***Annual Reports: 2018 Grant Funding***

 **SIG Annual Funding Report Form**

**Special Interest Group Name**: Gender, sexualities and cultural studies in education

**Activity Held**: AARE Raewyn Connell Award, for Leadership in and Contribution to Gender and Sexuality Research in Education

**Date and Location of Activity**: AARE Conference, 3 December 2018, Sydney University, NSW

**Description of Activity**: A bi-annual award ceremony to present the GS&CS SIG’s Raewyn Connell Award. In brief terms, this mid-career award acknowledges significant leadership in and contribution to building the fields of gender and sexuality research in education.

**Outcomes:** The recipient of the 2018 AARE Raewyn Connell Award, for Leadership in and Contribution to Gender and Sexuality Research in Education was awarded to Associate Professor Tiffany Jones. Professor Emerita Raewyn Connell kindly accepted to deliver a brief keynote and present the award. Associate Professor Tiffany Jones gave on presentation of the award a brief speech about the wonderful work she was engaged in. The award ceremony was celebrated by closer to 30 people, including Professor Emma Renold, and the group then invited all the participants, including the awardee Tiffany and Raewyn for a networking and celebratory dinner.

**Benefit for AARE**: The motivation to create this award has emerged from the view that given the developing status of these research fields it is important to establish mechanisms through which contributions to and leadership within these fields can be promoted and acknowledged. We acknowledge that the politics of awards are problematic - focusing as they do on singling out individuals when the growth of the field is always the result of collective efforts.  We hope that the AARE award is received in the spirit of more actively bringing people together to celebrate the work we all do, and under the banner of AARE, welcome discussions of additional ways to nurture work occurring across the fields of gender, sexualities and cultural studies in education.

**Contribution to the SIG field**: In terms of benefits, as this award ceremony took place during a collaborative SIG event, it provided an invaluable opportunity to bring members of the GS&CS SIG and Post-structural Theory SIG together to celebrate and acknowledge the accomplishments of mid-career academics. This ceremony also initiated and encouraged the development of supportive mentoring relationships between early/mid-career SIG members and experts and leaders in the field. Finally, it is believed that this ceremony has encouraged and inspired early-career and mid-career SIG members to learn from established academics and in the future considering pursuing the award.

 **SIG Competitive Funding Report Form**

**Special Interest Group Name**: Post-structural theory & Gender, sexualities and cultural studies in education SIGs

**Activity Held**: The Mattering of Matter: A Sequence of Conference Events with Visiting Scholar Professor Emma Renold.

**Date and Location of Activity**: AARE Conference, 2 - 6 December 2018, Sydney University, NSW

**Description of Activity**:

The Mattering of Matter Programmed AARE Conference Activities include:

1. Pre-conference Day: Discussion (40 mins): Methodological discussion/round table with PhD students and ECR’s.

This pre-conference session specifically addressed the need (and funding requirement) for the SIGs to support researchers at all stages of their careers. Early career researchers and HDR students are in particular need of encouragement and advice in relation to using creative, innovative and exciting approaches to research, within the normative cultures of the neoliberal university. Professor Renold’s background, experience, and successful research positioned her to provide this support.

2. Day 1 Collective Matters: Transdisciplinary Networking Event feat. Emma Renold 90 minutes

This event provided the opportunity for members of all interested parties and SIG members to come together to meet, work and forge bonds across disciplinary boundaries.

With Emma Renold as guest mentor we sought to expand the ideas suggested by her formal presentations outlined and the formation of research clusters to take these ideas forward.

Key concepts that were addressed at this event included:

* Relevance of Renold’s research program for the Australian context and agenda;
* Capacity in Australia for the development of a group similar to Cardiff University’s Future Matters Collective;
* Potential formation of a group of interested scholars to scope this new group; and
* Ways to maximise collaboration across SIGs.

During the event, participants were invited to explore these questions via contribution to a materially realised artistic collage representing the ideas discussed at the event, facilitating evaluation and further networking.

This event allowed for on-going intra-action, via the SIG structures but also forming new entities beyond them. It invited participants to contribute to linking Renold’s research to the local context and promote understanding of diverse populations and diverse conceptualisations of research since poststructuralism.

3. Day 3 Workshop: Becoming resource(ful): making a young people’s guide to address gender and sexual violence. (Workshop – 2 hours)

In July 2015, when the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act was passed, the Welsh Government published the ‘Good Practice Guide: A Whole Education Approach to Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales’ (2015) for educational practitioners on how to promote gender equalities for healthy relationships. Part of this practitioner guide aims to support young people to actively start-up or get involved in local and global campaigns to stop gender-based and sexual violence in their schools and communities. With equalities, diversity, children’s rights and social justice at its heart, this presentation shared the making of the resource, *AGENDA: A Young people’s guide to making positive relationships matter* (Renold 2016). Developed in partnership with Welsh Women’s Aid, NSPCC/Cymru, Children’s Commissioner for Wales and Welsh Government, AGENDA is Wales’ first online bilingual tool-kit developed with young people, for young people on how they can safely and creatively raise awareness of gender-based and sexual violence.

AGENDA aims to support young people (age 11-18) to engage with a vast range of issues from commercial sexism and equal pay to sexual exploitation and transphobia through case studies of how other young people and organisations have addressed them (e.g. through hashtag campaigns and feminist and LGBTQ+ youth groups to drama and visual art). Following an overview of Wales’ unique policy context (including the new core ‘healthy relationships’ curriculum), and the ways in which the making and matter-realising (Braidotti 2005) of the resource is informed by queer/feminist materialist and posthuman scholarship and pedagogy, this presentation critically engaged with two of the illustrated case studies from the resource: *The Rotifer Project* (gender diversity) and *Under Pressure?* (coercion and control in relationships). At this workshop participants engaged with the timely materials developed on this site.

**Outcomes**:

* Mentoring relationships were initiated and developed between early/mid-career SIG members and experts and leaders in the field;
* Capacities for the development of a group similar to Cardiff University’s Future Matters Collective were built and the formation of a group of interested scholars to scope this new group;
* Opportunity to maximise collaboration across the convening SIGs and build strategic networks;
* International research networks and cross-institutional/international knowledge exchange

**Benefit for AARE**:

As a professional association AARE is renowned for actively encouraging its members to engage in distinctly different approaches to investigating educational questions. This openness to the possibility of doing things differently strongly aligns with the events hosted as part the AARE SIG funding support scheme. In terms of benefits for AARE, these events provided invaluable opportunities to:

* Further enhance and build research capacities of AARE’s ECR and MCR members by providing professional development which allowed for a critical consideration of ‘impact’ and ‘engagement’; supporting AARE’s commitment to improving both policy and practice in education, and to making their research accessible to key stakeholders.
* Establish international networks with an internationally esteemed academic which helps to further enhance AARE’s international impact.
* Support knowledge transfer between AARE and other international Faculties and Research Institutes (e.g. Cardiff University & Future Matters Collective) that builds AARE’s international standing.

**Contribution to the SIG field**:

Professor Renold’s extensive research interest and creative method/ methodology within the gender and sexuality as well as the post-structuralist space in education provided an excellent illustration of the application of generative new materialist empirical research. This was particularly relevant for the AARE, 2018 conference titled ‘Research Matters’. Working with an emerging methodology within educational research, this work was of interest to educational researchers at a variety of career stages within the two SIGs and enhanced Australian educational researchers to engage with the possibilities this innovative work allows. The creative transdisciplinary approach was of broad interest and inspired debate of the methods and outcomes utilised and how they matter.