

GEA Executive Committee meeting

Friday 21 October 1.30-3.30pm (GMT)
Room 578, IOE, 20 Bedford Way

Present F2F: Claire, Jessica, Carol, Vanita, Fin

Contributing via Skype - Emilie, Andrea, Sally, Marie-Pierre, Victoria

Apologies: Kate (on maternity leave)

1. Update on GEA Conference 2017 (Vanita/Jessica)

- 2 submissions were received. They were reviewed using a set of criteria by Vanita and Jessica. The 2017 GEA conference has been awarded to Middlesex University who plan to run it - 21-23 June 2018. The team is led by Jayne Osgood. The other bid came from Strathclyde and was led by Yvette Taylor. Vanita has fed back to Yvette.
 - Vanita to send round rationale for decision-making for conference 2017 to Executive members.
- Vanita and Jessica met with Jayne Osgood on 21 October – and discussed how to ensure the conference themes linked more closely to GEA’s priorities – diversity, internationalisation, feminist research. The call for papers will go out in November, the conference website will be hosted by Middlesex and GEA will have a link through to it from our website.
- The CfP for GEA 2018 conference will go out in January 2018
 - It was agreed to involve Executive members in decision-making process next time round – allowing them to score the proposals received etc within a specified timeframe.
- The Executive decided to run the conference outside the UK on alternate years.
- The conference team do not need to be linked to an Executive member – but the proposals do need to link very clearly to our priorities as an organisation.
- Colleagues emphasized the need to more proactively approach other potential teams outside of our immediate network – so as to support our commitment to diversity and internationalisation.

2. Update on GEA Fund 2016/17 (Claire)

- 3 applications were received and all 3 met the criteria:
 - i. International Writing with Impact Network for Doctoral Students and Emerging Researchers (I-WIN for Doctoral Students and Emerging Researchers)©. Rachel Handforth & Carol Taylor (Sheffield Hallam). Aims to:
 - To develop an international, interdisciplinary network of doctoral and emerging researchers working on gender and education with a focus on writing with impact;
 - To provide structured support in skills development in a range of writing formats;
 - To empower doctoral students and emerging researchers to develop their academic writing skills and confidence;
 - To provide a platform for participants’ skills sharing and support.
 - ii. Developing critical feminist sex education in teacher training institutions (Scotland and China). Lauren Ila Misiaszek (Beijing Normal University) & Yvette Taylor (Strathclyde). Aims to:

In response to divergent and convergent challenges in sex education in 2 country contexts (China, Scotland), and our positions at top teacher training institutions, we draw on our expertise in critical and feminist sex education pedagogies and methodologies to effect (inter)national change. Using a collaboratively developed Research Apprentice Course (RAC), we will conduct comparative research on cohort-based critical and feminist sex education inquiry, for educational practitioners, researchers & policy-makers. This cross-institutional initiative will be housed in our respective teacher training and educational leadership degree programs on which we teach: University of Strathclyde's BA and MA degrees (Education, Education & Leadership) and Beijing Normal University (BNU) BA (Education) and MA (Educational leadership & Policy, Comparative Education). Strathclyde's China Institute will support cross-cultural staff-student exchanges & curriculum development, early-career researchers will be included and community partners will facilitate policy-public dissemination.

- iii. 'Feminist Readings Network' (Réseau Lectures Féministes) [FR network] is a transnational, transdisciplinary and multilingual initiative which provides activists, educators, artists and scholars with a space to explore the question of reading with feminist theory, art, politics and pedagogy. Elspeth Mitchell (University of Leeds, UK); Lenka Vráblíková (University of Leeds, UK); Akila Kizzi (University Paris 8, France); Leandra Koenig- Visagie (University of South Africa, SA), Heta Rundgren (University Paris 8, France; University of Helsinki, Finland). Aims to:

The aim of this funding is to develop dissemination strategies with the emphasis on creating possibilities for international collaboration for early-career researchers in precarious situations. Through dissemination projects inside and outside academia we will help participants to share their work, promote and problematize feminist knowledge across national, linguistic and institutional borders.

The GAE funding will help us achieve the following objectives: A) To build a network website for content already produced by the two symposia to be archived and made available and a reference point for further activity. It will include blog posts and resources (such as funding opportunities, links to other national networks, an online feminist reading group, support and pedagogical inventions, a translation discussion group and a multilingual feminist dictionary for students and educators in Europe but also in Africa. B) To facilitate a workshop which will allow to discuss and write a proposal for a volume or special issue in a respective journal within the field of feminist theory and develop other dissemination activities.

