

EDUCATION

news

Issue 8 April 2019

Newsletter of the Department of Education - passionate about all things educational !



**Maynooth
University**
National University
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HoD foreword



Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of our Department Newsletter! The light has returned and we are proud to share with you some of the highlights of the past winter months. The Department, as usual, has been a hive of academic and pedagogical activity. We are simply delighted that Dr Zerrin Dogana Kk joined our team as Lecturer in Science Education in March and I know you will join me in welcoming her to the field of Irish education. Our faculty have been involved in organising two major conferences: Dr. Grace O'Grady has co-ordinated the Narrative Inquiry Conference in May and Dr Majella Dempsey heads up the upcoming European Association for Curriculum Studies Conference in June here at Maynooth University. You will also see that Maynooth is now home to the Centre for

Public Education and Pedagogy, directed by Professor Carl Anders Sfstrm. The Centre is also home to distinguished colleague Professor Gert Biesta who joined the University in January.

The public face of education plays a central part of our Department's spirit, as you can see from the kinds of initiatives we are continually engaged in. This takes the shape of reaching out to professional organisations (some of whom sponsor graduate prizes for which we are grateful – and you can see some pictures of the Awards evening within the Newsletter!), continuing our teaching placements in China, and starting up a new Social Justice Certificate within our PME programme.

However, public education is also so much more. Public education demands not only opening our schools and educational institutions to each and everyone, but it requires that everyone find a home there. It also requires that education become more engaged in questions that affect public life itself, such as ensuring democratic forms of living are enhanced as well as, crucially, promoting the sustainability of life itself. As the recent Climate Action Now initiative has shown, youth from across the world can have a powerful voice in affecting public change. Policies, attitudes, and behaviours need to change if we are to have any impact at all on the environment. Our youth are telling us that if we don't act now, it is their lives that will be unimaginably affected. It is our students' futures that are at stake. Their voices have been heard – but it is up to us as educators to make sure they will be listened to.

As always, our doors are always open to you and your students. We are passionate about all things educational!

Sharon Todd

Professor Sharon Todd
Maynooth University Department of Education

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5th International Irish Narrative Inquiry Conference

Exploring Creativity in Narrative Inquiry

Trinity College Dublin

May 2nd & 3rd 2019



Keynote Speaker : Prof Patti Lather

Prof Patti Lather is a critical feminist scholar whose work examines various (post) critical, feminist, and post-structural theories. As well as award winning books addressing ontology, methodology and pedagogy, her narrative study with women living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa (Troubling the Angels: Women Living with HIV/AIDS) co-authored with Chris Smithies was groundbreaking for its creative curation of the textual. Her most recent collection of selected works testifies to Patti's role as an critical archivist of methodologies during the 'paradigm wars' and through the turns associated with ongoing 'post' ontologies. This gives her a strong vantage point from which to consider the place of narrative as method for our conference, while her

recent involvement in projects featuring a creative component encompasses the focus we are concerned with as we explore creativity in narrative inquiry. Patti's current research is focused around cultural studies of numeracy and the uses of Walter Benjamin in a materialist cultural analysis of sports and U.S. schooling.

Call for Papers

The [5th Irish Conference on Narrative Inquiry](#) welcomes papers / posters / panels/ performances from across the social sciences and creative disciplines that have a theoretical, methodological and/or creative interest in narrative. The overall theme of the conference this year is on "[EXPLORING CREATIVITY IN NARRATIVE INQUIRY](#)" recognising how the centring of story means that creativity is inherent in the narrative method. But are we always making those connections in our narrative practices? This

Conference Organisers

Dr Catherine Conlon, Trinity College Dublin

Dr Jacqueline O'Toole, Institute of Technology, Sligo

Dr Briege Casey, Dublin City University

Dr Grace O'Grady, Maynooth University

conference invites us to reflect on what is creativity for us, in our narrative practices? How are we deploying the creative components of stories and story-telling in our meaning making? What does the creativity inherent in narrative add to our inquiries? Is the creative component of narrative important to the success of our inquiries? And, in particular, to think about what the creative aspect of narrative offers to our discipline and/or inquiry that is unique to the genre and how can we develop this further?

