

# **A Living Educational Theory research approach to CPD for professional educators accepting responsibility to develop praxis with phronesis fit for an unknown future.**

Workshop presented on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021, to a  
SY.N.THE.SI. The Heuristic Teachers' Society 2021 Conference on  
'An Outlook in the future: Education in 2030 and the role of the  
Teacher as a Professional.'

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# A Living Educational Theory research approach to Continuing Professional Development

A CPD programme focused by a practitioner's professional responsibility to improve their educational praxis with phronesis and contribute to:

- the evolution of a professional international educational knowledgebase;
- the development of educational practice, policy and theory within their employing organisation/institution and;
- local, national and international discourses concerning the development and
- implementation of educational policies fit for a future where Humanity flourishes

# Living Educational Theory Research is a form of professional practitioner self-study educational research

Educational research and practice – values-based, creative processes, where exploration, questions and responses are dynamically interrelated and offer generative and transformational possibilities. It is the practitioner-researchers' values, beliefs, theories and practice, as well as their activities that are researched

# Educational praxis with phronesis

- Praxis - Practice and theory held together in a dynamic relationship
- Pronesis – “... the disposition to act truly and rightly.” (Carr and Kemmis, 1986, p.34)
- Educational – a life-long values laden process of learning to live a loving, satisfying, productive and worthwhile life for self and others
- Developing educational praxis with phronesis – Living-Educational-Theory praxis is about accepting my responsibility to offer valid, values-based, generative and transformational, explanations of the best life I can live for self and others. Values are what I believe to be important and give meaning and purpose to my life, and beliefs are what I believe to be true. (Huxtable, 2012)

# Developing Professionalism

Professionals e.g.:

- Accept responsibility for their practice – accept personal responsibility for judgments made and acts performed
- Engage in continuing professional development in inquiries of the kind, 'How do I understand, improve and explain what I am doing?', 'How do I improve the process of education here?' (Whitehead, 2018)
- Keep up to date with research in their field of interest;
- Develop their research literacy
- Generate knowledge that makes a contribution to a scholarly knowledgebase of their profession and a global educational knowledgebase
- Act with regard to the ethical standards of their profession and in accord with their values – continually research into their practice to test whether they are acting in accord with their values; act 'truly and rightly', to identify where they are living a contradiction and/or experiencing their values contradicted and seek to improve the situation

# The focus of this workshop will be on:

Enabling participants to:

1. Become acquainted with a Living Educational Theory Research approach to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and
2. Know where resources and support can be accessed

# Becoming acquainted with a Living Educational Theory Research approach to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Getting started on your Living Educational Theory Research:

- Developing a question that is important to you concerned with improving your practice
- Formulating a first step you could take to systematically begin to explore your question

# Living Educational Theory Research often starts with an action plan

<https://actionresearch.net/writings/jack/arplanner.htm>

## 1) What is your concern/What do you want to improve?

- What have you done you are proud of? - An example of a time you made a difference to the learning of your pupils/students/colleagues that really mattered to you?
- What was it that made you feel proud of what you had achieved?

## 2) What are your reasons for your concern?

- On reflection can you identify times you feel you are not acting as 'truly and rightly' as might be possible?
- What are the consequences for who of not changing your practice?

## 3) What might you do to improve your practice?

- What possibilities can you image?
- Which one to select?

## 4) How will you know that your practice has improved as judged by you with respect to your values?

- How are you going to find out?
- What kind of data will you need to collect to enable you to make a judgement on the outcomes of your practice in terms of the quality of your pupils'/students/colleagues' learning?



# Where to access support and information to help you develop your living-educational-theory research and extend your cognitive range and concern

Where to access support and information to help you develop your living-educational-theory research and extend your cognitive range and concern:

- Educational research literacy – e.g. Szplit & Boyd, edited book, Developing Teachers' Research Literacy,
- The use of various research methods such as those developed in Action Research, Narrative Enquiry and Auto-ethnography - <http://www.spanglefish.com/livingtheory>
- Data collection and analysis and how digital, visual data of practice can be used to clarify and communicate the life-enhancing ontological and relational values that give their professional practice meaning and purpose that they use as explanatory principles of educational influence and standards of judgment.  
<http://www.spanglefish.com/livingtheory>
- Produce and make public multi-media valid explanations of educational influences in learning as contributions to professional knowledge with values of human flourishing - <https://ejolts.net/>
- Where to find support and information following the workshop - <https://actionresearch.net/> – <https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/posters/homepage2021.pdf>

What now?

Get going!

Create and share your Living-Posters

<https://actionresearch.net/>

**Living Educational Theory researchers and networks  
developing educational knowledge, theory, practice and opportunities  
that contribute to the flourishing of humanity.**

Find a kindred spirit by exploring the researchers' living-posters where they give a snapshot of their sites of practice and research. Follow the links to find those in a group and/or network as well as those below.

Use your back-button to return to this page

**[HOW to CREATE and SHARE your LIVING-POSTER...](#)**

Contribute to, and develop, educational conversations for the flourishing of Humanity in a global community of Living Educational Theory Researchers by:

- Creating and submitting a paper to EJOLTs - <https://ejolts.net/>
- Creating and making public your living-poster <https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/posters/homepage2021.pdf>
- PUTTING YOUR NAME AND EMAIL IN THE CHAT and drop someone a quick note, which may or may not start a conversation
- Finding others to create a Living Educational Theory Research group with to keep the momentum going