

## UNESCO CHAIR/UNITWIN NETWORK PROGRESS REPORT 2016

<b>Title of the Chair/Network:</b>	Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation
<b>Host Institution:</b>	University of East Anglia
<b>Date of establishment of Chair/Network:</b>	05/2015
<b>Period of activity under report:</b>	05/16 – 05/17
<b>Report submitted by:</b>	Anna Robinson-Pant, Professor of Education

### **1. Executive Summary:**

*Major outcomes, results and impact of the Chair, including on national policies, in relation to its objectives as stated in Article 2 of the Chair Agreement (between the Institution and UNESCO)*

As this is the first year of the UEA UNESCO Chair, the main outcomes are related to developing strong relationships with our partner institutions in Ethiopia, Nepal and Egypt who will engage in research and training collaboration. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring and dissemination of Chair findings were established during this period, including constructing the Chair website (<https://www.uea.ac.uk/education/research/areas/literacy-and-development/unesco-chair>), forming the review group and holding the first annual review meeting with the launch of the Chair.

The following outcomes are noted regarding objectives:

- i) **Contribute new knowledge:** The Chair launch event took the form of a half-day conference in the area of adult literacy, learning and social transformation with presentations by the UEA UNESCO Chair team and other leading researchers in the field of adult literacy and lifelong learning. UIL commissioned a paper by the Chairholder for 2016 International Literacy Day: Promoting Health and Literacy for Women's Empowerment. The UNESCO Chair team, led by Dr. Sheila Aikman and including partners in Ethiopia, Nepal and the Philippines, began researching case studies for a Special Issue journal on 'What can 'mainstream' education gain from a deeper understanding about indigenous women and adult learning?'
- ii) **Strengthen qualitative research capacity:** The UEA UNESCO Chair doctoral scholarship was awarded to Christopher Millora for a study on volunteering in the Philippines. Robinson-Pant and Prof. Alan Rogers led an UEA MA module on Adult Literacy and Learning for Global Change. The Chairholder facilitated a day workshop on participatory research for doctoral students, hosted by Kathmandu University.
- iii) **Take forward methodological innovation:** a particular focus is on participatory action research methodology in the area of adult learning and literacy with proposals prepared by Dr. Catherine Jere and Chairholder.
- iv) **Enhance communication between ABE and TVET:** A funding proposal was developed in the area of health and literacy to enhance cross-sectoral dialogue between policy makers and researchers in Nepal and Malawi.

<p><b>2. Activities:</b>  <i>Overview of activities undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period</i></p>	
<p><b>a) Education/Training/Research</b>  <i>(key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)</i></p>	
<p><b>i) Education (leading to certificate)</b></p>	<p>The Chair team supervised several doctoral students in this area, including UNESCO Chair scholar, Christopher Millora for a study on volunteering and adult learning in the Philippines (supervised by Anna Robinson-Pant, Catherine Jere and Alan Rogers). Other doctoral supervision was conducted during this period relating to the UNESCO Chair theme: Ahmmardouh Mjaya on adult literacy in Malawi (supervised by Robinson- Pant and Rogers), Fusheng Jia on continuing education in China (Robinson- Pant and Rao), Eleni Konidari on minority education in Greece (Aikman and Robinson-Pant), Demelash Woldu on linguistic identities and education in Ethiopia (Robinson-Pant and Aikman), Burcu Evren on women’s learning in UK prisons (Robinson-Pant, Jere and Rogers).</p> <p>Robinson-Pant and Rogers led an MA module on Adult Literacy and Learning for Global Change (Autumn semester 2016) which included an introduction to adult literacy research and visits to local adult learning programmes, including New Routes NGO classes for refugees and asylum seekers and Norwich Prison.</p> <p>Catherine Jere, Esther Priyadharshini and Anna Robinson-Pant gave a one- day doctoral training workshop at UEA in June 2016 on Participatory Research Approaches in Global Contexts, as part of the ERSC Advanced Training Initiative, 'Social Studies of Environment &amp; Sustainability'. This course will be run again in June 2017, and was adapted for PhD students in Kathmandu in January 2017.</p>
<p><b>ii) Training (short term)</b></p>	<p>The Chairholder gave a day workshop on participatory research for 35 doctoral students from Kathmandu University and Tribhuvan University (Nepal) in January 2017.</p>
<p><b>iii) Research</b></p>	<p>Dr. Sheila Aikman (UEA Chair team) presented at the UNESCO Chair launch on ‘Indigenous women and adult learning’, introducing key debates as the starting point for collaborative research and writing on this theme. During the report period, the UNESCO Chair team, led by Dr. Sheila Aikman and including partners in Ethiopia, Nepal and the Philippines, began developing case studies for a Special Issue journal on ‘What can ‘mainstream’ education gain from a deeper understanding about indigenous women and adult learning?’</p> <p>In January 2017, the Chairholder conducted scoping research (focus group discussions and interviews with doctoral students and faculty) in Kathmandu on academic writing and publishing as the first stage of a BAICE-funded project with the journal <i>Compare</i> to strengthen academic writing in Nepali universities and in the region.</p> <p>Preparation of research funding proposals:</p>

