

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
British Association for International and Comparative Education
Tuesday 13th September 2016, 5:15pm
University of Nottingham, Sir Clive Grainger Building A48**

AGENDA

Present: Angeline Barrett (ABa), Michael Crossley (MC), Qing Gu (QG), Yvette Hutchinson (YH), Catherine Jere (CJ), Peter Kelly (PK), Kenneth King (KK), Keith Lewin (KL), Tristan McCowan (TM), Simon McGrath (SM), Anneke Newman (ANe), Rosemary Preston (RP), Nozomi Sakata (NSa), Michele Schweisfurth (MS), Nidhi Singal (NSi), Arathi Sriprakash (AS), Peter Sutoris (PS), Don Taylor (DTa), Leon Tikly (LT), David Turner (DTu), Nicholas Watts (NW).

1 Apologies: Eleanor Brown (EB), Alison Buckler (ABu), Maria Da Costa (MD), Caroline Dyer (CD), Germ Jamaat (GJ), Miriam McGregor (MMcG), Malcolm Mercer (MM), Arif Naveed (ANa), Tejendra Pherali (TP), Nitya Rao (NR), Oscar Valiente (OV), Tingting Yuan (TY).

2 Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting held on 16th September at the University of Oxford

It was noted that non-Executive Committee members were not listed in the minutes as present; this will be amended in future. Otherwise minutes passed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Matters arising from the minutes

RPre requested follow-up concerning the Action Point in point 10 of the agenda; that the Chair write a letter to CIES to address the omission of gender in its account of the association's history and achievements.

4 Report from the Chair (Caroline Dyer)

QG presented the Chair's report on behalf of CD, who gave apologies for her absence. BAICE continues to be in excellent financial health. The EC sends its best wishes to Treasurer MM who is currently indisposed, and wishes him a speedy recovery. His financial report has been drafted and will be submitted once he is back

in action. BAICE is in a comfortable financial position, and the EC encourages BAICE members to apply for its various funding schemes.

Our thanks to KK for agreeing to extend his term as BAICE President for a second year. We now welcome Professor Pauline Rose, from Cambridge, to take up the role. Pauline needs no introduction, and we look forward to working with her, and to the most visible aspect of the Presidential role - her address at next year's UKFIET conference. The EC is also delighted to announce further **Honorary Members:** Robin Alexander, Lore Arthur, Kenneth King, Fiona Leach and David Turner. All have made significant contributions to BAICE in roles that include Chair, President and *Compare* Co-Editor. DTu and RPre gave thanks for their invitations to become HMs.

GJ and TM have settled very well into their roles as *Compare* co-Editors. The EC gives thanks to outgoing Co-Editor NR for her excellent services, and to welcome ST who is taking up this role. As a former BAICE Secretary, ST is familiar with the workings of BAICE and the team looks forward to working with her. Another excellent piece of news from *Compare* is that its SSCI rating significantly increased this year, a further marker of its standing in our scholarly field. Our thanks also for the tireless work of the *Compare* Editorial Board, Reviews Editor Jenny Parkes, and to our publisher Taylor and Francis/Routledge for their generous and proactive support for the journal.

We have continued to enjoy excellent administrative support for both *Compare* and BAICE from MMcG, as our support officer. Having her in this expanded role – alongside her indefatigable support for all aspects of *Compare* administration - has made a great difference to logistics, particularly over BAICE membership. We wish MMcG a speedy recovery from the operation that has prevented her from attending the AGM.

BAICE has been active in student matters with a successful recent conference focusing on fieldwork held in London. Many thanks to our energetic student representatives ANa and NSa. The EC has successfully launched a fieldwork fund to support doctoral students and we are also pleased to welcome our bursary holders to the conference.

BAICE again supported the London launch of what is now the GEM Report and we owe a great debt of thanks to ABu for taking a lead on the organisational logistics on behalf of BAICE; and to ANa and NSa who remotely managed to field a team of students to support the event.