This conference seeks to bring together narrative inquirers from the broadest range of disciplines possible, reflecting the potential of the paradigm of narrative for a broad range of inquiries.

Themes can include:

- Storying lives
- Arts-based health research
- Story and Creativity
- Research Creation in narrative inquiry
- Writing creatively in narrative inquiry
- Creative Practice beyond the textual
- Narrative inquiry in the afterward
- Open strand

Hosted by [Trinity College Dublin](#), the conference is co-organised and supported by [Institute of Technology, Sligo](#); [Maynooth University](#) and [Dublin City University](#) the conference aims to bring together a wide range of Irish and international scholars to showcase recent developments in narrative inquiry attending to creativity in particular.

Abstracts for:

Papers

Performances

Posters (c300 words) by March 8th 2019

Submit abstracts to:
Dr Catherine Conlon :
conlonce@tcd.ie

Please ensure you entitle the abstract clearly and provide a short bio. Completed contributions, "work in progress" and performance contributions are most welcome.

- Full papers of 20 minute duration
- Performances of 20 minute duration
- Panels of 90 minute duration
- Posters/visuals



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Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin





Photo from left to right: Mr John McCormack (principal, Árdcoil na Tríonoide, Athy), Ms Maria Harney (Deputy Principal, Loreto Secondary School, Navan), Ms Angela Rickard (Maynooth University), Dr Thomas Walsh (Maynooth University)

John Coolahan Research Support Framework Award

Congratulations to Angela Rickard and Thomas Walsh who have been awarded a small grant from the Teaching Council's John Coolahan Research Support Framework. Angela and Tom will be working in partnership with Maria Harney, Deputy Principal, Loreto Secondary School, Navan and Margaret Cambi-McEvoy, Deputy Principal, Árdcoil na Tríonoide, Athy, Co. Kildare to facilitate the development of team teaching skills among teachers in both post-primary schools. The research aims to produce and disseminate a toolkit of resources and materials to support team teaching in post-primary schools based on the work in both schools.

In Ómós do Lynn

It was with tremendous sadness we learned on 1st April of the sudden death of our former student and recent graduate, Lynn Browne, R.I.P. Just one week previous, Lynn had graduated from the Future Leaders, Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership and Management course at Maynooth University. Lynn's passion for learning and commitment to education endeared her to all she met during her studies. Deepest sympathy is extended to her husband and son, her parents, sisters, extended family and friends and to her colleagues at Ballymakenny College, Drogheda, Co. Louth where she was a founding staff member, Assistant Principal and teacher of Art.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis.



Climate Action in Lucan Community College

Eimear Hourican Professional Masters of Education (Year 1)

On 15th March 2019, students from all around the world joined Greta Thunberg in her demand for Climate Action Now. Students from Lucan Community College joined the movement. Over the course of several lunch periods, students came together to decide on how best they could contribute to the event. On the morning of Friday, 15th April, students invited Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Mark Ward, to their school to address the theme of Climate action, to draft a plan of action and to plant a tree.

Later that day, a group of students accompanied by two teachers joined in a ten-thousand-strong rally outside Dáil Éireann. Students designed banners and signs as a means of displaying their important message. At the same time, students who were unable to attend the march helped set up a petition in school, which over lunchtime was available to be signed by staff and students, in one lunch over 120 signatures were collected, with more added in the coming days. This petition will be sent to government officials demanding climate action now. Well done to all students for participating.



Martin Millerick (left) presenting Bishop Crean with a copy of 'Walking Backwards to Heaven? Hope and the Catholics of Cloyne Diocese, 1700 - 1830'.

This book outlines the struggles of Cloyne's Catholics in asserting their identities in a harsh environment. Thomas Davis from Mallow believed that during this time, the most that Irish peasants could hope for was to agitate for something better, and after death, in God. Emigration added a further hope. This book explores how Cloyne's Catholics found hope within themselves, in their heritages, spiritualities and cultures, how they found hope among each other and finally how they found hope and found hope in a wider world. This book was launched at a Conference on St. Colman's Cathedral, Cobh.

