AGM 2024 REPORT

**Research and Publications Officer Report**

19th April 2024 [online]

**Actions from last quarter**

1. ResTES programme 2023-2024
2. Research and Publications Sub-Committee: updates on initiatives
3. MA Dissertation
4. Access to EAP literature scoping project: updates
5. Ethics research proposal
6. Conference Proceedings

**Actions for next quarter**

* Two further ResTES events are planned
* Transition to the next R&P officer. Congratulations to Angelos

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1. **The BALEAP Research Training Event Series (ResTES) 2023-2024**

We have run two successful events:

* **Dr Alex Ding** *Writing Book Reviews* (and engaging ethically with other people’s work, as a framing event for the Book Review initiative). November 2023
* **Dr Ramzi Merabet** *Researching (and contesting) the ‘International Students’ label* (Wednesday 24 January 2024)
* **Sanchia Rodrigues** *Institutional ethnography* (1st May2024, confirmed)
* **Dr Charles Lam** *Applying corpus approaches to classroom-based research* (June 2024)

**Potential ideas for further sessions:**

* PhD group on updates (Spring)
* BALEAP Research Funding awardees

1. **Research and Publications Sub-Committee Updates**

*Book and Article Review*s: Paula developed the initiative which now includes reviews of articles as well as books. A list of potential books has been drawn. The initiative was launched in November 2023, with a talk on writing book reviews. Dr Alex Ding’s talk was well attended and it can now be seen on the webpage. One reviewer is exploring one of the ‘books of interest’ in our list. We should receive it by the end of April. Although the launch was great and there is interest, it is worth exploring how to best promote this initiative. A potential group could be Doctoral candidates, who are already engaging with cutting-edge reading and may want to explore book reviews critically and innovatively.

*‘Publishing practice-based papers’ series of workshops*,on writing, disseminating, and promoting practice-based research. Three x 1 hour workshops were run by Dr Lisa McGrath over January/February. Twenty places were made available but these sold out very quickly, so we added 20 more. The workshops were well-attended (with some attrition). Participants came mostly from the UK, but there were also some from Hong Kong and other countries. In the last workshop we held a short “what next?” discussion and agreed that we would have a catch up in 6 months. We also suggested a “research speed dating” event at the next BALEAP conference to enable people to meet with others who share their research interests. It would be good to send out an evaluation of the workshops to attendees to find out what could have been done better, but we haven’t got around to it yet. We also need to contact the hosts of the next BALEAP conference to ask about the speed dating session. On the whole, we think it is probably worth running the series again next year.

*The Critical Friend Initiative:* After issues with the members’ area of the Research & Publications website, the initiative was launched in November 2023, using Google as tech platform. Since then, 15 colleagues from various institutions and countries have signed up as looking for a critical friend. Of these, 11 have been paired up with a critical friend. The remaining ones have not been paired for various reasons, including working on a project outside EAP, seeking a critical friend for supervised doctoral research and not replying to the network administrator. Since the launch of the network, only 6 colleagues outside the sub-committee have signed up as critical friends. Another one was approached for his expertise and two members of the sub-committee have also served as critical friends. Of these 9 critical friends, 5 are from the same institution.

The challenges thus remain: a) widening the network, especially increasing the number of colleagues serving as critical friends; b) increasing colleagues’ understanding what the network is for and what it is not for. The actions planned for next year: a) email reminders within the Baleap community to widen the network, and b) blogposts on scholarship and publishing posted on the Research & Publications website to promote the network and motivate colleagues to do scholarship (the first blogpost has been published [here](https://research.baleap.org/2023/12/18/publishing-your-scholarship/)). Further suggestions are welcome.

*Baleap Research Website:* Sharon and Susie have been able to tidy up the member section on the website, removing all spam subscribers. New pages have been added to support the Book and Article Reviews and Critical Friend network initiatives, along with a page advertising the Publishing practice-based research articles workshop.

Future work includes adding more content to support initiatives, and improving the members area to allow new members to sign up smoothly and facilitate more interaction.

1. **MA Dissertation Award**

7 submissions. 3 were shortlisted to progress to Round 2. The winner is Paul Robertson with “Student and staff perceptions of student digital competencies on an English-Medium international foundation year programme in Europe, with reference to the EU’s Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (DigComp 2.2)” awarded from the University of St Andrews.

1. **Access to EAP literature scoping project**

* The project has progressed well and is in the writing up stage now. The research team will be sharing the report with the membership in the next few weeks.

1. **Ethics research proposal**

* No progress on this- to be discussed. We have developed a proposal which can be consulted here.[Proposal](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h2t4VsdBuFHjJT82UoRqu2sQLe9JnModGWAG-YZo_TE/edit)
* For memory: with this year’s BALEAP conference theme and the several papers dealing with ethics, we would like for BALEAP to lead a research project into Ethics in EAP. We are proposing to form a team with expertise/experience/interest in Ethics to investigate the issue in relation to EAP practices, the knowledge base, and scholarship. The deliverables would be a collectively drafted **Code of Ethics** to be put to the Exec and to the membership. We would like to ask for funding for an RA and a day symposium to share the process and outcome of the project. We have drafted a provisional proposal and started contacting potential team members. Participation from members of the Exec is welcome.

Updates Nov 2023: A few people have been contacted but not much has been done with this yet. Something to take up again in 2024.

1. **Conference Proceedings**

* **Glasgow 2021:** With Garnet.
* **Warwick 2023:** We are on target to meet the 31st October 2024 deadline set by Garnet.

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Report compiled by

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