It has proved difficult to organise an effective communications strategy but we are delighted that NSi has been very proactive in taking a lead on this, to improve the functionality of the website. An outline estimate of costs has been approved by Chair's action. Thanks are due to Jason Sprague for his continuing willingness to support us in web-related actions over the last year.

A significant question this coming year is how BAICE should relate to the WCCES, which has experienced several issues in the last three years. BAICE has offered a dissenting voice as appropriate as mandated by last year's AGM. We are very sorry that our two nominees for President – David Turner – and Secretary – Brian Denman – were not successful in the recent elections. KL kindly represented BAICE on behalf

of CD at the WCCES in Beijing and will later report to the AGM. Whether or not BAICE wishes to remain a member of WCCES, following the recent membership annulments of both NOCIES and SIIVE-DgfE, is a decision to be discussed this AGM.

CD emphasised that she has very much enjoyed the honour and privilege of leading this vibrant and exciting organisation over the last four years, and watching it expand its scope of activities. She extended heartfelt thanks to all the officers on the EC who have worked so hard to keep the Association running, giving both time and energy to attend meetings, disburse and manage a wide range of funding mechanisms, organise the current conference, promote doctoral scholarship, as well as more mundane things such as ensuring room for meetings and a supply of coffee. CD is delighted to welcome QG as the new Chair, and NSi as the Vice Chair.

5 Report from the Treasurer (Malcolm Mercer)

Due to illness, MM was not able to present his report. It will be circulated as soon as possible.

6 Report from the Membership Secretary (Maria Da Costa)

ANe presented the Mem Sec report on behalf of MD. Member numbers have increased from 240 to 278 over the past year. The breakdown is 163 full members; 95 student members; 8 retired members; and 12 honorary members. Membership data still needs to be reconciled with that reported by Finance, this remains a work in progress which will hopefully be finalised in September. MD extended a huge debt of thanks to MMcG who has strongly supported the Membership Secretary, and effectively worked on the day-to-day running of membership application and processing. RPre stressed that in addition to assisting the BAICE EC, MMcG has been supporting *Compare* for a long time since Anna Robinson-Pant became editor, and requested that special thanks to her be recorded.

7 Report from the Editors of *Compare* (Tristan McCowan)

TM echoed thanks to NR as outgoing editor and MMcG for her administrative support. The new editor is ST at Bristol, whose research on the internationalisation of higher education complements that of GJ and TM.

Compare received 247 article submissions over the past 12 months, of which 117 were initially rejected. 39 were reviewed, of which 30 were rejected after review, 9 have been accepted for publication and 83 are still being processed. 8 authors withdrew their articles. The top countries for submissions are the US, UK, Turkey, China, Australia and Canada. Acceptance rates have declined to around 20%. The backlog has largely been resolved through a smaller number of special issues (SIs). The impact factor has increased from 0.4 to 0.802 in the last year, with *Compare's* overall ranking among education journals rising from 164th to 131st.

4 SIs are in progress, with one to follow on papers from this conference. A Forum piece is currently in progress on *Challenging deficit discourses in international education and development*, with another to follow from the BAICE student conference. TM reminded us that the Forum consists of 4-5 pieces of 1000-2000

words on a theme, designed as a debate. He invited submissions from interesting symposia or panels from this conference.

TM raised the challenge for *Compare* of balancing high academic standards and narrow definitions of quality scholarship, with a commitment to global justice including knowledge production. *Compare* tries to address this before submission of articles by organising Writer's Workshops for scholars in the South (including successful workshops in Ethiopia, the Philippines and India) and for early career scholars. Other ideas the Board are considering include: resurrecting the Writer's Workshop at the BAICE conference; posting an example of reviewer feedback and revisions on the website; organising a mentoring programme; and most ambitiously a visiting fellow programme. More suggestions were welcomed from the floor.

