

# Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning



July 2015

## CRL announces Student Engagement Conference

CRL and GCU LEAD are hosting a one day conference on Wednesday 9th September 2015 at Glasgow Caledonian University. The theme for the day is **Student Engagement: From Research to Practice**. The conference aims to provide a forum for debate and discussion, and a platform for researchers and professionals engaged in Higher Education to address key areas of international concern.

A good array of papers have been submitted for presentation on the day and we are currently finalising the conference timetable.

Early bird rates for the conference will be available until the 15th July. Registration and further information about the conference can be found on our [webpages](#).

The [HEIR network conference](#) is taking place on 10th and 11th September in Paisley at UWS, ideal if you're looking to make the most of your time in Scotland.

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## CRL Seminar from visiting Professor Jean-Marie Dujardin

Professor Dujardin, visiting from the Université de Liège, presented his work on 'Sustainable competencies' at a seminar in GCU in April 2015. [Professor Dujardin](#) presented the results of his research into sustainable competencies through the whole professional career. Titled '**Sustainable competencies for sustainable careers. Can we prepare students at University for the evolution of professional careers?**' Professor Dujardin also presented the results of a European network on sustainable careers; "[Career and age](#)" lead by the European Social Fund.

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## Digital Theory in Technology—PhD progress

Louise Drumm has been presenting on some preliminary findings of her PhD research about the role of theory in teaching with digital technologies in universities. In March, Louise gave a presentation to the Glasgow School for Business and Society (GSBS) PhD community group and also a seminar within CRL and GCU LEAD. In April, she presented a poster in GSBS' 'Celebration of our research' day and also in the university-wide GCU research day in June. At the end of April she presented on her research at EdTech 2015 conference at the University of Limerick in Ireland.



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## GCU Annual Research day



On Friday 5th June 2015, Glasgow Caledonian University welcomed visitors and staff to its third annual research day. Members of the general public, professionals, researchers and fellow university colleagues visited the many poster displays which represented current and innovative research projects being undertaken by GCU.

The CRLI team's research work & projects were well represented at this event. Our posters presented current research on medical education, digital technology in higher education, Universities for the 21st Century, Recognition of Prior Learning, and Karen MacFarlane's work on the Evaluation of the Advanced Higher Hub. Professor Anna Jones along with her research partner, Dr Beth Thomas, from the SAIL Centre, St Thomas' Hospital, London showcased their research from the Hands up for Health Project.

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Visiting academic Dr Angelito Calma, University of Melbourne tells us about this time in Europe.

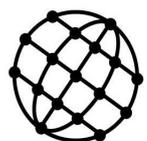
## Dr Angelito Calma visits CRLI

I was on sabbatical when I went to Glasgow, London and Dublin. My primary purpose was to investigate practices in quality assurance and program accreditation in higher education and the range of academic staff development programs run by teaching and learning focussed centres. I had an excellent and productive time overall. I met with experts in various fields, from both quality agencies and universities. My time at Glasgow Caledonian University's Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning was particularly useful. There I was able to share my work and learned from experts within the unit and across other centres and agencies from within and outside of GCU. The most meaningful part of the experience was the exchange of ideas from people I have met. No matter how far Australia is from Scotland, the two share many ideas around issues facing higher education today. I enjoyed Scotland's many attractions and sweeping landscapes. The trip was both personally and professionally satisfying that I look forward to coming back for more wonderful experiences. Thank you to the wonderful people of CRLI!

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## GCU Current Research Projects

Julie Brown continues to work on her current institutional research project 'Exploring the taught postgraduate student experience at GCU'. The project is progressing well, all data has been collected and a period of in-depth analysis is now under way.



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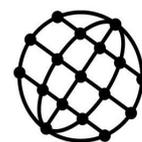
## **CRLL joins GCU LEAD**

CRLL is now under the auspices of [GCU LEAD](#) (Centre for Learning Enhancement and Academic Development). We look forward to further enhancing our relationship and working more closely with the GCU LEAD team.

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## **Arts based learning in healthcare: Evaluation of a health education programme to promote care and compassion in healthcare delivery.**

Anna Jones is conducting a research evaluation of an arts-based learning in healthcare programme run by the SAIL centre at St Thomas Hospital, in collaboration with the CLOD ensemble. The programme is funded by Guy's and St. Thomas NHS Trust with Dr Gabriel Reedy, King's College London. The aims of this programme are to affect a culture change within the NHS towards more caring and compassionate healthcare delivery, by creating unique and innovative arts-based methods of training professional healthcare workers at King's Health Partners (KHP) with Clod Ensemble's Performing Medicine (PM) in collaboration with the King's Simulation and Interactive Learning Centre (SaIL). The programme will develop an arts-based training programme for healthcare professionals that addresses the recommendations of the Francis Report, delivering key aspects of the GMC Tomorrow's Doctors Requirements. The programme examines the missing link between current professional medical training/delivery against expectations whilst exploring how arts methodologies can help healthcare professionals sharpen their practice to become more engaged, rejuvenated, emotionally articulate, reflective, and physically aware in order to foster a happier, healthier practitioner with an appreciation and understanding of difference and diversity among patients and colleagues, who will be inspired and informed to do a better job, leading to greater staff retention and ultimately to better patient safety and a better experience for the patient.