TY GOES KOREAN

At the end of November/December I was invited to Korea to give a number of lectures on Ireland's Transition Year. In developing programmes for teenagers in Korean schools, policy makers have taken inspiration from the Irish experience with Transition Year. My visit coincided with the publication in Korean of Transition Year in Action which was published by Liffey Press in 2015.

In recent years more than 12 different delegations of Korean teenagers, principals and policy makers have visited Ireland to look at Ty.

Dr Gerry Jeffers was a full-time lecturer in the MU Education Department from 2000 to 2012. He continues to contribute to courses within the department.





Dr Zerrin Dogaa Kk

We are delighted to welcome Dr Zerrin Dogaa Kk who joined the Education Department in March 2019. Zerrin has been teaching pedagogy of science and mathematics for more than 10 years to different groups of pre-service and in-service teachers. She holds a Bachelors degree (Undergraduate Mathematics Education Program) and a minor degree (Undergraduate Science Education) from Bogazici University. After studying as a mathematics teacher at a private school in Istanbul

for one year, she worked as a research assistant at the Primary Education Department in Bogazici University. She got her MS and PhD degrees from the Environmental Sciences Institute at the same university. Prior to joining the Education Department at Maynooth University, she worked as a research assistant and postdoctoral researcher in Bogazici University. She also held the roles of Vice Director at the BAUSTEM Center and Assistant Professor in Faculty of Education in Bahcesehir University.

The Education Department will host a week-long international study visit of a delegation of early childhood educators from France from 20th to 25th May 2019. The delegation is funded as part of an Erasmus+ mobility project and organised by CEMA (a key French agency that supports teacher education in the non-formal education). The visiting French colleagues who are all working in the area of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) will observe the use of the outdoors for play in early child care services. The week-long visit will culminate in a Symposium on Saturday May 25th in Maynooth University entitled: The State of Outdoor Play in Ireland in 2019.

Keynote presenters will include Dr Thomas Walsh Department of Education MU and Dr Leah O'Toole (Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education). The Symposium will provide an opportunity for early childhood educators to reflect on the early education and care of Ireland's youngest citizens 100 years since Ireland's declaration of Independence and it will offer an opportunity to project forward to re-imagine what outdoor play and learning could look like in the next 100 years. The Symposium is supported by the Maynooth University Research Development Office.

The State of Outdoor Play in Ireland in 2019

A cross-cultural exploration, dialogue, and knowledge exchange about outdoor play in Early Childhood Education & Care (ECEC) services in Ireland.



Fighting Words is a creative writing tutor service offered by the brilliant volunteers of the Fighting Words Project (www.fightingwords.ie). In September 2018 a group of PME 2 student teachers of English, including myself, attended a workshop facilitated by General Manager Sara Bennett. I was so impressed by and interested in this way of promoting creative writing that I used this training to organise and facilitate a "Fighting Words Methods" Workshop in my school.

I advertised the workshop, initially planning to run a series of sessions for three weeks. During the workshops students work together to create the setting, characters and develop the plot of a fictional story. Seven students attended the first workshop: they thoroughly enjoyed the activities and even brought a unique twist to the session by acting out the roles of characters they had created.

By week two, word had spread among students in my placement school about how fun the session was, and by the following week numbers doubled. By session three over twenty students were attending the workshop! I have loved every second of these lunchtime sessions, as did the students and so, three months on we continue to meet weekly and immerse ourselves in a world created entirely out of the imaginations of the students.

To my delight, Fighting Words has made its way to Wexford this year for the first time. In February, I had an opportunity to complete volunteer training and look forward to working with primary school pupils in creating equally exciting and magical stories at our local library.

I would like to thank Sara Bennett from Fighting Words and PME1 Course Leader Angela Rickard for providing us with this opportunity.

- By Yvonne Rooney, PME Year 2 Student

FIGHTING WORDS

METHODS





Nine of the ten PME students from who will be travelling to China in May 2019.

