

European Society *for* Research *on the* Education of Adults

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Dear ESREA members,

In our last newsletter for 2019 we have much to report: about ESREA's newly elected presidium, about Network Meeting and Conferences in Autumn – coincidentally all took place in the South of Europe –, about events and highlights in 2019.

Have a look at the comprehensive review of our activities on page 4! This broad range of activities and events provided plenty of opportunities to stimulate interest in adult education research, to exchange with peers, to promote young researchers in their professional development.

It was a moving year for ESREA (also literally!). The Secretariat moved to DIE in Bonn, got through the typical initial difficulties associated with the setup of any new organization, supported the Triennial Conference in Belgrade, provided bursaries for young researchers and held elections. It is time to take a breather after an eventful year, knowing that the next year will be promising! See page 8.

Yours,
Alexandra Ioannidou

General Assembly and Election of the new ESREA presidium

The annual General Assembly of ESREA took place between November 19 and 22 via online ballot. The General Assembly approved the Management Report 2019 of the Secretary, discharged the Presidium and accepted the appointment of the new Auditor of the Society, Prof. Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha.

During these days the election committee consisting of Alexandra Ioannidou (ESREA Secretary), Susanne Lattke and Lena Sindermann (both DIE) carried out the online election ballot for the new presidium of ESREA for the period 2020-2022. We are happy to announce that all candidates were elected and have accepted their election!

Here are the elected members in alphabetical order:

- ✓ Andreas Fejes, Professor at Linköping University, Sweden
- ✓ Fergal Finnegan, Associate Professor at Maynooth University, Ireland
- ✓ Laura Formenti, Professor at University of Milano Bicocca, Italy
- ✓ Maria N. Gravani, Assistant Professor at Open University of Cyprus
- ✓ Bernd Käpplinger, Professor at Justus-Liebig University of Giessen, Germany
- ✓ Martin Kopecký, Assistant Professor at Charles University, Czech Republic
- ✓ Maja Maksimović, Assistant Professor at University of Belgrade, Serbia
- ✓ Jyri Manninen, Professor at University of Eastern Finland, Finland
- ✓ Barbara Merrill, Associate Professor at University of Warwick, United Kingdom
- ✓ Marcella Milana, Associate Professor at University of Verona, Italy
- ✓ Joanna Ostouch-Kamińska, Associate Professor at University of Warmia and Mazury, Poland
- ✓ Cristina Maria Coimbra Vieira, Associate Professor at University of Coimbra, Portugal



The ESREA election committee - Alexandra, Susanne and Lena – at work

We would like to congratulate all upon their election and warmly welcome the new Presidium members Martin Kopecký, Maja Maksimović and Joanna Ostouch-Kamińska!

The newly elected ESREA Presidium reflects the diversity of our Society in geographic and cultural terms as well as in terms of expertise and research paradigms. The new members will take over on January 1st 2020. The election of the new Chair (Board) of the Society and the new Treasurer will take place on January 30 and 31 among the elected members of the Presidium.

Three 'old' Presidium members decided – each for his/her own reasons – not to stand for election another time:

- ❖ Emilio Lucio-Villegas Ramos, Professor at University of Seville, Spain
- ❖ Adrianna Nizińska, Senior lecturer at University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- ❖ Michel Alhadeff-Jones, Sunkhronos Institute, Geneva, Switzerland and Adjunct Associate Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, USA.

