



Education Research Representatives Resolve in Principle to Establish a World Education Research Association

The initiative to internationalize education research took a major step forward in September when representatives of education research associations from around the world unanimously resolved “in principle to establish a world education research association—with the elements of an organizational framework and constitution to be developed by or before November 2008.” The resolution was approved at the culmination of a meeting held in London on September 8–9, 2007, following the Annual Meeting of the British Educational Research Association (BERA). The resolution also reaffirmed a Statement of Agreement adopted on April 13, 2007, at the inaugural meeting in Chicago (see both statements accompanying this article).

The London meeting was the second of four planned as part of an exploratory phase of international cooperation. At the request of the international organizations that met in April, AERA and Executive Director Felice J. Levine will continue to serve as the secretariat and facilitator until a more formal structure is established. Jeremy Hoad, Chief Executive Officer of BERA, also facilitated substantive planning and the logistics for the London meeting.

The European Educational Research Association (EERA) and its President, Ingrid Gogolin, served as the official host of the second meeting. Gogolin welcomed 17 representatives from 16 national, regional, and international sub-field associations to this second international education research gathering. She

noted that EERA is multinational, multicultural, and multilingual and therefore offers valuable experience and insights as the dialogue continues about expanding this initiative on a worldwide scale over the next 15 months.

AERA Past President Eva Baker gave a brief overview of the inaugural meeting in Chicago on April 13–14, 2007. She said that the internationalization of education research has been a theme of longstanding interest for her and, indeed, was an important strand in her theme—The World of Educational Quality—as President for the 2007 AERA Annual Meeting Program. Baker also emphasized that, from the outset, she, Levine, and others at AERA saw the effort to internationalize education research not as a U.S.-led endeavor but as one that would flow from a genuinely collaborative effort by representatives from around the world. She noted that, at the inaugural Chicago meeting, a number of visions for exchange and communication were articulated; and, although there was wide agreement among the participants in Chicago on many issues, they also expressed different approaches for achieving common goals. It was understood, Baker emphasized, that further elaboration of the initiative, including discussion of potential goals and how to achieve them, would be accomplished by everyone “around the table.” Six Working Groups, each with a defined area of emphasis, were created at the Chicago meeting to continue the conversation through the summer for further discussion at the second meeting.

BERA President Pamela Munn followed Baker with welcoming remarks,



Back row, left to right: Jeremy Hoad, Yin Cheong Cheng, Pietro Boscolo, Angelika Wegscheider, Ingrid Gogolin, Katherine Rosich, Ciaran Sugrue, Leif Moos, Jan Wright, Pamela Munn, Moira von Wright, Allan Pitman, Eva Baker, Lee Ong Kim, Chung-Il Yun. Front row, left to right: Felice Levine, Rudolf Tippelt, Angel Lopez y Mota.

noting that the background materials on the first meeting and the Working Group reports would facilitate the work to unfold at the London meeting. She noted that Geoff Whitty, former President and now Vice President of BERA, had been present at the April meeting and that



Eva Baker, AERA Past President, and Yin Cheong Cheng, President, Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association.

therefore she felt the transition would be smooth for BERA, and she hoped it would be equally smooth for the other organizations represented. Munn outlined the general purposes of the Working Groups, followed by Levine, who led a more detailed discussion of the Working Group reports.

The Working Group reports spanned six topics central to continued discussions of internationalization and the possible formation of an international education research association. These included (1) Information Gathering on Education Research Associations (What basic information do we need about each other to communicate effectively?); (2) Support for Education Research Exchange and Reciprocity (How can we cooperate across associations in each others' activities?); (3) Burning Issues/Topics for Common Projects (What critical issues in education research could be advanced through international attention?); (4) Technology and Virtual Exchange Regarding Education Research (What communications platforms do we need on a global scale for sharing knowledge and ideas efficiently and economically?); (5) Aspirations/Mission / Rationale / Purpose of This Activity (What is the purpose and aim of this international research activity?); and (6) Organizational Model or Models

(What organizational framework do we need to facilitate our statement of purpose and aspirations?).

Levine noted that the dialogue among Working Group members took place primarily in virtual space, producing positive communications, productive collaborations, and substantial reports. The Working Groups were aided in this process by a communication system provided by the Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP) website of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) in London. Andrew Pollard, Chair of the Working Group on Technology and Virtual Exchange and Director of the TLRP at the University of London's Institute of Education, facilitated the creation of the website to assist the work agreed upon at the April meeting. Pollard served on the initial AERA Task Force on International Exploration and is a member of the AERA Committee on International Relations.