	<p>i) Participatory Action Research: proposals are being developed by Catherine Jere and the Chairholder in collaboration with New Routes, a Norwich NGO working with refugees; Kathmandu University, CERID (Nepal), and Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia) on adult literacy facilitator training; and San Tomas University in the Philippines on participatory video.</p> <p>ii) Cross-sectoral knowledge sharing: a proposal is being developed in the area of health and literacy to enhance cross- sectoral dialogue between policy makers and researchers in Nepal and Malawi.</p> <p>iii) Education in Emergencies: a proposal is being developed by Dr. Catherine Jere with UK-based NGOs for an interdisciplinary longitudinal study of transitions of refugee youth and adult learners in Nigeria and Afghanistan from non-formal education provision into work and access to formal studies</p> <p>The Chair team, including Chairholder, Ahmmardouh Mjaya (UEA PhD student), Dr. Sushan Acharya (TU, Nepal), Dr. Amina Singh (KU, Nepal), Prof. Mahesh Parajuli (KU) and Dr Gina Lontoc (San Tomas University, Philippines) developed abstracts related to the Chair theme for the UKFIET 14th International Conference on Education and Development to be held in September 2017. All the team’s abstracts have been accepted for the conference theme ‘Learning and Teaching for Sustainable Development: Curriculum, Cognition and Context’. The proposed presenters are currently seeking funding to come to the UK for the conference. The paper titles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Women, literacy and health in Nepal: an alternative approach for sustainable livelihoods'</li> <li>• 'What can ‘mainstream’ education gain from a deeper understanding about indigenous knowledges and adult learning?'</li> <li>• 'Literacies and learning for improved rural livelihoods: a participatory approach in the Philippines'</li> <li>• ‘Towards Understanding Situated Perspectives of Adult Literacy Teaching and Learning in Malawi’.</li> </ul> <p>Turuwark Zelalam at Bahir Dar University (with Prof. Alan Rogers (UEA Chair team) and Dr Tolera Negasse of Aarts University, Ethiopia) is engaged in a study of adult literacy facilitators in Ethiopia; a first survey conducted by a team of staff from Bahir Dar University resulted in a background paper; this has been followed by two papers in the press.</p>
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## **b) Conferences/Meetings**

*(key conferences and meetings organized by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)*

### **i) Key conferences and workshops hosted by the Chair**

The Chair launch took the form of a half-day conference on February 27th 2017, which introduced research debates in the area of adult literacy, learning and social transformation. The programme was opened by the Vice Chancellor of the University of East Anglia, Prof. David Richardson, and the Chief Executive of the National Commission for UNESCO in the UK, James Bridge. Over 50 participants from around the UK and from across the University of East Anglia came to the event, including many key institutions and individuals in the development of adult literacy and development research. A group in UNESCO Paris watched the presentations via Skype.

Dr. Sheila Aikman (UEA Chair team) presented on 'Indigenous women and adult learning', the starting point for collaborative research and writing on this theme. An IFAD-UNESCO book, authored by the Chairholder, Ain Shams University Adult Education Department and Turuwark Zelalam (Chair co-ordinator at Bahir Dar University), was also launched with presentations from Anna Robinson- Pant (UEA), Mari Yasunaga (UNESCO Paris) and Maria Hartl (IFAD). Dr. Catherine Jere (UEA Chair team) facilitated discussion on the Chair theme with contributions from key figures in adult literacy, including Prof. Brian Street, Prof. Lalage Bown, Prof. Alan Rogers (UEA Chair team), Prof. Mary Hamilton and Prof. Gemma Moss.

## **ii) Other conferences/organizational activities undertaken by the Chairholder**

Dr. Hanemann, Senior Programme Specialist from UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) visited UEA on 17th November 2016 to give a public seminar in the UEA Education and Development series on 'Examining the campaign approach to adult literacy: which lessons can be drawn from experiences in the past decade?' A meeting was also held with the core UNESCO Chair programme team (Anna Robinson- Pant, Sheila Aikman, Nitya Rao, Alan Rogers, Catherine Jere and Spyros Themelis) to plan future collaborative activities with UIL. An informal seminar was organised where PhD and post-doctoral members of the UEA Literacy and Development Group gave rich presentations on their research related to adult learning, literacy and development: Eleni Konidari, Fusheng Jia, Ahmmardouh Mjaya, Demelash Woldu, Huslinda Nur Che Mat, Burcu Evren and Chris Millora.

