and disability
- Equity, activism and social movements in education
- Equity in further and higher education
- Equity after the pandemic
- Equity in primary and secondary schooling
- Equity in the early years

Keynote speakers

Dr Christine Callender, Associate Professor at University College London

Dr Ian Thompson, Associate Professor at the University of Oxford

Professor Brahm Norwich, University of Exeter

Submission details

The Conference Organising Committee invites abstracts of up to 250 words, plus references, for presentations that relate to the broad themes of the conference, in a range of formats:

- Postgraduate Research Students and Early Career Researchers: presenters are invited to indicate a preference for scheduling in a dedicated session
- Individual paper: will be scheduled into thematic sessions
- Symposium: 3 papers plus a discussant
- Round Table Session
- Poster presentation

We welcome contributions from teachers and practitioners, including from our Partnership Schools. Early Career Researchers are invited to contribute to the conference, and can be assured of a supportive environment, including networking opportunities.

Submission deadline: Midnight UK time 30th April 2023 via <https://tinyurl.com/ACRE23CFP>

The conference team aim to have responses to all applicants by the end of May.

Registration

Conference registration will open in April 2023. Registration will be funded by the Faculty of Education for Edge Hill academic staff, researchers and students; and for colleagues from Edge Hill Partnership Schools, subject to availability. Conference registration for external participants is £120 but will be held at the reduced cost of £80 for those who book before 19th June (£45 for ECR / unwaged) including lunches and refreshments. High quality student accommodation will be available to book on campus. The three best abstracts as selected by the conference committee will have all conference fees waived.

Research in Education at Edge Hill University

The Faculty of Education hosts a number of Research Networks and Special Interest Groups:

- Inclusion, Diversity and Identities
- Education for Social Justice
- Higher Education
- Children's Rights and Wellbeing
- Curriculum and Pedagogy
- Narrative Research
- Participative and Action Research

Research within the Faculty of Education explores the different sites in which learning takes place and the contexts that enable transformational learning, while critically reflecting on educational policy and practice. Our research is methodologically diverse and is rooted in a commitment to social justice.

The principles and ideals of accountability, social inclusiveness, justice and equity inform our research strategy. We offer a vibrant environment in which social inclusiveness and democratic understanding are fundamental to the ways in which we work. Rooted in a commitment to social justice, research within the Faculty of Education aims to shape, inform and change educational thinking policy and practice for those who have been excluded or marginalised by institutional and structural barriers of discrimination or exclusion.

Our vision is to undertake and prioritise research that impacts positively on the lives of children, young people, schools, educational institutions, families and communities. This drives our vibrant research culture and environment, where social inclusiveness, democratic understanding, and collaborative activity, are all fundamental to the ways in which we undertake research.

Getting to Edge Hill

The event will be held on our beautiful Ormskirk campus, easily accessed with rail links from Liverpool or Preston. Further travel information is available <https://edgehill.ac.uk/travel> There are plenty of accommodation options nearby for those who need to stay over. Further details can be found here: <http://eshare.edgehill.ac.uk/16186/>