Back row from left: Becky Wray, Eoghan Konstantin, Ryan Traynor, Fionn Brickley, Amandine Bergin Rubeaud, Anita O'Brien

Front row: Aishling O'Reilly, Megan Roberts and Kelly-Anne Sinclair. (Also travelling but not pictured is Niamh Gibney)

This year ten PME students will travel to China for a Language and Cultural exchange. Now in its fourth year the students will be based in schools in Shenzhen, Nanchang and close to Shanghai and will teach and observe classes for up to six weeks.

Record crowds attend Maynooth University Leadership Symposium

Maynooth University played host to 500 educational leaders on Saturday, 2nd March at the annual Leadership Symposium. Following a cancellation last year due to the 'Beast from the East' this popular event was back to its' best with an excellent array of speakers including Professor John West-Burnham, Dr Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector (DES), Clive Byne, Director of the NAPD, Páraic Clerkin, CEO of the IPPN, Tomás Ó Ruairc, Director of the Teaching Council, Mary Nihill, Director of the Centre for School Leadership and a host of other well known figures from national leadership and policy roles. This year's theme was Collaborative Leadership for Learning and Life. Next years event will be held on Saturday 7th March.



Full details from Paula.Kinnarney@mu.ie



PMEI Students Tami Edmonds and Kellie Keenan

Social Justice Certificate course for PME students

This year a Social Justice Certificate (SJC) was introduced as an additional and optional component of the Professional Master of Education (PME) degree. The SJC programme is underpinned by critical and creative pedagogic practice and its aim was to provide the Year 1 students with the time and space to engage more fully with issues of social justice, equality, intercultural learning and global citizenship than is currently possible within the scope of the PME programme. It is designed to support students to develop their own school-based projects in Year 2 that focus on such themes.

As a pilot initiative (and for no additional credit!) it attracted 45 PME1 students. This high number (almost half the total number of students enrolled in PME Year 1) suggests that there is a keen appetite among students to explore issues of justice and equality in education.

It had three strands:

1. Development Education (led by Hugh Bergin and Dorothy Jacob from SelfHelp Africa)
2. Using Drama to explore themes of Social Justice in Education (with Artist in Residence for Initial Teacher Education, Peter Hussey).
3. 'Among Others' (led by Marianne O'Shea in the Applied Social Studies Department MU)

All three strands of the SJC ensure that teachers and other educators enhance their own critical, social and civic competencies before endeavouring to foster these same skills among the young people they teach and work with. It underlines the need for future

educators to look for and develop creative and collaborative opportunities to engage, motivate and challenge young people to live well, make sense of and engage with local and global issues of diversity, social inclusion and democracy.

While the PME programme in MU is already underpinned by a strong social justice ethos, these short courses have offered deeper and more extended encounters with these themes. They have also enabled us to develop and expand our collaboration with other educators and they successfully dissolve the boundaries between different sectors in education. For example, 'Among Others' has enabled us to work directly with Applied Social Studies Department where student teachers and other future educators in Youth and Community Work sector have been able to come together to share insights about their respective roles and responsibilities as educators. Two of the students participating in this strand (one from each department) will travel to Riga in Latvia to represent Ireland in this Erasmus+ project.

The initiative couldn't have been developed without the support of a number of key contributors. We are very grateful for the support we have received from the Ubuntu Network and SelfHelp Africa; the Arts Council and Léargas. The first Social Justice Certificate will be awarded to the participating students from the PME1 students and the Bachelor of Social Science (Youth and Community Work) at an event on campus on May 24th 2019.

- By Angela Rickard (Course Leader PME1)

A photograph of three people in a modern, colorful office space. A woman on the left is holding a tablet, a man in the middle is looking at a brochure, and a man on the right is holding a water bottle. They are all wearing name tags. The background features large windows and colorful geometric shapes on the floor.

Dreaming in our Classroom Space

Technology in our Classrooms

On Monday 18th February 2019, PME students visited Microsoft's DreamSpace in Leopardstown, Co. Dublin. Organized by Róisín Beaver (PME Placement Tutor and Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert), the excursion gave us the chance to rethink the future of education and technology, and of course also the opportunity to develop our own use of technology in the classroom. Twenty of us attended and abuzz with excitement en route while Róisín filled us in on the itinerary. We were met on arrival by DreamSpace Lead, Amanda Joliffe. Amanda, who is also a post-primary teacher, gave an intriguing presentation covering the future of Ireland's economic and educational landscape. She described the concept of DreamSpace as providing students and teachers with immersive learning experiences that are centred around 21st Century learning skills and concerned with combining these with STEM subjects.