The UEA public seminar series on Education and Development was organised over the academic year by the Chairholder and Chair team and included several seminars related to the Chair theme:

### Autumn Semester 2016

'"Informant fi dead" and other considerations when internationalising research ethics protocols', Professor Pat Sikes, University of Sheffield

'Lifelong Learning and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: an enhanced role for adult education?' Professor Alan Rogers, UEA UNESCO Chair team

'Examining the campaign approach to adult literacy: which lessons can be drawn from experiences in the past decade?' Dr. Ulrike Hanemann, UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning Hamburg

### Spring Semester 2017

'To what extent does a regional dialect and accent impact on the development of reading and writing skills? England and USA perspectives', Professor Richard Andrews, UEA School of Education and Lifelong Learning

'From policy to practice: changing discourses in migrant workers' education in China', Fusheng Jia, UEA School of Education and Lifelong Learning

'Exploring literacy understandings in Malawi: multiple perspectives, multiple agendas', Ahmmardouh Mjaya, UEA School of Education and Lifelong Learning

'"A dog ate my homework, teacher": reflections on the impact of education projects in Malawi', Lindsay Howard, UEA School of Education and Lifelong Learning

'International Students and Academic Mobility in Mexico', Yann Lebeau (UEA) and Monica Lopez (UAM Mexico)

## **iii) A selection of conference presentations by the Chairholder and other colleagues**

Presentations at the UNESCO Chair launch, February 2017:

- Dr. Sheila Aikman: Indigenous Women and Adult Learning
- Prof. Anna Robinson-Pant: Learning knowledge and skills for agriculture and improving rural livelihoods

By Chair steering group members:

- Prof. Mary Hamilton: Literacy and learning for social transformation: the role of international assessments
- Prof. Gemma Moss: Literacy and social transformation: where to focus our gaze?

The Chairholder gave a seminar for faculty on 'Exploring Insider-Outsider Research in Comparative and International Education' at Tribhuvan University Faculty of Education and a public seminar on 'Research as an intercultural encounter' at Martin Chautari Centre (Nepal, January 2017).

Prof. Alan Rogers gave a presentation to the British Association for Literacy in Development (BALID). This was subsequently published: Skills development and literacy for adults: a failed experiment, in McCaffery, J. and B. Street (eds) *Informal Literacy Discussions: theory and practice in the field of literacy and development*, Uppingham Press 2016 pages 21-35

### **c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships**

*(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions including UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks)*

Anna Robinson-Pant visited Kathmandu for two weeks in Jan/Feb 2017 to work with UNESCO Chair partner institutions on plans for proposed collaborative research: Prof. Mahesh Parajuli at Kathmandu University (KU), Prof. Jiba Nath Dhital (newly appointed director of CERID) and Dr. Sushan Acharya at Tribhuvan University (TU). A major aim of this visit was to investigate possible collaborative research and funding sources for the proposed Chair activities in Nepal. Dr. Hari Lamsal, Joint Secretary, convened a meeting at the Ministry of Education (MOE) to discuss Government priorities in lifelong learning and adult literacy with regard to the UNESCO chair programme. The Chairholder and Kathmandu University team developed a concept note which is now being discussed further with the MOE. A meeting was also held with Dr. Kamleshwar Kumar Sinha, Deputy Secretary General of the Nepal National Commission for UNESCO to discuss how the UNESCO chair could support key priorities for community and adult education. Also present in this meeting was Mr. Balaram Timilsina, the then Under Secretary in the Commission Office, who is now appointed as Education Officer in UNESCO country office in Kathmandu. Several exploratory meetings were also held with key development agencies in Nepal who are working in this area to explore potential for future collaboration (including DFID, VSO, British Council, Korean International Cooperation Agency).

Catherine Jere visited Zomba, Malawi for 2 weeks in August, 2016 for a scoping visit to explore potential opportunities for collaboration and bringing the University of Malawi in as a partner institution under the UNESCO Chair. During her visit she met with Prof. Pascale Kishindo, Director of the Centre for Language Studies (CLS), University of Malawi and Dr. Stella Kachiwanda, of the same institution, but on secondment to Save the Children Malawi. In addition to discussions regarding collaborative research, the possibility of the Chair supporting CLS in the development of an MA and/or training courses on Adult Literacy was explored. Catherine also met with the Prof John Saka, the Vice Chancellor of University of Malawi to discuss opportunities under the new UEA-UNIMA MoU.

