A Professional Workforce for the Early Years? Policy, practice and sector responses

Date and place               Cost
26 February 2020
10:00am – 3:00pm
Stranmillis University College,
Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5DY, Northern Ireland

Free to attend, however
pre-registration is essential

This Seminar is the 4th in the Research Commission, Competing Discourses of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC): Tensions, Impacts and Democratic Alternatives across the UK’s four jurisdictions.

In many countries, strategies to further develop services and institutions for the education and care of young children are linked to a discourse on professionalism (Urban, 2013). In Northern Ireland and Ireland, professionalism is set within ECEC reforms such as Learning to Learn and First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families. However within both contexts the persistent ‘split system’ of statutory and voluntary/private sectors within the field of early childhood provision plays a key role in the creation of a fully professionalised early years workforce.

This seminar will explore the extent to which ECEC colleagues are being de/re/professionalised in various ways. In particular we aim to hear Northern Irish and Irish responses to the following questions:

• How is professionalism understood in the ECEC sector in NI and Ireland and why?
• What are the barriers to professional development?
• How can these barriers to professional development be overcome?

The seminar will also include Keynote presentations from Dr. Siobhan Fitzpatrick, former CEO of Early Years: the organisation for young children, Belfast, Northern Ireland and Professor Mathias Urban, Dublin City University, Ireland.

Bursary Information

The BERA Early Career Researcher Network offers a limited amount of bursaries to the value of £75 towards travel for BERA Student Members and BERA Teacher Members only. To apply for one of these bursaries, please complete the form online with a statement on why you want to attend this event and why you need the financial assistance. To apply for a bursary, please check the event page at www.bera.ac.uk/events

For more information and to register visit www.bera.ac.uk/events