As ours was an interdisciplinary group, we were set a task that could be used in any subject: namely to create a poignant video based on one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We were let loose in the auditorium equipped with tablet devices and plenty of imagination. After each team's presentation and the projection of our

creative endeavours we were given a tour of the building.

The interior of the building is spectacular. Its open design is refreshing with a breathtaking focal point of a digital waterfall! A set of screens show cascading images, which flow from one to another down to the ground (think dancefloor size!). The 'waterfall' is made even more impressive as the nearby staircases take on the appearance of a mountain. Employees based there have dubbed it "Mount Everest".

Not only is the appearance of the building appealing and evocative of the colourful MS logo, but we were also impressed by the working conditions for employees there: with their flexible working hours, ergonomic and height adjustable desks, gym and yoga classes and much more.

An afternoon visit over mid-term was well worth the effort. It has left its impression on us, giving us the chance to consider innovative ways to use technology to develop creativity and critical thinking among our students.

- By Stephen O'Sullivan, PME Year 1 Student



New Research Centre for Public Education and Pedagogy at Maynooth University reaffirms leadership role in Irish education studies

Prof Carl Anders Säfström is the director of the Centre for Public Education and Pedagogy

Maynooth University reaffirms its position as the country's foremost provider of education studies with the establishment of a new Research Centre for Public Education and Pedagogy. The Centre, directed by Professor Carl Anders Säfström, based in the Faculty of Social Sciences, will undertake research in relation to public education in Ireland and across the Europe. The main aim of the Research Centre for Public Education and Pedagogy is to promote education for all across Europe, and thus to strengthen democratic society, but also to produce research that can contribute with new ideas for a diverse and robust society to mobilize over difference: To assemble new social imaginaries for a better future for all. Such mobilization is very much about institutions such as schools, but also the

very way in which it is possible for a rich and diverse public life to express itself through different types of public institutions. The research, therefore, is conceptually located between the various expressions of publics and counter-publics on the one hand and the social institutions that are supposed to respond to the needs of such publics on the other. The interest of the centre is in guaranteeing that democracy works in the benefit of society as a whole, not only for the elites and capital. Its task is to support a liveable life for all in society through education. Its contribution is to continuously conceptualize the tension between different social interests for education through research to invent new imaginaries that speak to a genuine pluralistic democracy across Europe.

Upcoming Centre Event

Language, Democracy and Public Education (Dr Ian Mundy, NUI Galway)

When: Thursday, June 20, 2019 - 16:30 to 18:00

Where: First floor of Arts and Humanities Institute – Iontas Building

This seminar will look critically at ways in which a particular kind of language, one replete with acronyms, technical terminology and sloganeering, has come to form (or deform) the notion of an educated public. It shall consider ways in which this language prescribes what is “public” about public education and explore how surreptitiously imposed linguistic constraints present complex problems pertaining to democracy. Dr Mundy argues for a public philosophy that is attuned to the language of education and treats it as a central field of concern and suggests that a democratically oriented public philosophy that is tone deaf to linguistic matters is in danger of unwittingly reinforcing a democratic deficit as regards education. These issues will be explored with reference to educational initiatives such as Philosophy for Children



4TH EuroACS CONFERENCE ON CURRICULUM STUDIES

Curriculum: Origins, Trajectories and Practices

7th & 8th of June 2019

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

for registration visit: <http://www.euroacs.org>



Professor Susan Robertson, University of Cambridge, UK.

Dr. Susan Robertson is Professor of Sociology of Education in the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge and Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge. Prior to her appointment to Cambridge in 2016, Susan was Professor of Sociology at the University of Bristol, UK. Susan is a leading scholar on education policy and governance, with a focus particularly on global and regional politics, and the implications for social justice.



Professor Elizabeth Rata, The University of Auckland, NZ.

