

# Publications 2018/19

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# CfLaT

Research Centre for Learning and Teaching

# NEWSLETTER

May 2019

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## CfLaT Headlines

**Sue Robson has been in Brazil as Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul. On 7 May she delivered a Keynote at a conference on Internationalisation at Home in Higher Education as part of a nationally funded project with the theme of World in Motion: Individuals and Society:** <https://tinyurl.com/y223mqwz>



**Karen Laing along with partner Jeremy Cripps from Children North East and Peter Hopkins, Dean of Social Justice, presented examples of their work together aimed at promoting social justice to attendees at the recent Vision in Action event, which explored how the university works with its partners to make a difference in the region and beyond. More about the University's approach here:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKzO5\\_EGNj8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKzO5_EGNj8)

**Pam Woolner was one of the Newcastle University staff recognised by the student organised Teaching Excellence Awards (the TEAs). She won the open category, Student Choice, for her work as programme director for the EDD.**



**In June CfLaT will again welcome Dr Paula Cardelli-no, an architecture academic from Uruguay, who researches school space. While she is here, she will be doing a CfLaT Research Tea and contributing to Participation in the design and planning of innovative learning environments (12 June).**

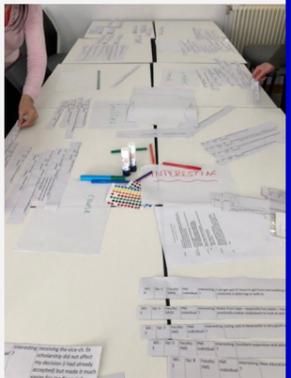
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## PG-NICE PROJECT WORKSHOPS

**Jill Clark, Luke Stewart and Ulrike Thomas have been busy conducting workshops around the University. These were part of a cross-University research project: *Postgraduate study in Newcastle: the intercultural experience* – the PG-Nice Project. The project is led by staff in the medical school, but we were commissioned because of our expertise in qualitative and visual research methods.**

The brief was to provide international postgraduate students with a platform to talk about their experiences at Newcastle University, but – especially for students from abroad – also life in the UK in general. We were keen for our workshops to be as creative, interactive and fun(!) as possible and so we devised a schedule that included a variety of activities to get people talking. Several University students were employed through JobSoc as project assistants.



During the workshops, we asked students to discuss, in groups, questions relating to their experience of studying at Newcastle University. They were assisted in their responses with various visual methods and tools including a PMI (Plus, Minus, Interesting) activity and diamond ranking. We then used these activities to stimulate and develop discussion to generate key messages to take back to the University. Our project assistants were with us all the way, from design of the workshop activities through the analysis, and we are just embarking on our report writing stage, so watch this space!

**For further information see:** <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/cflat/research/projects/projectpostgraduatestudyinnewcastletheinter-culturalalexperiencepg-nice.html>

## Coming CfLaT events

### CfLaT Showcase 2019: Save the date!

The CfLaT research showcase offers teachers, students, school leaders, educational practitioners, academics and policy makers a chance to find out about recent research activities and outcomes. In a slight change this year, the CfLaT Showcase will be part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science. As ever, there will be plenty of opportunities for discussion and networking.

**Thursday, 7 November, 4pm-7.30pm, Newcastle University**

### Participation in the design and planning of innovative learning environments

An opportunity to engage with practitioners and researchers from architecture, education and planning about projects, methods and problems with participatory approaches. This event is intended for teachers in schools, universities and other contexts; policy makers and institutional leaders; students and scholars from any discipline (or none); planners, architects and designers.

**Wednesday, 12 June 4pm-6.30pm**

**Rooms 2.49 & 2.50, Armstrong Building, Newcastle University**

**For more information, contact Pamela.Woolner@ncl.ac.uk**

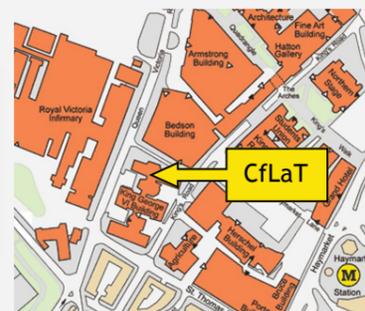
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# CfLaT

Research Centre for Learning and Teaching



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# Hello Alison!

**CfLaT's new research associate, Alison Whelan, will be working with David and Ulrike on the Edge Foundation funded PBL Goes to University project.**

Alison commented that, "It's so exciting to be 'officially' part of CfLaT after being on the EdD programme and working on various projects with many of you for quite a number of years!"

Beyond CfLaT, Alison is currently working with Paul Seedhouse on the *ProPIC Europa* project, covering many of her research interests in innovation in the classroom, professional development, language learning and teaching, and collaborative practice.

As part of *ProPIC*, this month Alison welcomed ten students from four European universities on a study week to learn more about language teaching, learning classrooms and the use of mobile technologies.

**To get in touch, contact Alison.Whelan2@ncl.ac.uk**



## NECOP evaluation update

**The North East Collaborative Outreach Programme (NECOP) is a partnership of five universities and 17 colleges in the North East region. We are working together to support young people to think about their futures and how higher education can help them reach their goals.**

Newcastle University hosts the NECOP central management team, with the programme evaluation team, Christina Cooper (research associate/evaluation manager) and Nina Jentl (research assistant/data analyst), residing in CfLaT.

