



The politics of collaboration: Initial findings from a 'Cradle to Career' Project

Abstract:

In this session, we reflect on initial findings from an illustrative case of an ambitious 'Cradle to Career' (C2C) project through the lens of a nascent critical education leadership and policy scholarship (CELPS) methodology (Courtney 2024). The CELPS methodology is epistemologically critical, focusing on context and power from a post-positivist perspective, and locates education policy and leadership in diverse contexts including the ideological, historical, political, socio-economic, axiological and cultural. Through this lens, we discuss the ways in which the key constituents of the C2C project operate and how their collaborative work at once supports and hinders the overarching aims of the project. Through this analysis we reveal how the lack of social capital between organisations and individual actors results in different perceptions of educational, social and community priorities relating to the needs of the next generation and how these should best be addressed. In doing so we throw light on the complex, problematic and political nature of such initiatives and the 'wicked' social problems they aim to address.

Reference

Courtney, S. (2024) 'Adumbrating Critical Education Leadership and Policy Scholarship as a New Research Methodology' In S. Courtney, P. Armstrong and A. McKay (Eds.) *Critical Education Leadership and Policy Scholarship: Introducing a New Research Methodology*. Emerald (p. 5-23)

Date:
February 26, 2025
(Wednesday)

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm

Venue:
Room 408-410,
Meng Wah Complex
HKU

Chair/Discussant:
Professor Paul
Campbell



About the speaker(s)

Dr. Paul Armstrong is Reader in Education at the Manchester Institute of Education, University of Manchester. His research interests concern contemporary forms of educational leadership and management and educational collaboration. Paul has 20 years' experience in education research leading on national and international projects and publishing across a number of areas including educational improvement, networking, leadership, management and policy. He is currently Programme Director for the award-winning MA Educational Leadership in Practice programme at the University of Manchester. Paul is also Editor-in-Chief of the Sage journal *Management in Education*.



Dr. Bee Hughes is a Senior Lecturer in Education within the Manchester Institute of Education (MIE), University of Manchester. She is also Deputy Programme Director of the Blended MA Educational Leadership in Practice programme. Dr. Hughes' research interests lie in educational leadership, school structures, critical policy studies and ethnography. She uses Arendtian thinking to help understand and interpret her research.

Dr. Hughes is co-convenor of the Critical Education Leadership and Policy Research Group (CELP) within MIE and a member of both the British Educational Leadership Management and Administration Society (BELMAS) and the British Educational Research Association (BERA). She is currently Deputy Editor of the academic journal *Management in Education*. Previously, Dr Hughes worked in schools as a senior leader both in Hong Kong and in the UK.

~ All are welcome ~

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