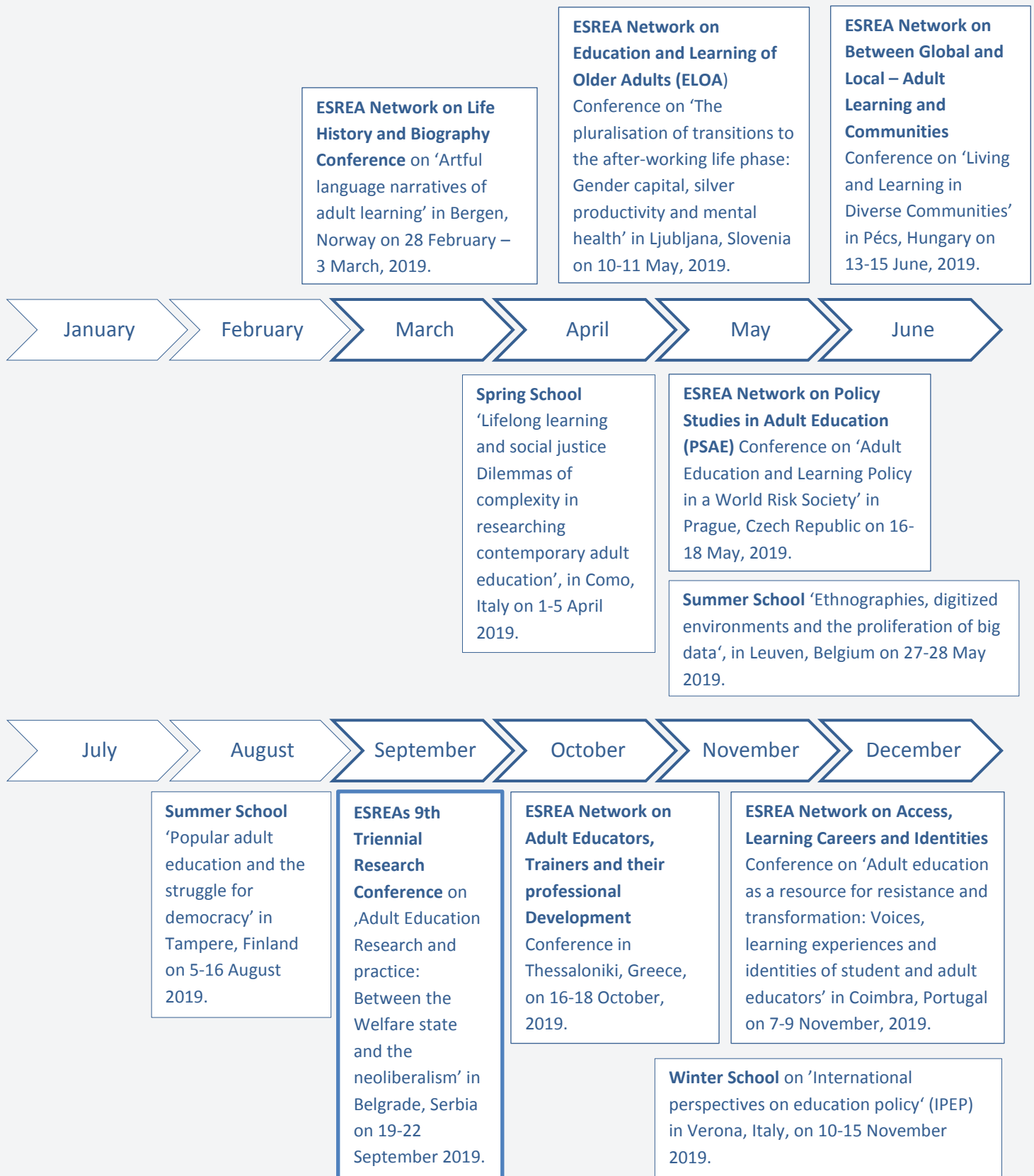
We would like to express our gratitude and acknowledgement to all three for their commitment and the work they have accomplished for ESREA so far and wish them all the best for the future! We are very confident that they will stay tuned with us and remain active members of the Society.



The presidium of ESREA in 2019

Review

ESREA Events and Highlights of 2019



Reports on recent ESREA Network Conferences

ESREA's 9th Triennial Research Conference on 'Adult Education research and practice between the welfare state and neoliberalism'

Conference in Belgrade, Serbia, on 19-22 September, 2019

From 19 – 22 September ESREA's 9th Triennial European Research Conference was held in Belgrade, focusing on challenges adult education research and practice face in the contemporary shift from the welfare state to the neoliberal ideology and practices.

The conference raised a lot of interest and inspired researchers from different regions, involving three keynote speeches, 210 participants from almost 40 countries and 5 continents. The contributions were presented in 57 sessions, ranging from discussions about philosophical, epistemological and ideological issues to current topics like industry 4.0, digital learning, migration etc. Participants explored how the end of the welfare state influenced the role of adult education, and what challenges different fields of adult education, research and policy are facing. Literacy and numeracy, community learning, citizenship, marketization, are some of the topics that were critically explored. Further, various research paradigms, approaches and challenges were explored. The conference included series of symposia, round tables and panels, as well as book presentations and exchange of the editors of the best adult education journals.

