

BALEAP 2025 Workshop

Taking the next step – sharing
thoughts on EAP related
doctoral research

Anna McKenna



Overview

- Early researcher journey so far
- Introductions & discussions
- Feedback & take aways

My early researcher journey so far

- Enrolled on a Professional Doctorate in Education
- Differences between PhD and EdD – structure
- Modules covered:
 - Policy and Professional Practice Year 1
 - Professional Learning Year 1
 - Researching Educational Practice Year 2
 - Social Research Year 2 – pilot study
- 5000 word assignment for each module
- 30 credits per module

Now in the Thesis Proposal Stage Year 3

- Equivalent to the RDC2 on a PhD programme
- Research Degrees Committee form - must complete to progress on PhD/EdD programme
- My thesis proposal - 6000 words
- Followed by a mini viva

On the learning curve

- Be prepared to sound 'naïve or inarticulate' as you attempt to explain your research area – sometimes it's a struggle!
- Learn to accept discomfort and confusion as part of the process
- Learn to accept ever evolving ideas, inconsistencies, contradictions
- Confront your assumptions, biases, weaknesses and strengths – be self-reflexive and acknowledge your position in relation to your area of interest

(Mullaney & Rea, 2022)

Being a self-centred researcher

- Start from where you are right now – what are you genuinely curious about – pursue something which addresses your interests put aside an imaginary external judge
- Be realistic about your abilities and limitations
- Believe in the value of your ideas – unformed at first – become refined during the process

(Mullaney & Rea, 2022)

Where I find myself now

- The Critical Internationalization Studies Network
- Critical internationalization studies – been growing in the last decade
- Aim to investigate and critique internationalisation of higher education – its inequities; its perpetuation of colonial dynamics which privilege Western ways of knowing over others; to question the established ways and explore new ways of approaching internationalisation from a more worldview perspective.

Critical Internationalization Studies

- CIS – seeks ‘...to interrupt the dominant patterns of higher education - the enduring colonial politics of knowledge in which academic knowledge that is produced in the Global North by Western educated scholars is assumed to be more valuable than the knowledge produced in other parts of the world and from non-Western epistemological standpoints.’

(Stein, in CISN, 2022)

Introductions & Discussions & Feedback

- A chance to meet one another
- Share ideas and experiences
- Respond to prompts
- Feedback and take aways

A couple of helpful resources

- Critical Internationalization Studies Network (2022) Available at:
<https://criticalinternationalization.net/>

(Accessed: 10.04.2025)

- Mullaney, R & Rea, C (2022) *Where Research Begins Choosing a Research Project that Matters to You (and the World)* Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press