

# Publications 2012/13

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# Research Centre for CfLaT Learning and Teaching

## CfLaT Headlines

Digital tabletops facilitating David Leat's classic 'mysteries' technique have been getting plenty of media attention. *The Journal*, ran a long piece on 8 May about the research ( see: <http://www.journallive.co.uk/north-east-news/todays-news/2013/05/08/north-tyneside-pupils-put-hi-tech-learning-aid-to-test-61634-33296469/> ) and *The Times* included a report on the same day but with a more negative angle about how lazy pupils can hide behind the technology!

Supporting Children and Families in the North East, a conference on 23 May organised by Liz Todd, brought together practitioners and academics to debate whether Children's Zones are the way forward.

Laura Mazzoli Smith has joined CfLaT as a researcher. She was previously Senior Research Fellow at the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth, University of Warwick and is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Cumbria. She has been developing our social justice work with Liz Todd and Karen Laing. Her recently published book, *Families, Education and Giftedness: Case Studies in the Construction of High Achievement*, provides further indication of her research interests.

Congratulations to Hanneke Jones on the successful completion of her PhD. Her thesis is entitled: 'I disagree with myself!' - Creative Thinking in a Key Stage 1 Community of Enquiry.

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# NEWSLETTER

May 2013

Issue 15

## Visual Methods on the road....

Congratulations to the team led by Jill Clark – with Karen Laing, Lucy Tiplady and Pam Woolner – who successfully presented the visual research methods workshop at the recent AHRC Connected Communities showcase national event in March. The team presented a rationale for participatory visual research methods whilst enabling participants to 'try' methods such as photo elicitation and diamond ranking.

This part of the project builds upon a similar successful workshop hosted at the ECER conference in Cadiz last year, as a result of which we have been invited to present again at ECER 2013 in Istanbul!

For those of you keen to know more about the workshop, there is a condensed version available on YouTube at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZE\\_bonLxfo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZE_bonLxfo).



Our accompanying publication – 'Making Connections: Theory and practice of using visual methods to aid participation in research' is now available (as a pdf) and offers useful and practical advice about getting started with visual research methods.

For more information, contact: [Jill.Clark@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Jill.Clark@ncl.ac.uk).

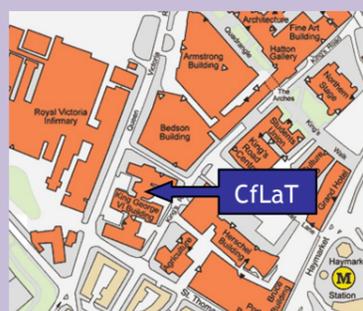


## Dates for your diaries:

**CfLaT Research Showcase Event:**  
**Wednesday 18 September, 4pm to 6pm, across the King George VI Building, Newcastle University.**  
 The event is free to attend and refreshments will be provided.  
**For more information contact [Jill.Clark@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Jill.Clark@ncl.ac.uk) or [Karen Laing k.j.c.laing@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Karen.Laing@ncl.ac.uk)**

**Learning Environments Research Group (LERG) meeting:**  
**Wednesday 10 July, 3.30pm to 5pm, 2.50 King George VI Building.**  
 Initial findings from our ECER symposium paper, *Teachers Preparing For Changes to Learning Environment and Practices in a UK Secondary School*, and opportunity to meet Chris Abbandonato, a visiting Canadian science and maths teacher with interests in enhancing the learning environment.  
**For more information contact [Pamela.Woolner@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Pamela.Woolner@ncl.ac.uk)**

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# DEMENTIA DAY

**CfLaT co-ordinated a very successful intergenerational learning and dementia project design workshop on March 1st 2013.**

We participated together with other colleagues in ECLS, the Newcastle Initiative on Changing Age, Investing in Children, VOICENorth and young people and their teachers from North-East primary and secondary schools. These groups came together to consider ways of working towards intergenerational learning and a dementia-friendly society in what proved to be a stimulating discussion across the generations.

The co-design workshop, originating from the dementia challenge launched in March 2012 by David Cameron, developed out of a concept paper by Liz Todd and David Leat. In it they identified that the involvement of young people in the creation of a dementia-friendly society goes to the heart of two other societal challenges: communication across the generations and young people's democratic voice in creating our future society.

The day was specifically designed to foster interaction through stimulating conversations and contexts such as



quizzes and a marketplace of speakers with different expertise. The aim was that the participants, from a diverse array of ages, would have space to pose the questions most relevant to them. Young people were also central, with a presentation from Investing in Children on their own research into dementia-friendly communities and a range of narrative interviews being recorded with young people sharing personal perspectives.