RPre explained that *Compare* has achieved generous funding by changing its financial arrangement with T&F, so that the journal belongs to BAICE, and has thus financed the Association on a royalty basis for last 20 years. As previous editor, she also noted that while the number of submissions from each country is small, the spread of countries is very wide. The large numbers of submissions from Turkey and China are unprecedented and she congratulated the editors for attracting papers from these countries. TM suggested that this was a result of *Compare's* inclusion on the Thompson Reuters list. QG thanked the *Compare* editors for their hard work and commitment to the quality of the journal.

8 Report from the Student Representatives (Nozomi Sakata)

NSa presented, and apologised on behalf of ANa currently on fieldwork. The student conference on the messiness of fieldwork at the IoE in June was very successful. The organisers are working towards a Forum publication in *Compare*; they have selected four out of thirteen submissions and hope to submit by mid September. NSa reminded the EC of the need to seek a replacement for ANa active from November 2016. From this year, the two Student Reps will be supported by a Student Committee.

Action Point: ANe to liaise with NSa and QG regarding Student Rep job description; disseminate.

9 Reports on BAICE funding

a. Seedcorn and Research Networks (Angeline Barrett)

ABa reported that BAICE has become a grant making association which has created challenges and work for the EC. There were two funding deadlines this year; in November and May. Fourteen applications were received; ten for seedcorn, four for research network grants. Five seedcorn and one network application were funded. In November, two were provided with constructive feedback and invited to re-apply; one did re-apply but was still not strong enough to pass. There is a team within the EC which reviews and evaluates the applications: TP, QG and ABa. Next year NSi will replace QG. It is possible that in the event of a higher volume of applications received, the EC may appeal to the HMs to aid in the evaluation process. Seedcorn applications are often too ambitious for a pot of only £5000, and bids may not have the novelty expected for a grant designed to support conceptual development. The guidelines stipulate that applications address the seedcorn or network angle, and include early career scholars. Given the workload involved, the grant call has been reduced to one deadline per year (the next in May 2017). The titles of the funded

projects are listed below. Two research project teams spoke at the conference, and three were present at the AGM. RPre inquired whether progress reports were available; QG assured that they will be posted on the website.

Seedcorn

1. Lead Applicant: Jane Evison, University of Nottingham
Title of Project: Professional discursive identities of faculty in two “international” universities in Thailand and Vietnam
Award: £4994 (+£11k contribution form University of Nottingham)
2. Lead Applicant: Nicola Savvides, KCL
Title of Project: Internationalising the Curriculum: A Pilot Study of Intercultural Teaching and Learning at Three Russell Group Universities
Award: £5k
3. Lead Applicant: Tejendra Pherali
Title of Project: An Exploratory study into the influence of ISIS on Education in Afghanistan
Award: £4,990
4. Lead Applicant: Benjamin Alcott
Title of Project: Early childhood education in India: how do parents navigate an unregulated system, and what are the implications for children’s learning?
Award: £5,000
5. Lead Applicant: Peter Kelly
Title of Project: Comparing standardised assessment regimes and their effects
Award: £4,460

Research Capacity/Network

6. Lead Applicant: Michael Crossley
Title of Project: Learning from the Sharp End of SIDS: a South-South and North-South Research Partnership and Capacity Building Network
Award: £4,980

b. Thematic forums (Nidhi Singal)

NSi reported that only one application was received this year: *International Perspectives on Practice and Research into Children's Rights*, University of Cambridge and Centre for Human Rights Studies CEDHMx (Mexico). The first workshop will take place in Cambridge in September, followed by online workshops and Skype meetings to take the agenda forward in different contexts. Reports of the previous five TFs are online; several have been developed into books. They encourage an interesting exchange between policy makers, stakeholders and academics. More submissions, for a pot of £1500 per year, are encouraged. AS will take over the running of the TFs this year.

c. Student bursaries (Alison Buckler/Peter Kelly)

ANe reported on behalf of ABu, stressing the latter's commitment and hard work running this programme including during her maternity leave. This is the first year that BAICE has run the Student Fieldwork Travel Bursaries, to support PhD students based at UK universities to carry out international fieldwork. The first deadline was in November 2015. Seven applications were received, and three were awarded funding. They were evaluated by two members of the EC; ABu and PK. Some changes were made to the application guidelines to streamline the process and make it more transparent to applicants what they are expected to provide in their justification. It was decided that if of a sufficiently high standard, applicants could be invited to resubmit. In the second round in May 2016, six applications were received, and four were awarded. Following discussion after the second round, the EC agreed to revise the guidelines again, to reduce the length of the narrative report that grant recipients must submit. ABu will present such a proposal at the next EC meeting. All winners have accepted their funding and all reports have been submitted. Their names are posted on the BAICE website.