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## **Professor Anna Jones at HERDSA**

Professor Anna Jones will be presenting and attending the [HERDSA conference](#) in July 2015 which takes place in Melbourne, Australia. The paper is entitled, 'Leading Teaching in Higher Education'.

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## Welcome to new member of staff

A warm welcome to [Karen MacFarlane](#), who joins CRLL as part of the move in to GCU LEAD. Karen currently conducts research within GCU and the evaluation of the first year of the new GCU Advanced Higher Hub. Funded by the SFC, and in partnership with Glasgow City Council and 21 Glasgow schools, the Advanced Higher Hub offers pupils a unique opportunity to register as GCU Associate Students and study on the University campus. The aim of the Hub is to enable these pupils to access a range of Advanced Highers within a Higher Education (HE) environment, become familiar with the HE learning environment, which in turn would encourage progression to university and, furthermore, help with progression and retention of these pupils once they have entered HE.

Evidence of the impact of the Hub is currently underway via an analysis of both qualitative data gathered via interviews with key participants and quantitative data collected by the Hub team and statistics provided by Glasgow City Council. Utilising Kirkpatrick's four stage model of evaluation it has been possible to identify and examine a variety of impacts: the impact on the pupils studying at the Hub, impact on the secondary schools involved, impact on the Hub teachers and impact in terms of the number of pupils accessing Advanced Highers from the target schools, their performance at Advanced Higher and their subsequent progress to HE. This work is still underway.

Kirkpatrick, D.L., Evaluating Training Programs, The Four Levels, San Francisco, Berrett-Koehler, (1994).

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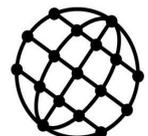
## Warwick seminar on future of HE attracts international attention

A recent seminar organised between Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Sheffield, and UCL Institute of Education was held in the University of Warwick. This event attracted international scholars and academics who presented on 'New Languages and Landscapes for Higher Education'. Papers ranged from student participation, funding policy, and teaching and learning, to issues associated with HE and the knowledge economy and research and knowledge transfer. Contributors came from a wide range of universities across the UK and beyond, and included perspectives from the USA, Australia and a number of European countries. Papers from the seminar are available, and plans are well advanced to publish a book on the basis of the proceedings. Further information is available from [Jim Gallacher](#).

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## Julie Brown presents at UALL Conference 2015

Julie Brown co-presented a paper entitled 'Translating Flexible Learning Policy into Practice: supporting transformative and innovative pedagogy at GCU' with Marty Wright from the School for Work Based Education at GCU. This was at the Universities Association for Lifelong Learning (UALL) conference held in March this year at the University of Strathclyde. The conference theme was *Making the Lifelong Learning University a Reality*.



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*The Centre was established in 1999 as a joint enterprise between Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) and the University of Stirling.*

*Since its inception, CROLL has sought to develop and maintain an infrastructure for the promotion and support of research in the field of lifelong learning that transcends disciplinary, institutional, sectoral and national boundaries. It has built an international reputation for its contribution to the research base, providing not just analysis of key issues and problems, but interpretation and contribution to policy and practice.*

### **Emeritus professor status**

Following on from Professor David Smith's sudden illness in 2013, we are pleased to announce that he has been granted Emeritus professor status and is officially retired from GCU. We wish David all the best in his future endeavours!

**We're on twitter!**

**[@crolltweet](https://twitter.com/crolltweet)**

### **HEA Funded Project—Students in transition**

Along with GCU LEAD colleagues, Karen MacFarlane and Julie Brown are working on an HEA funded project on Transition Pedagogies. The project is entitled, 'Students in transition: a lifecycle approach in Scottish Higher Education: a review of research, policy and practice.' This review will establish a baseline understanding of the factors and theoretical considerations affecting transition. In order to effectively support the work of the Enhancement Theme, the review examines the transition of students from both school and college within the context of the lifecycle of the student journey, from pre-entry to graduation and beyond. In addition to the generic issues and practices to support the journey from school or college into and through university, the review encompasses an examination of student engagement and the relationship between engagement and successful transition. It also examines the effect of setting, in particular the disciplinary context. The project will produce a review of research, policy and practice to support students in transition in the Scottish HE sector. The review will identify critical success factors as well as areas for further development and as such will be a valuable resource to support the institutional work being undertaken in Scotland in support of the current Quality Enhancement Theme.