Feedback from participants was that the opportunity for real intergenerational communication had been greatly appreciated and had promoted both knowledge-sharing and networking. This in turn has been a catalyst for school-based projects and research collaborations. The workshop is foundational to the on-going development of a substantial project on intergenerational learning with partners across Newcastle University.

**A newsletter and video from the day are available on the CfLaT website at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/cflat/ILD.htm> or contact Laura Mazzoli Smith at [laura.mazzolismith@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:laura.mazzolismith@ncl.ac.uk) for further information.**

## Open Futures Evaluation



**Pam Woolner, Lucy Tiplady and David Leat are currently conducting an evaluation of the latest phase of the *Open Futures* programme.**

The initiative aims at developing skills and enquiry based learning in primary schools through 4 strands: gardening, cooking, filming and Philosophy for Children (P4C). The team from CfLaT have provided formative assessment since 2006 as the project has developed. This latest evaluation is looking at implementation in the new wave of schools that joined in 2011. But we have also been examining sustainability through visiting some of the schools who had their initial training back in 2008-9.



The impact of *Open Futures* needs to be understood in the context of contemporary schooling. Other projects and enthusiasms come and go, but *Open Futures* tends to last. Changes are evident in schools years after initial training, with the effects on the curriculum underpinned by changes to school planning, budgeting and physical space. Schools like the way they can make OF 'their own', and teachers like the way the programme respects the huge diversity of needs presented by a class of children over a school year.

**For more information contact Pamela.Woolner@ncl.ac.uk or see the OF website: <http://www.openfutures.com/>**

## STOP PRESS — PLACES AVAILABLE FOR MINI CONFERENCE

**CfLaT will now be holding a half day 'mini' conference on 14th June 2013 focused on the challenges faced when developing Enquiry/Project Based Learning.**

This will enable us to lay the foundations for producing a School's Guide to EBL/PBL for which we have received seed - corn funding. As an outcome of the conference we aim to identify an Advisory Group (to operate mainly electronically) for the project.

The half day conference will be FREE and will include lunch. We do hope that you will be able to/interested in attending the mini conference, as we are intending to provide opportunities to share the work being undertaken in this area. The itinerary is as follows:  
14th June Research Beehive  
12.30-1.00 Lunch  
1.00 – 1.15 Introduction: David Leat  
1.15-2.00 Experiences of EBL/PBL  
2.00 – 2.30 Making sense of contradictions  
2.30 – 3.00 Coffee/Tea  
3.00-4.00 Drawing on knowledge and experience to create a School's Guide to EBL/PBL

**If you would like to attend the afternoon mini conference, please could you contact Ulrike Thomas at [U.Thomas@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:U.Thomas@ncl.ac.uk)**

## RESEARCH TEA TIMETABLE (Summer 2013)

Research teas aim to provide an informal forum for discursive examination of emerging research themes and concepts. Tea and cakes will be available from 3pm in the Centre base (KGV1 2.50) with the session officially beginning at 3.15.

**22nd May 2013**  
**Christina Maiden (Off The Page Drama CIC)** - One Big Story: Collaboration, Creativity and Confidence in Key Stage 2 Literacy

**19th June 2013**  
**Carl Towler** - Sean Connery: Licensed to theorise

**17th July 2013**  
Marie Butterworth Prize  
Further information about the research teas from [Lucy.Tiplady@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Lucy.Tiplady@ncl.ac.uk) or from the Centre website ([www.ncl.ac.uk/cflat/news/teas](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/cflat/news/teas)). You could even volunteer to contribute one yourself!!

## Research Visitor from Spain

**Patricia López Vicent, lecturer in the Department of Education Theory and History in the Faculty of Education at the University of Murcia (Spain) was in CfLaT from February until May of 2013 to do research.**



During this stay I have found a magnificent centre, a very professional team and a great deal of experience. I have been able to get to know new ways of researching and teaching, and different realities of education.

I have taken part in the project "Skype Mediator" through which I have been in touch with SOME (Self Organised Mediated Environments) and have got to know how local primary and secondary schools are implementing new educational methods. I have participated by collaborating in the design of instruments for collecting information about students, teachers and mediators from the project.

I have also come into contact with other projects like Digital Mysteries and Digital Kitchen which have given me new tools to improve learning through collaborative work.

In the future we will stay in touch to continue developing new projects about different educational experiences in our respective countries. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Leat and his team for the wonderful welcome to Newcastle. His support has made this an unforgettable experience.

For further information about Patricia's research interests, see her centre's website: [www.um.es/gite](http://www.um.es/gite)



## CONTRIBUTORS WANTED!

**Learning and Teaching Update is our monthly newsletter published by Optimus Publishing.**

Each issue includes news, updates on policy and research, initiatives and case study articles highlighting good practice in teaching and learning. We are looking for contributions for future issues. **Contact: [U.Thomas@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:U.Thomas@ncl.ac.uk)**