NECOP is delivering over 30 types of interventions in 106 schools and 17 further education colleges, aiming to increase awareness of higher education opportunities and progression pathways for young people and help them to develop the

confidence and skills needed to succeed. As part of the Office for Students' widening participation agenda, the FutureMe programme provides young people, aged 13 to 19, from 92 low participation wards within the region with high quality impartial advice and guidance.

The NECOP evaluation conducted by Christina and Nina incorporates a theory of change based on an academic readiness model to synthesise evidence of what works, for whom, in what circumstances, and why.

**For more information, contact Christina.Cooper@ncl.ac.uk and Nina.Jentl@ncl.ac.uk**



## LEARNING SPACES

**In April, Pam Woolner was invited to Australia by researchers at Monash University to take part in a three day international workshop and conference about learning spaces. The Monash colleagues have recently embarked on a project following 15 new build schools in the Melbourne area, and the event was to inform this research.**

Pam also arranged to visit contacts from Melbourne University who work for La Trobe University at their campus in Bendigo, a two hour train trip out from Melbourne. They had arranged a visit to La Trobe's Tech School, part of the state of Victoria's STEM initiative – see <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/learning-dev/schools/Pages/default.aspx>, and Pam gave a lunchtime seminar for the Education Department.

Then it was back into Melbourne and off to the main Monash campus for the conference. This was based in the recently opened and notable Teaching and Learning Centre, which boasts innovative teaching rooms and lots of lovely informal learning space – as well as some windowless meeting rooms that were less well-received by the group of educational space researchers!

The one day conference was well attended by students and practitioners keen to hear speakers on education and architecture from New Zealand, Europe, Uruguay and Australia. Overall it was a very successful visit even if, as Pam reflects, "It was a long way to go to meet some of the school buildings researchers based at Oxford University!"

**For further information contact Pamela.Woolner@ncl.ac.uk**



## THANK YOU CFLAT AND GOODBYE

**CfLaT's Psychology Placement student, Luke Stewart, reflects on the experience, and introduces next year's student. Luke writes:**

From the beginning of my placement in September last year to present the CfLaT team have provided a supportive, welcoming, friendly and engaging environment for me to explore education research. I am amazed how quickly the time has gone.

From the moment I set foot in the building I felt included in the CfLaT team and was given responsibility to contribute to the work that was going on. I have helped with numerous projects, attended meetings on a range of topics, attended research conferences and teas (including BERA 2018), written a book review, helped with service de-

velopment and campaigns within the university, planned my own summer research scholarship project and enjoyed the CfLaT social events.

This year I have had the time to contemplate my professional development and to get an idea of what a career in academic research entails by getting involved in lots of different research activities. The highlight of my placement has been developing my knowledge of qualitative methods—particularly visual methods—and using these to help facilitate focus groups in both the 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Fund' project (investigating EDI officers and policies at Newcastle University) and the 'Post Graduate Students in Newcastle: the Intercultural experience' project.

I am grateful for both the professional contacts and friends I have made working with CfLaT and I promise to keep in touch!

Finally, congratulations to CfLaT's new placement student for 2019/2020 Charlie Thorpe—he will be an asset to the team. I will be placement mentor for Charlie and I look forward to hearing about the work that goes on in the next year.

Best wishes, Luke



## NEW TECH PROJECT NE Outdoor Learning Hub

**On May 1st CfLaT started a project with Sunderland IT company, Consult and Design to do the groundwork on a platform/app for young people to record their learning from school PBL projects, clubs, work experience, part time jobs, informal learning, etc., to support their applications for HE, FE, apprenticeships and work.**

This project will undertake consultations and preliminary technical work in order to tune into what will appeal to young people – we don't

want to end up with flash app that no one uses. We intend raising the profile of learning that is not captured in exam grades, but represents talents, interests, experience and wider learning.

The project is titled '*Making Learning Visible*' and follows in the footsteps of Digital Portfolios, but with a greater sense of personal ownership.

**Contact Ulrike or David if this strikes a chord with you: U.Thomas@ncl.ac.uk or David.Leat@ncl.ac.uk**

**The next NE Outdoor Learning Research Hub meeting will take place on Thursday 27th June 1-3.30pm at Newcastle University (room to be confirmed).**

In addition to updates from members, Karen Laing will be facilitating a workshop on using a Theory of Change approach in research, evaluation and partnership working. For more information please see the CfLaT guide on Theory of Change (and other aspects of our work) at <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/cflat/publications/guides/>

**The research hub meetings are open to all – please contact Lucy.Tiplady@ncl.ac.uk**



## RESEARCH TEA TIMETABLE (Summer 2019)

Our Wednesday Research teas aim to provide an informal forum for discursive examination of emerging research themes and concepts. Tea and cakes are available from 3.45pm in the Centre base (KGVI 2.50) with the session officially beginning at 4pm.

**19th June- Paula Cardellino, Universidad ORT, Uruguay:** Design for learning: imagining preschool space in a Uruguayan setting

**17th July - Bridget Stratford, NEST Project Manager and Postgraduate Student:** Mobilising students in the face of the refugee crisis, a focus on North East Solidarity and Teaching (NEST)

Further information about the research teas from [lucy.tiplady@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.tiplady@newcastle.ac.uk) or from the Centre website (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/cflat/news/teas/>)

