

UNESCO RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Successful school to university pathways for young people of refugee background

Abstract

In 2008, the Australian Government set a target stipulating that by 2020, 20 percent of higher education enrolments at the undergraduate level would be made up of students from low socio-economic status (SES) backgrounds. Students of refugee background are a specific group within this low SES targeted cohort but little research has occurred into their transition and retention in universities. In response to this research lacuna, an Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching study (2013-2014), examined school to university pathways for young people of refugee origin. The study's findings raise uncomfortable questions in regard to the roles and responsibilities of universities and staff in catering for the frequently highly complex needs of this demographic of students. This seminar argues that reflections on current university policies and practices are not solely a matter of economic productivity but a central commitment to university education as a form of socially just practice.

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Tuesday
18 November 2014

C-LP-02 (HKIEd)

Speaker



Dr. Jane Wilkinson is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at Griffith University, Queensland, Australia. She is co convenor of the Leading and Learning: Theory and Practice Research Group of the Griffith Institute for Educational Research (GIER). Jane has published widely in the fields of women and academic leadership, practice theory (feminist, Bourdieuan and practical philosophy) and leadership, and refugee education. She is a Chief Investigator of an Office of Learning and Teaching Grant, *Supporting School-University Pathways for Refugee Students' Access and Participation in Tertiary Education* (2013-2014) (co-investigators are Naidoo, Wilkinson, Langat, Adoniou and Cunneen).

Jane is co-author of *Changing Practices, Changing Education* (with Kemmis, Wilkinson, Edwards-Groves, Hardy, Grootenboer and Bristol) (Springer, 2014) and with Tanya Fitzgerald of *Travelling Towards a Mairage? Gender, Leadership and Higher Education* (Post Pressed, 2010). She is a member of the editorial board, *Journal of Gender Studies* and an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Leadership in Education*.

All welcome.



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