

## Report back from Special Interest Groups (SIG's)

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At the EASA 2018 Conference, most of the groups didn't meet, except for Self-directed Learning. Prof Elize du Plessis has sent numerous e-mails to chairpersons and secretaries during February 2018 and May 2018 to establish the status of current groups, to ask for feedback and to motivate groups to arrange activities. With the assistance of Prof Anne-Mari Dicker, she also sent an e-mail to all EASA members. Prof du Plessis recruited four new members. Groups and names of members are available on EASA's web page. It is a challenge to keep the SIG's active, due to distance, work pressure and member's commitments in similar groups.

Special interest groups are:

### **1. Education Management, Leadership, Law, Policy Studies, Comparative and International Education**

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<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Vacant	Dr Eric Eberlein University of Pretoria eric.eberlein@up.ac.za

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The following feedback has already been received from this interest group:

The SIG secretary has attempted to recruit more members via an email to ALL EASA members. The response to this mail has been underwhelming, with only 5 members responding.

The chair, Prof Jan Heystek, has asked to be relieved of the chairmanship due to pressures of work.

Dr Eric Eberlein (SIG Secretary)

## 2. Human Development in Education: Educational Psychology, Early Childhood Education, Movement Education and Inclusive Education

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### **Chairperson**

Dr Lorna Dreyer

University of Stellenbosch

lornadreyer@sun.ac.za

### **Secretary**

Ms. Andri Schoonen

North-West University

andri.schoonen@nwu.ac.za

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The following feedback has been received from this interest group:

- Some of us are busy with a book project led by Prof Magano as was decided at the conference in January. Due date for chapters is end of this month (May). Sadly, there is little to no other activity reported to me.
- Unfortunately, I have not had the time to recruit new members to date.
- To date e-mail has been the most convenient way of communication
- I hope to get some feedback on activities that can be loaded onto the website.

I really hope to provide more news and activity the next time round. Everybody seem to be very busy with their own academic responsibilities.

Kind Regards

Dr. Lorna Dreyer (SIG Chair)

### 3. Curriculum Studies, Philosophy and Sociology of Education and Research Methodology

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<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Mrs Shannon Doolings	Prof Elize du Plessis
UMALUSI	UNISA
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The following feedback has already been received from this interest group:

- all the members are not active in our SIG (we need to try and find out why their interest waivered) after numerous attempts to try and organise something it didn't happen.
- our group is currently inactive.
- if we are sent a database of EASA members, we could make contact to recruit members (I think you indicated we have a new member).
- my suggestion for the way forward is first to regroup and then let the members decide how best to move forward. I don't think it will be far for you and I to do this. We have both tried in the past.
- we can attempt to email members again to establish whether they would be interested in contributing a short article towards a newsletter or send pictures around anything to do with curriculum or research.
- I will support a workshop for chairpersons. My only suggestion would be the sooner, the better because half the year is already on us.

Thanks and Regards

Mrs Shannon Doolings (SIG Chair)

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#### **4. Social Sciences in Education: Languages, History, EMS and Creative/Performing Arts**

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##### **Chairperson**

Prof Monwabisi Ralarala

University of Fort Hare

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No feedback received.

## 5. Science, Mathematics and Technology Education

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### **Chairperson**

Prof Anne-Mari Dicker

UNISA

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### **Secretary**

Prof Zingiswa Jojo

UNISA

jojozmm@unisa.ac.za

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The following feedback has been received from this interest group:

A new secretary was elected. The goal is to start a mailing list with other EASA members who are interested in joining the Science, Mathematics and Technology SIG. We would like to send any applicable short articles, full-length articles, platforms for members to write to, upcoming events or workshops or any other relevant news to members to increase interest about Science subjects.

Science, Mathematics and Technology SIG “Campaigns”

The group also highlighted that the SIG would like some of our focuses to be on “young generation researchers” and to also attract and network with as many teachers and pre-service teachers to join EASA.

Thank you.

Prof Anne-Mari Dicker (SIG Chair)

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## 6. SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

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Chairperson	Secretary
Prof Elsa Mentz	Dr Roxanne Bailey
North-West University	NWU
Elsa.Mentz@nwu.ac.za	<a href="mailto:Roxanne.Bailey@nwu.ac.za">Roxanne.Bailey@nwu.ac.za</a>

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The following feedback has been received from this interest group:

Minutes of the meeting: **16 January 2018, Elangeni, Durban**

1. Prof Elsa Mentz opens meeting and thanks all who are present
2. Three videos of esteemed SDL researchers are shown. The researchers are: Professors Karl Wirth, Lucy Guglielmino and Sharan Merriam.
3. Prof Mentz follows videos with short presentation on what SDL entails and what the most prominent definitions of SDL include.
4. Prof Mentz welcomes Prof Jako Olivier as the first keynote speaker in the SDL-SIG.
5. Prof Olivier presents a paper on *Open Educational Resources and Multimodal Self-directed Learning*. Prof Olivier asks whether SIG Members would be willing to contribute to OERs and if they are interested in keeping abreast new ventures, to sign up at <http://www.nomsa.org>
6. Prof Mentz thanks Prof Olivier.
7. Prof Mentz opens floor to nominations and volunteers for SDL-SIG Chair position – she herself is nominated by Prof Olivier and it is unanimously seconded by group. Prof Mentz opens floor to nominations and volunteer for SDL-SIG Secretary – Prof Charlene duToit-Brits nominates Dr Roxanne Bailey and this is seconded by other SDL-SIG members.
8. Prof Mentz draws meeting to a close by asking everyone to briefly introduce themselves and note their fields of interest. During this introduction, a request from Prof Ayub Sheik is presented to have members who are interested work on collaborating and writing an NRF Project proposal. This request is supported and

Prof Mentz undertakes to extend the invitation to all members of the SDL-SIG.

9. All present are thanked and meeting is closed.

Further from this group:

Currently we have a number of members who enlisted in the SIG during this year's EASA conference and we are very excited about this. Please find attached the list of members. Regarding our plans for the year, we are keeping an eye out for possible projects, and although things are a little slow at the moment (from the SIG's side) we believe it will grow when we have our next SIG meeting in 2019.

Although we do not plan on meeting throughout the year, we intend on sending out a newsletter with members' research findings and endeavours highlighted. This newsletter will be distributed to the whole group as well as to the EASA SIG committee member.

Our final thoughts are that we intend on having the best submitted paper (submitted to EASA 2019) presented as a keynote at our SIG meeting in 2019.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Kind regards

Prof Elsa (SIG Chair)

Dr Roxanne (SIG Secretary)