The conference was an opportunity to meet ESREA networks and discuss the specific issues and topics of interest. Additionally, the conference topic attracted researchers from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, who gathered, discussed and presented the whole range of issues related to the 'transition', modernisation and European integration in and through adult education.

As usual, the pre-conference, an event specially organized for the PhD students, offered unique support to young researcher, who could benefit from the input from ESREA colleagues, but also from the exchange with colleagues from other countries. Around 20 PhD students took part at the pre-conference.

As part of the conference programme, the Study Group of Andragogy of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, who was the host of the conference, organized the celebration of the anniversary: 40 years since Andragogy was established as independent, four-year study programme, with MA and PhD studies at the University of Belgrade. As additional event, an induction ceremony of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame was organized, as well as a regional West-Balkan conference on "Building bridges in adult education."

Katarina Popovic, University of Belgrade





ESREA Network on Adult Educators, Trainers and their professional Development

Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 16-18 October, 2019

This year's meeting suggested an emphasis on the cultural approach in adult education considering that all learning territories are cultural. The meeting that took place in Thessaloniki (16-18 October 2019) attracted 37 participants from Germany, Denmark, Hungary, France, Portugal, Cyprus, Greece, and India. The theme of the meeting was **'Adult educators in times of changing cultures: embracing diversity for empowerment and inspiration'**.

The issues that were discussed among small working groups in "learning cafes" (that is the common rubric in all ReNADET events), but also in plenary sessions included the role of adult educators in multicultural learning environments, support of adults at risk of social exclusion, cultural diversity, empowerment of refugees and asylum seekers, democratic citizenship and critical human rights in adult education.

Among the highlights of this year's meeting were the **music and dance event** that was jointly performed by the music group 'Percussion Team 'Kroustodi"' and the "Creative Therapeutic Dance Group" of SOTIR, a community care centre for adults with learning disabilities; the **reflective workshop** "The role of music in education on emerging, growing and sharing self" that was organised by the Professor Dora Psaltopoulou; and the **plenary presentation** of the members of the Centre of Socio-cultural Animation, Empowerment, and Reflection 'ATHIRMA' on their learning project with refugees. More details on this event with presentation abstracts and photos are available at <https://renadet.weebly.com/6th-renadet-meeting.html>.

George Zarifis, Larissa Jögi (Network Convenors)



ESREA Network on Access, Learning Careers and Identities

Conference on ‘Adult education as a resource for resistance and transformation: Voices, learning experiences and identities of student and adult educators’ in Coimbra, Portugal on 7-9 November, 2019

The ESREA Access, Learning Careers and Identities Network held a lively and successful conference at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, 7-9 November 2019. The conference was hosted by Cristina C. Vieira and the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences. The conference title – *Adult Education as a Resource for Resistance and Transformation: Voices, learning experiences and Identities of students and adult educators* - aimed to capture the ‘possibility of hope’ within adult education and to challenge the rising tide of neo-liberalism and marketisation. The audience totalled 85 which included several PhD students. A total of 57 papers were presented as well as 7 posters. Participants came from all over the world from 19 countries including north, south, east, and west Europe as well as South Africa, Russia, Brazil, Canada and Australia. While there was a core of participants who regularly attend this network conference there was also a substantial number of people who attended for the first time. Conference discussion was enhanced by two key note speakers: Fergal Finnegan from Maynooth University, Ireland who spoke about *Rethinking the relationship between access to higher education, work and equality in a knowledge society* and Sandra Valadas from the University of Algarve, Portugal who spoke about *Inequalities in higher education: Non-traditional students’ voices and learning experiences*. We are now in the process of working on a conference book publication. The next network conference will be held at the University of Algarve, Portugal in 2021.

Barbara Merrill, Adrianna Nizinska & Andrea Galimberti (Network convenors)



Outlook:

ESREA Conferences and Network Meetings

January 30-31, 2020

ESREA Presidium meeting at DIE in Bonn, Germany

February 27 – March 1, 2020

ESREA Conference of the Network Life History and Biography.

Theme of the conference is **Activism in a troubled world – auto/biographical and narrative perspectives on struggles for the good and beautiful**. It takes place in Canterbury, England.

For further information go to: <https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/education/conferences-events/2020/esrea-conference-2020.aspx>

April 22-24, 2020

ESREA 5th international Conference of the ESREA Migration, Transnationalism and Racism, Network.

