CREATE: A reflexive tool for designing impactful research with/for children and young people

Dr Fiona Chambers, University College Cork

The landscape of educational research has changed much in recent years. Within recent debates, we see shifting ideas regarding not only what the purpose of educational research is, but also how it is done, who it is done by and who it is for (Wellington, 2015). However, while much attention has been paid to enhancing the rigour of educational research (e.g. BERA, 2018; ACSS, 2015) there has been rather less focus on the relevance of such research to all involved. This presentation will outline work stemming from a 2017 EERA-funded workshop on ‘research values, voice and ethics’, which focused specifically on educational research done with/for young people. The workshop challenged participants to consider how we might redesign approaches to educational research in a world where youth are, often, disconnected from/disengaged by research activities. In addition to discussing background literature, the presentation will outline the 4-step design thinking approach (Chambers, 2016) that underpinned the workshop activities before focusing on the outcomes of these discussions. In particular, it will identify the six CREATE Principles of Research Design and consider how they might offer a useful framework for shaping educational research undertaken with, for and by young people.

Dr Fiona Chambers is the Head of the School of Education at University College Cork in Ireland and also a Hasso-Plattner Institute-certified Design Thinking Coach. Her teaching, research and civic engagement focuses particularly on the areas of Physical Education and sport pedagogy, mentoring and social innovation, and she publishes widely in these fields. Dr Chambers holds a number of international leadership roles, including that of Secretary General for the Association Internationale des Écoles Superiéure d’Éducation Physique (AIESEP).