<b>d) Publications/Multimedia Materials</b> (major publications and teaching/learning materials)			
Please tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output:	<b>Books</b>	[tick]	[no.]
	<b>Books (edited)</b>	X	
	<b>Books (chapters)</b>	X	
	<b>Monographs</b>		
	<b>Research Reports</b>	X	
	<b>Journal Articles (refereed)</b>		
	<b>Conference Proceedings</b>		
	<b>Occasional Papers</b>		
	<b>Teaching/Learning Materials</b>		
	<b>Multimedia Materials (CD-Rom)</b>		
	<b>Multimedia Materials (Video)</b>		
<b>Multimedia Materials (Other)</b>			
Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.			
<b>i) Theses</b>			
Fusheng Jia (2016) Continuing education and development: An ethnographic study of migrant workers in the Pearl River Delta of China, PhD Thesis, University of East Anglia			
Eleni Konidari (2017) An ethnographic narrative research study looking at educational experiences of the Western Thrace minority group in Rodope, Greece, PhD Thesis, University of East Anglia			
<b>ii) Publications</b>			
The Chairholder wrote a paper commissioned and published by UIL for the 2016 International Literacy Day: Robinson-Pant, A. (2016) Promoting health and literacy for women's empowerment, Hamburg: UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. Available at: <a href="http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002456/245698e.pdf">http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002456/245698e.pdf</a>			
An IFAD-UNESCO book, authored by the Chairholder, Ain Shams University Adult Education Department and Turuwork Zelalam (Chair co-ordinator at Bahir Dar University), was published by UNESCO and launched on International Literacy Day: Robinson-Pant, A. (2016) Learning Knowledge and Skills for Agriculture to Improve Rural Livelihoods, IFAD-UNESCO, Paris. Available at: <a href="http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002457/245765E.pdf">http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002457/245765E.pdf</a>			
Robinson-Pant, A. and A. Wolf (2017) Researching Across Languages and Cultures: A guide to doing research interculturally, London: Routledge			
Robinson-Pant, A. (2017) Academic literacies: ethnographic perspectives, in Callan, H. (ed) International Encyclopedia of Anthropology (IEA), New York: Wiley			
Robinson-Pant, A. (2016) Exploring the concept of insider-outsider in comparative and international research: essentialising culture or culturally essential? In Crossley, M., Arthus, A. and E. McNess (eds) Revisiting Insider-Outsider research in Comparative and International Education, Oxford: Symposium Books			
Robinson-Pant, A. (2016) Women, Literacy and Development: an overview, in Hornberger, N. (ed), The Encyclopaedia of Language and Education, Vol. 2 Literacy (3rd. Edition), New York: Springer			
Robinson-Pant, A. and N. Singal (eds) (2016) Researching ethically across cultures: Issues of knowledge, power and voice, London: Routledge			

#### e) Cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices

The Chairholder was invited to attend the International Literacy Day celebrations in UNESCO HQ September 2016, which included the publication of her UIL commissioned paper on health and literacy, and the IFAD-UNESCO book (see above). Following the ILD event, the Chairholder acted as critical reviewer for the UNESCO Paris publication, *Reading the Past, Writing the Future: Fifty years of International Literacy Day*, <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002475/247563e.pdf>

Discussions are ongoing with Dr. Borhene Chakroun and Ms Mari Yasunaga (Section of Youth, Literacy and Skills Development) about possible follow-up to the IFAD-UNESCO research project, for which the Chairholder was Global Research Coordinator in 2014-15. Both UNESCO HQ colleagues have actively contributed to the review group meeting and Mari Yasunaga presented on the policy implications of the IFAD-UNESCO report at the UEA Chair launch in February 2017.

The Chairholder was requested by UNESCO Country Office, Kathmandu, to write an article on Community Literacy Centres and the SDGs as part of a series of articles to be published shortly in the Nepali press. Her article is entitled: 'Literacy, women's empowerment and sustainable development: old wine in new bottles?'

### 3. Future Plans and Development Prospects:

*Outline of action plan for the next biennium and short/medium and long-term development prospects. Please do not hesitate to refer to difficulties that the Chair has experienced*

The Chairholder will be visiting Nepal in June 2017 to hold three writing-for-publication workshops funded by BAICE/Compare journal and hosted by Prof. Mahesh Parajuli at Kathmandu University: for PhD students, for Faculty and experienced researchers, and a one-day symposium for 'writing champions' from South/South-East Asia (senior academics who are in a position to develop writing mentoring initiatives in their own institutions). Research conducted by the Chairholder on academic literacies in Kathmandu (January 2017) has been used to develop workshop activities and materials with Dr. Anna Magyar (UEA), workshop facilitator. In July, the Chairholder will visit the partner institutions, Bahir Dar University and Ain Shams University, to develop proposed research, give workshops on adult literacy and sign the partnership agreement with ASU President.