Several reports demonstrated how challenges in education research are shared across national boundaries. The "Burning Issues" Working Group, for

example, examined priority areas of concern to education researchers, including (a) quality and standards in education research, (b) relationships between education researchers and policymakers, and (c) capacity building in the education research profession. The group emphasized that capacity building includes both building future capacity for the next generation of education researchers and fostering talent in countries and regions where there is currently little capacity. There was also recognition of the worldwide need to foster strong methodological skills within research communities; in some locations, that meant developing quantitative skills. Representatives discussed the specifics in the report and added to the list the importance of language competence and attention to language considerations in building research capacity and fluency worldwide. The representatives agreed that language would require further discussion in any planning for international research collaborations or the creation of an international education research association capable of advancing the field throughout the globe.

**Statement of Agreement
Unanimously Adopted by Representatives Attending Second
International Education Associations Meeting
September 9, 2007**

Representatives of national and international education research associations convened on September 8–9, 2007 (a) reaffirmed the statement of agreement adopted on April 13, 2007, and (b) resolved in principle to establish a world education research association—with the elements of an organizational framework and constitution to be developed by or before November 2008 and thereafter approved by the constituent associations seeking to become founding members.

**Statement of Agreement
Unanimously Adopted by Representatives Attending Inaugural
International Education Associations Meeting
April 13, 2007**

Representatives of national and international education research associations convened on April 13–14, 2007, resolved to work together toward the development of approaches that would serve to advance education research and address such issues as building capacity and interest in education research, strengthening the articulation of education research policies, and promoting sound use and application of education research worldwide through international and reciprocal collaborations.



Back row: Allan Pitman, Felice Levine, Ciaran Sugrue
Seated: Jeremy Hoad, Pamela Munn.

Discussion of the reports led to specific next steps for working together in the months ahead. In addition to approving in principle the resolution to establish a world education research association, the

representatives agreed to establish several new Working Groups (on Outreach; Programmatic Activities [including the former “Rationale/Purpose” and “Burning Issues” groups]; and Finances/Financing). Those assembled agreed that it was important to continue the efforts of the Working Groups on Information Gathering, Technology and Virtual Exchange, and Organizational Models.

It was agreed that the task of the Organizational Models Working Group is to develop a draft framework and bylaws for a new world education research organization by the time of the third meeting, to take place on March 29–30, 2008, in New York City, following the 2008 AERA

Annual Meeting. AERA will serve as host for the third meeting. The fourth and last meeting will be hosted by the Asia-Pacific Education Research Association (APERA) and will take place on November 24–25, 2008, in Singapore, prior to the APERA meeting there.

The tremendous energy and goodwill expressed at the first meeting characterized the London meeting as well. In officially closing the London meeting, EERA President Gogolin commended the participants for their productivity, for the warm spirit of the group and proceedings, and for achieving a balance between a vision and a practical agenda for moving forward.

List of Attendees

Representatives of International Associations in Attendance:

American Educational Research Association Eva Baker, Past President Felice Levine, Executive Director	Educational Research Association of Singapore Lee Ong Kim, President-Elect
Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association Yin Cheong Cheng, President	Educational Studies Association of Ireland Ciaran Sugrue, National Executive Member
Australian Association for Research in Education Jan Wright, President	European Association for Research in Learning and Instruction (EARLI) and
British Educational Research Association Pamela Munn, President Geoff Whitty, Vice President (formerly President) Jeremy Hoad, CEO	European Association for Practitioner Research in Education Pietro Boscolo, President, EARLI
Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) and World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES) Allan Pitman, Board of Directors, CSSE; Executive Board, WCCES	European Educational Research Association Ingrid Gogolin, President
Consejo Mexicano de Investigación Educativa Angel Lopez y Mota, Council Member	European Science Education Research Association Justin Dillon, President
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft Rudolf Tippelt, President	Korean Society for the Study of Education Chung-Il Yun, President
	Nordic Educational Research Association Moira von Wright, Board Member Lejf Moos, Chair

Staff Liaisons

Katherine Rosich, AERA Research Policy Consultant
Angelika Wegscheider, Office Manager, European Educational Research Association