PK reported that six £500 bursaries were awarded to postdoc/early career researchers, and a further £1500 for researchers from low income or middle income countries, to attend the BAICE conference. All have attended bar one who could not obtain a visa. QG thanked PK for organising these bursaries. KL raised the need to communicate to ensure that there is no overlap of BAICE and UKFIET bursary recipients, as UKFIET runs a similar scheme. 22 presenters were funded to present in Oxford last year; a £10,000 pot is disseminated according to the needs of applicants. PK reported that not many individuals who applied for BAICE funding to attend UKFIET had their abstracts accepted, hence the relatively low number of bursaries last year.

AP: PK will liaise with UKFIET regarding conference bursaries

10 Report on BAICE Communications Strategy (Nidhi Singal)

NSi presented the challenge that the biggest interface BAICE has with the public is the website, which currently has issues with updates and user-friendliness. The EC has agreed to fund a consultant (Ella Wolfnoth who has redesigned the Education Faculty website at Cambridge) to redesign it. The new version will include transfer to a new server but with the same URL, and synching the website with social media outlets like twitter and blogs. The existing content will largely be retained but in a more attractive format. NSi will invite EC members to give their views on content, welcomes further thoughts on possible improvements, and will put forward a more elaborate proposal to the EC. RPre suggested inclusion of an online calendar of relevant events. QG explained the case to make the contributions of BAICE members, such as important publications, more visible. The website will include a pro forma template for members to upload information on publications and research projects, which will be approved by the web administrator and posted online.

11 Associate organisations: WCCES; AcSS; UKFIET

QG stated that BAICE should engage more actively with the AcSS, and should be publicised in their newsletter. The EC will look into strengthening this relationship. As chair of UKFIET, SM is committed to working closely with BAICE, including during the UKFIET-BAICE conference.

KL thanked the EC for the privilege to represent BAICE at the WCCES congress in Beijing. For the purposes of the discussion, RPre and DTu reminded those present that the WCCES is almost 50 years old and the secretariat meets a few times a year including at the CESC in Europe and CIES, and plans a triennial World Congress. DTu explained that the practical implications of membership involve a \$200 annual subscription and that members of member societies get a discount for registration at the World Congress. Sadly the association has become divided during the last three years, due to accusations of harassment, poor governance, defamation and untransparent finances. KL explained that two national associations have ended their membership (NOCIES and SIIVE-DgfE). Four options were suggested for the EC to consider: remain; withdraw; provide a list of conditions for the incoming leadership and withdraw if after one year the conditions are not met; or withdraw immediately with re-joining possible if the conditions are met. It was agreed to liaise with key BAICE members to compile a list of conditions for QG to take toward. KL suggested that BAICE send a formal message to the organisers of the Beijing WCCES congratulating them on a superb event. DTu stressed that presidents of member societies have tried to keep relations professional and amicable, and that CD has been greatly appreciated in this regard.

AP: QG to congratulate organisers; liaise with members to draft conditions.

12 Any Other Business

ABa reminded those present that this Friday is the deadline for the consultation for the Commons Select Committee on DFID's work on education. She has started to pull ideas together, but invited others to get in touch to add items. It will be submitted as an official contribution from BAICE.

A happy announcement, BAICE will be 20 years old in 2017/2018, and the EC is planning celebratory events to take place at the upcoming UKFIET and BAICE conferences.

KK registered a warm vote of thanks to CD as outgoing chair.

13 Date of Next Meeting

UKFIET Conference at the University of Oxford, September 2017