Theme of the Conference is **Contextualizing racism and migration: time, place and generational perspectives in anti-racist praxis**. It takes place in Glasgow, Scotland.

For further information go to: <https://www.qia.ac.uk/schools/education/esrea2020/>

June 4-7, 2020

International Research Conference at the University of British Columbia.

Theme of the Conference is **Adult Education in Global Times**. It takes place in Vancouver, Canada.

For further information go to: <https://edst.educ.ubc.ca/aeqt2020/>

June 25-28, 2020

4th Biennial Conference of the Network Transformative Process in Learning and Education (TPLE) and the Hellenic Adult Education Association.

Theme of the Conference is **What we know and don't know about transformation: Building a new community in research and praxis**. It takes place in Athens, Greece.

For further information go to: <http://www.esrea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ESREA-TPLE-2020-First-call-for-papers-2019-10-31.pdf>

RELA



The **European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults (RELA)** is a refereed academic journal creating a forum for the publication of critical research on adult education and learning. RELA is published on behalf of ESREA and can be found at our webpage: <http://www.esrea.org/publications/rela/>

We are happy to announce a **new call for papers to RELA** on the topic of: Adult education, knowledge and competencies in times of migration.

Submission deadline is February 20, 2020. The issue is planned for publication in October 2020.

http://www.rela.ep.liu.se/call_for_papers.asp

Publications

The ESREA book series is free available online at: <http://www.esrea.org/publications/book-series/>

Conference Proceedings of ESREA network meetings can be found at: <http://www.esrea.org/publications/books-from-the-networks/>

The organizers of the ESREA Triennial Conference in Belgrade, Serbia, are preparing the publication of conference proceedings. Authors have been contacted by the organizing committee. The proceedings are to be published within 2020.

Opportunities for students and early career researchers

For each ESREA conference up to three bursaries are available for PhD students. Bursary applicants must be members of ESREA (either individually or through an institutional membership). Each bursary is max. 300 Euros to cover travel and lodging expenses. The network convenors, in consultation with the Secretary of ESREA, decide who will be awarded the bursaries.

Information about the application procedure (guidelines, deadlines for submission etc.) are always included in the call for papers and on the conference webpage. Applications are to be addressed to the convenors of the network who inform the applicants about the proceedings. Awarded PhD and MA Students must keep the receipts for their accommodation and travel and send them electronically to the Secretary after the conference.

How to become a member of ESREA e.V.

Membership in ESREA is open to individual and institutional members. As a member you will get a reduced fee at ESREA activities, information in the field of research on the education of adults through the ESREA mailing list and newsletter. As an individual member you have the right to vote at the general assembly that takes place each year (online through postal ballot). As an institutional member, all employees of your institution are entitled to participate in ESREA activities at a reduced fee. Note that institutional members have only one vote in the general assembly.

If you want to become a member the process is the following:

1. Download the document at: <http://www.esrea.org/about-us/membership/>
2. Fill in the membership application form and e-mail it to: ESREASecretary@die-bonn.de.
3. Within two weeks at the latest you will receive a confirmation of your membership by e-mail
4. An invoice for your membership fee will be issued: 50 Euros for individual members, 25 Euros for students and PhD students and 150 Euros for institutional members. **Payment of membership fees can only be made through an international or EU bank transfer. Cheques are not accepted. Any foreign bank fees are to be borne by the applicants.**

ESREA Bank details for membership fee:

Bank: Sparkasse KölnBonn

Account holder: European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA) e.V.

Account number: 1934820174

IBAN: DE73 3705 0198 1934 8201 74

BIC: COLSDE33XXX

VAT Number: DE324070933

Forthcoming newsletters

Deadlines for 2020

- February 28, 2020
- May 29, 2020
- August 28, 2020
- November 27, 2020

Editorial Office

Alexandra Ioannidou

Susanne Lattke

Lena Sindermann

ESREAsecretary@die-bonn.de

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European Society for Research on the Education of Adults e.V. (ESREA)
Heinemannstr. 12-14, 53175 Bonn, Germany
www.esrea.org

Sitz des Vereins ist Bonn eingetragen beim Amtsgericht Bonn, VR 11467
Vorstand i.S.v. § 26 BGB: Prof. Laura Formenti
Geschäftsführerin: Dr. Alexandra Ioannidou
Schatzmeister: Prof. Bernd Käßlinger
VAT Number: DE324070933