A proposal for a Special Issue on Indigenous Women and Adult Education is currently under discussion with a journal. Dr. Sheila Aikman is coordinating this project, which involves collaborative writing across the Chair team and partners from Kathmandu University and Bahir Dar University. This work may also be developed into a policy brief in collaboration with UIL, and UNESCO Paris colleagues have signalled potential links with their preparations for the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People this year.

UNESCO ELA Programme Manager in Kabul has recently contacted the UNESCO Chair to discuss potential collaboration with UNESCO's future capacity-strengthening activities in adult literacy research and training.

#### f) Other

*(any other activities to report)*

UNESCO Chair colleagues, Dr. Catherine Jere (UEA), Turuwark Zelalam (BDU) and Anna Robinson- Pant collaborated in a large funding proposal for capacity-building in doctoral education in the Africa region. If successful, this will help provide resources to develop a PhD Adult Education programme at partner institution, Bahir Dar University.

As part of the Chair involvement with New Routes NGO in Norwich (their coordinator is on the Chair steering group), the Chairholder has joined the Norwich City of Sanctuary committee to explore ways for UEA to support refugees and newly arrived migrants in the area. The School of Education and Lifelong Learning agreed to fund a workshop facilitated by New Routes for MA and BA students interested in working as volunteers and the Chair team is now planning participatory action research to help strengthen New Routes' activities locally.

The Chairholder provided consultancy input in connection with a global cosmetics company's proposed fundraising campaign on women's literacy.

Prof. Alan Rogers organised an Uppingham Seminar which took place at Dunford House, Midhurst, Sussex on the 7-9 April 2016 on 'Adult learning and the sustainable development goals'. The Chairholder and Dr. Catherine Jere also participated in this two-day discussion forum which included key researchers and policy makers on adult literacy, learning and development (including from UNESCO Paris). This Uppingham Seminar explored the encouragement which the SDGs have given to adult learning opportunities and activities. See report at: <http://uppinghamseminars.co.uk/page3.htm>

**Appendix:****1) Human Resources**

The UNESCO Chair team comprises:

Prof. Anna Robinson-Pant (Chairholder), Dr. Sheila Aikman, Dr. Catherine Jere, Prof. Nitya Rao and Prof. Alan Rogers

Of these staff, only the Chairholder has allocated days for the UNESCO Chair activities (20 days a year). The School of Education and Lifelong Learning provided some administrative support for the Chair Launch and the website. As the UNESCO Chair programme is now being considered as a possible Impact Case Study for the 2027 REF, the Chairholder is eligible to apply for a UEA Impact Fund grant to appoint a part-time communications assistant who can develop materials for the website and social media side during 2017-18.

**2) Financial Resources**

*Please tick sources of financial contribution and specify the amount in U.S. dollars*

	[tick]	Amount (\$)
<b>Host Institution</b>	X	
<b>Partner Institution</b>		_____
<b>Government Body</b>		_____
<b>Other Public Institution/Body (incl. Research Councils)</b>		_____
<b>UNESCO</b>	X	_____
<b>Other UN Agency</b>		_____
<b>IGO</b>		_____
<b>NGO</b>		_____
<b>Industry</b>		_____
<b>Other Private</b>		_____

The School of Education and Lifelong Learning, UEA has provided:

- 20 days of Chairholder time
- £3000 budget to cover visits to each partner institution annually and relevant UK events, such as UNESCO Chairs Colloquium
- In 2016-17, the costs of the Chair launch (refreshments, administration and guest speakers' travel/accommodation) was covered
- UK travel and accommodation costs for speakers in Education and Development public seminar series
- £3000 UNESCO Chair scholarship (fee waiver) for the MA Adult literacy and learning for global change

The Social Science Faculty, UEA provided:

A three year fully-funded PhD studentship from 2016-2019

British Association for International and Comparative Education has provided funding for the materials, travel and accommodation for the BAICE/Compare workshops to be held at Kathmandu University in June 2017 (paid directly to KU/workshop participants).

UIL Hamburg provided international travel costs for Dr. Ulrike Hanemann's visit to UEA.

UNESCO Paris provided free copies of the IFAD-UNESCO book to all participants at the UNESCO Chair launch.