



Educational Leadership SIG

August 2020

Dear Members,

Our year continues in strange and different times. We hope that this newsletter finds you doing well and staying safe, especially for those of us in Victoria.

As the months march on in 2020 we have been continuing to focus on ways to provide support and connection for our members. We hope that the following information and opportunities are of use for you in your work ahead.

Social media

- Join our facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1186468481461155/members/>
- Promote educational leadership work on our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AAREEdLeadSIG>
- Send your work for promotion on twitter to twitter.com/AARE_EdLeadSIG . We will endeavour to collect, promote and post.

If at any time you would like the admins to help with promotion or connection on any of these forums, or if you have general ideas for content, don't hesitate to send a direct message through the platform or alternatively email us.

Live Connection Events

- **It is the right time to write!** We held our first **“Write Time”** session (also known as shut up and write) in June and had a great couple of hours writing together. We would like to thank Amanda Heffernan from JEAH for attending for the Meet the Editor part of the event.
Our second “Write Time” will be held on Thursday 3 September 9.30 – 11.30am. For the first 30 minutes we will welcome David Gurr for our Meet the Editor section. David will talk to us about *Journal of Educational Administration* and *International Studies in Educational Administration*. We will follow this with 3x 25-minute *pomodoro* writing sessions. Please share especially with HDRs and ECRs who might find this type of connection worthwhile.
- In September we will be holding a **SIG symposium**. This event will share the work of Educational Leadership researchers from across Australia based on their contributions to the soon to be published special issue of the Australian journal, *‘Leading and Managing.’* This will also be an opportunity for Educational Leadership SIG members to network informally on Zoom. Please keep an eye on our facebook and twitter feeds for more information about the date.
- **The Neil Cranston lecture** will be held as a public lecture in online form in late November this year. We are currently seeking nominations for this year's presenter. Please see more information in the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Research Corner

Dr Amanda Heffernan – Monash University

Principal Autonomy in Australian Secondary Schools

I recently completed a project in partnership with the Australian Secondary Principals' Association, focusing on principals' work and their workload with a particular focus on the effects of autonomy and accountability policies on their everyday leadership practices. The project was a national study that included each state and territory and included an online survey and detailed interviews with principals, the ASPA executive, and senior departmental leaders. The study broadly found that the work of principals continues to increase in complexity and scope, and raised serious concerns about principal health and wellbeing due to workload and the complex and intense nature of the role.

Key findings included:

- **The role of the principal has continued to expand over time.**
 - Many participants described the role as being overwhelming and all-encompassing. Recurring issues were revealed of extension of work into private time and intensification of the pace and amount of work involved in leading schools today.
- **Principal workload and wellbeing are at a critical point for many participants.**
- **There are clear and pressing issues relating to the identification and attraction of future principals.**
 - Principal participants reported that their staff members (including deputy and assistant principals) did not wish to take on the Principalship after seeing the workload involved
- **There are issues relating to role clarity and clarity of accountability responsibilities for some autonomous principals.**
 - Participants described challenges in being able to identify and respond to what was urgent (needing immediate attention) vs what was important (critical tasks that were not as pressing). This has led to rising workloads and impacts on health and wellbeing of participants.
- **Participants identified a need for a clearer definition and structures around principal autonomy.**
 - There were significant differences in principals' sense of autonomy depending on their state or territory policies and practices, as well as how much autonomy participants felt they had depending on their career stage and experience.

If you'd like to read the report in detail, please feel free to contact me on amanda.heffernan@monash.edu

Potential Collaborations: Research Writing Opportunities

Contact us with any other potential collaborations you would like to promote.

Calls for papers/chapters:

Please share with us any calls to further distribute

Upcoming Conferences

We have decided to remove the list of cancelled and postponed conferences and with the ongoing uncertainty about travel, including information about possible upcoming conferences just seems cruel!

However, if you know of a relevant conference or event that is accessible (e.g. online) please let us know and we will add it to our list.

AARE Seminar Series. These events are free for members and occurring every two weeks on a Wednesday. Please check out the line up at <https://www.aare.edu.au/events/calendar/>

Lessons from Lockdown. This conference is running online over two weeks in September. Check out the program here: <https://lessonsfromthelockdown.com/>

ACEL Online Conference. ACEL is providing an online version of their annual conference free of charge. The event will run 30 Sept – 2 Oct. More details here: https://www.ancel.org.au/ACEL/ACELWEB/ACELWEB/Events/2020/Online_Conference/About.aspx

Our next meeting will be **Friday 14 August** at 2pm via Zoom. Please email if you wish to join.

Stay well, keep in touch and best wishes,

Fiona Longmuir (fiona.longmuir@monash.edu)

Christine Grice (christine.grice@sydney.edu.au)



AARE Educational Leadership Special Interest Group Neil Cranston Lecture

The Neil Cranston Lecture is an open lecture that is given at the start of the AARE annual conference within the Educational Leadership SIG program.

The Neil Cranston Lecture is named in honour of the work of Professor Neil Cranston, who was the original convenor of the AARE and NZARE Educational Leadership Special Interest group in 2003, and continued as convenor of AARE, following the branching of these research organisations, until 2008.

The lecture is by invitation only. We invite members of our SIG to suggest potential nominations for invitation. The candidate will be chosen by how closely they align to the criteria and with regard for the broad educational values of equity and diversity.

Criteria:

The invitee will have demonstrated a capacity for:

Essential

- Advancing scholarly inquiry into educational leadership research
- Advocates for the positive impact of educational research on policy and practice
- Has contributed to building capacity in educational leadership research in Australia
- Adheres to the code of conduct of our research organisation of honesty, integrity and standards of behaviour

Preferred

- Has served in advancing the work of the AARE Educational Leadership SIG
- Has a strong track record of supporting ECRs and HDRs in Educational Leadership research in their university and/or through AARE

Process

Please send a short nomination of no more than one page (450 words) that outlines how the potential invitee meets the essential and preferred criteria.

Please send nominations to christine.grice@sydney.edu.au by August 31, 2020 and if you have any queries please contact Co-coordinators Fiona fiona.longmuir@monash.edu or Christine.

A small advisory committee will be convened to assess nominations and extend the invite to the selected person. Please note that nominees are unable to serve on the committee.