- All successful applicants are members of GEA and have got to deliver numerous outputs in order to secure the full £2000 awarded per proposal. This will ensure we have quite a bit of new content and some interesting resources on the website. *If you want further details on the bids – please let Claire know and she can send you the proposals and the 'terms of agreement' that have been signed.*
- It was agreed to involve Executive members in the decision-making for Fund applications next time round; sending members a table so they can score each application, and add some free text on strengths of the proposal and potential areas of development.
- It was recommended we develop stronger/clearer criteria for the next round; and that all members are consulted on the call for applications before they are released next late spring.

3. **Future working relationship between GEA and GEJ (including website material to be sourced)** (update Carol/ Emilie)

- Marie-Pierre has worked hard in the past to try and liaise with the Journal administrator to explore how to get authors to write a blog on a soon-to-be-published article – but the administrator did not have time to support this initiative.
- Ideas from new editorial team – relationship between GEA and GEJ to be the responsibility of Susanne Gannon:

- i. Journal website is hosted by Taylor & Francis but it is not very flexible for the kinds of work the editors want to do. They hope to/intend to use the GEA website to post more information about GEJ. This will include a comment box so people can interact with the editors via GEA website. **Carol to liaise with Emilie.**
- ii. Editors plan to choose 1 author per issue to write a plain-language blog on their article which will be posted on the GEA website – but this will need some discussion about which authors are chosen. **Marie-Pierre kindly offered to work with Susanne to develop a strategy for who and how to select potential authors – with a view to our internationalisation priority.**
- iii. The journal editors would also like to develop ways of cultivating new and early career researchers to write pieces that are not necessarily journal articles.
- If GEA conference themes can be shaped into a proposal that fits with our Special Issues strategy (on the GEJ website), the editors will consider this.

4. **GEA membership strategy** (update from Carol)

- Annual members – 234 currently
- GEA lifetime members – 49
- Student members – 51
- 22 subscribe to the journal
- Total at this point: 334 (cf. 2013 – 38 members, 2014 – 29, 2015 – 191, 2016 – 335)
- General spread of membership: UK – 55, Europe – 18, Sweden – 16, Australia – 26, New Zealand – 6, USA – 19, South America – 2, Japan – 4. **Jo to send a more detailed breakdown for the Executive.**
- **Jo has done an amazing job on cleaning and ordering our membership data – the Executive is truly grateful for all her work. She has created a new database and ‘cleaned’ the data, and set up a set of systems for reminders around payment, journal copies etc.**
- Annual conference administration planning – Jo and Carol will need to chat with Jayne and Vanita to ensure we have smooth systems for linking membership and conference attendance.
- Ideas for ways to bring in new members:
 - i. Use testimonials from GEA Fund recipients in ‘advertising’ **(to be organised end of spring 2017)**
 - ii. Feature lifetime members on our website **(Emilie to lead on developing a set of contributions around this – a profile, interview, blog etc.)** – and we hope this will act as another source of encouragement for potential new members. **Jo to send Emilie a list of the lifetime members**
 - iii. Annual rolling programme for targeting increasing our new members – 2016/17 (postgraduate students focus?); 2017/18 – BME colleagues?; 2018/19 – community activists; 2019/20 – teachers – this needs to be **discussed further at the next meeting**, and prioritised as the first item for discussion.
 - iv. Introduce the work of the Regional reps? We will also **discuss this further at next meeting.**

5. **GEA Diversity Strategy** (update from Victoria)

- Need to use the lens of social justice to inform our work theoretically and operationally
- Our membership – should reflect diversity

- Suggested actions:
 - i. could we begin to record certain criteria about our membership – e.g. an intersectional ‘audit’ on membership (intersectionality – to include the full range of protected characteristics)
 - ii. or perhaps ask applicants for funding streams to write a statement about their commitment
 - iii. record who attends our conferences
 - iv. record what networks we are part of
- Sally would be very keen to support Victoria in this role
- Victoria and Sally to suggest some specific actions to develop next – longer-term and ‘quick wins’
 - i. Think about action in terms of structure, policy, practice
 - ii. Internal ‘review’ and ask part of this process ask GEA Fund applicants to develop a statement on diversity and social justice

6. **GEA web and social media** (update from Emilie)

- Could we be posting more online linked to US election? Brexit?....Marie-Pierre to contact Sally about it in the first instance and ask her to write such a blog or ask another colleague.
- Emilie has re-designed the website, but still needs more content – Emilie will write some text which Jo can send out to all the members – encouraging members to post something on the website.

7. **GEA Executive Committee** – discuss further at the next meeting

- Update from Sally, Andrea, Fin, Marie-Pierre on their Executive Committee roles and progress with their work for GEA
- Process of nominating members for roles
- Terms of office
- Ways we could bring in more early career researchers to help lead the organisation
- Send out Minutes of Executive meeting to members?

8. Jo to send a Doodle poll to members, potential dates for a meeting in January.