Dr. Elizabeth Rata is a professor of education in the School of Critical Studies in Education, Faculty of Education and Social Work, at the University of Auckland. She is the founding director of the Knowledge and Education Research Unit (KERU) which was established in 2010 to ensure a New Zealand contribution to the growing international interest in curriculum knowledge.



Professor Patrick Slattery, Texas A&M University, USA.

Dr. Patrick Slattery is Professor and Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies in the Department of Teaching, Learning & Culture in the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University where he teaches courses in Philosophy of Education, Curriculum Theory, Social Foundations of Education, and Arts-Based Research. The central theme of his work is the promotion of a just, compassionate, and ecologically sustainable global culture through holistic and reconceptualized approaches to curriculum, constructive postmodern understandings of education, queer studies in gender and sexuality, and process philosophical visions of creativity and change.



Other speakers include:

Dr Lovisa Bergdahl, Södertörn University, Sweden.

John Hammond, CEO of NCCA, Ireland.

Professor Mark Priestley, University of Stirling, Scotland.

Professor Carl Anders Säfström, Maynooth University, Ireland.

Professor Jan van den Akker, Netherlands.

Professor Ninni Wahlström, Linnaeus University, Sweden.



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for queries contact Majella Dempsey: curriculum.conference19@mu.ie



Alice Lynch with Clive Byrne, Director of the NAPD, Dr Gerry Jeffers Course Tutor, Professor Aidan Mulkeen, Professor Sharon Todd and Professor



Helen Coleman with Dr Mark Fennell, Course Tutor, Professor Aideen Mulkeen, Professor Sharon Todd and Professor Mark Maguire



Sarah Kirwin with Clive Byrne, Director NAPD, Tom Hughes, Course Tutor, Professor Aidan Mulkeen, Professor Sharon Todd and Professor Mark Maguire



Margaret Cronin with David Ruddy, IPPN President, Professor Aidan Mulkeen, Professor Sharon Todd and Professor Mark Maguire

Awards Ceremony 2019

The Department of Education boasted an impressive line-up of prize recipients at the Maynooth University Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 20th March. We would like to especially take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for their generous sponsorship of the awards.

Congratulations also to Adrian Kenny (BSc Maths Ed year 2) who was awarded two prizes: The First Year Laboratory Prize for the student who achieved the highest Chemistry laboratory marks and the McGraw Hill First Year Overall Chemistry Prize and to Eimear Davis (PME 1) who was awarded the Taught Masters Scholarship in Education.



Presentations and Conferences

Walsh, T. (2019). 'Book Review: Education for all? The legacy of free post-primary education in Ireland, edited by Judith Harford. History of Education.

Presentations

O' Grady, G. 'Performative Interventions in Post Qualitative Research' (O' Grady G. 12-15 February 2019). 3rd European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Edinburgh, Scotland.

O' Grady, G. 'The Future of Arts-Based and Art-informed inquiry in the Social and Health Sciences: A Conversation' (O' Grady, G with Siegesmund, R. 12-15 February 2019) 3rd European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Edinburgh, Scotland.

O' Grady, G. 'The Problem of Voice in Qualitative Research: De-centring the Subject' (O' Grady, G. 11-14 October 2018). Gender Studies Department, Malta University,

Rickard, A. (2019): 'Opening the Conversation: LGBTQ Youth and Irish Schools' at the Faces of Change: Researching Sexuality and Gender at Maynooth University Presentation at the Inaugural symposium of MU SexGen: Maynooth University's Sexualities and Gender Research Network. April, 2019

Rickard, A. (2019) : 'Opening Conversations: exploring teachers' narratives of LGBTQ experiences in Irish Schools Forthcoming presentation at the 5th International Irish Narrative Inquiry Conference, Trinity College Dublin. May 2019.

Walsh, T. and Rickard, A. (2019). "Promoted widely but not valued": Teachers' perception of team teaching as a form of professional development in Irish post-primary schools. Presentation at the Educational Studies Association of Ireland conference, Sligo, April 2019.

Todd, S. (2019) Teaching as Bodily Enactment. Keynote Presentation at Philosophy of Education Network, Nordic Educational Research Association Conference, Uppsala Sweden, 5-6 March, 2019.



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