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Research Committee Update

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afPE Board Member and Chair of afPE's Research Committee

Recent Developments

In the Winter edition of the journal, a new format for Research Matters was introduced which we will be striving to move towards in subsequent editions. Amongst a number of changes, I explained that the new format would include regular updates for members on the work of the Research Committee. I therefore just wanted to share with you a few recent developments and projects the Committee have been involved with.

PE ITTE Conference - In February, and on behalf of the Research Committee, myself and Anne Chappell presented a session on 'Research in physical education initial teacher training and education (PE ITTE): Key issues challenges and opportunities' at the annual PE ITTE network conference in Nottingham. This provided an opportunity to update ITTE colleagues on the role and work of the Research Committee, and to discuss key issues and ideas as to how we might work together to promote and support research in PE and PE ITTE. Further details including the outcomes of this session will be included in a subsequent edition of the journal.

Research Seminar - On 5th May, the Committee held their first Research Seminar. The event was funded by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) and attracted 38 delegates from across the United Kingdom. The focus of the day was on 'Equity in Physical Education' and key equity issues with respect to ethnicity, disability, obesity and the National Curriculum were addressed. Speakers including Paul Gately and Anne Flintoff from Leeds Metropolitan University, Tansin Benn and Helen Miles from the University of Birmingham, Phil Vickerman from Liverpool John Moores University, and Crichton Casbon from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Particularly noteworthy and welcomed was the way in which the research reported upon had positively influenced and informed practice. Further details and a summary of the presentations from this seminar are available on the afPE web site.

National Conference - The Research Strand once again featured prominently within the afPE national conference with a mini keynote delivered by Professor Kathy Armour, two research-based interactive learning sessions, as well as the posters presentations. Kathy's presentation entitled 'We're all in this together! Teachers, researchers and the physical education community of practice' analysed the roles and responsibilities of researchers, teachers, teacher educators and CPD providers and how all groups within our profession need to work together as a physical education community of practice.

Collectively these provided a valuable opportunity for presenters and delegates to discuss and share research work, ideas and issues during the conference.

United Kingdom-based 'Review' of Physical Education - As part of a broader remit, key aspects of the Research Committee's work involve identifying and scoping major research priorities required for afPE to represent its members and their interests, and the interests of the PESS community, and contributing to evidence-based advocacy through encouraging collection of high quality data. In light of this, the Committee have identified the need to undertake a United Kingdom (UK)-based 'Review' of Physical Education. The principal aim of the Review will be:

To establish and further advance knowledge and the evidence base for physical education in the UK in order to inform policy and practice.

Secondary aims include:

To engage and keep afPE members up to date with UK-based research and evidence that is relevant to their work, physical education policy and practice, and to afPE's mission.

To provide an opportunity for afPE members to engage with, influence and contribute to research, as practitioners, researchers or students.

In short, the Review, albeit not exclusively, aims to be *for* afPE members and to *involve* afPE members. To date, a 'Review' scoping group has been formed and a project plan has been drafted with some preliminary proposals for shaping and operationalising this work. Further details and developments with respect to the project and how you might be able to get involved will be shared in the near future.

Research Audit and Data Base – With respect to the above and during and following such events, individuals who are interested in research and the work of the Research Committee have been asked to contact David Turner, afPE's Policy and Research Officer. The expressions of interest we have received so far have been followed up and we are currently in the process of developing a 'research' data base. If you are also interested and would like to be included in the data base, then please contact David (david.turner@afpe.org.uk).

Call for Contributions

Following other changes to the format of Research Matters, afPE's Research Committee is keen to receive some new and different contributions from readers. For example, we are now looking to include the following in future editions of the journal:

- a wide and wider range of **research-related articles/papers** that vary in length and type (e.g. abstracts, reports, short as well as standard longer articles, empirical studies, reviews, opinion, case studies).
- **'Research News'** (national and international) (e.g. news about new publications, research reports, papers or debates, research opportunities, web sites, forthcoming research seminars/conferences, conference reports/summaries).
- **'Research Questions'** (e.g. members' research-related questions, invitations for collaboration/sharing of ideas, suggestions for research topics).
- **practitioner-based research** (i.e. which links theory to and has clear implications for practice) and contributions from students, teachers/schools.

With respect to the above:

- Do you have any research-related work you'd like to see published?
- Do you have any research news to share?
- Do you have any burning research questions?
- Do you want to make contact with and share ideas with researchers with the same or similar interests?

If so, then please forward these to us. Alternatively, if you know of any colleagues, students, teachers/schools who are engaged in research (and particularly practitioner-based research) who might wish to publish their work, then please encourage them to do likewise. Submissions should be sent to:

Liz Taplin (editor@afpe.org.uk)

In addition, we are always keen to hear if you have other ideas for the future development of Research Matters. Please feel free to e-mail your ideas to either myself (l.a.cale@lboro.ac.uk) and/or Liz.