

CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



From L-R: Dr Deborah Outhwaite (EdD staff), Dr Tommy Akhavein, Dr David Chong, Dr Martin Gough (EdD staff), Dr Ibrahim Garba, Dr Anthony Edwards (EdD staff), Dr Lan Hu, Dr Sarah Hyde

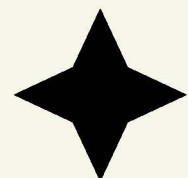
Graduation July 2024

from Dr David Chong (EdD)

Pursuing a Doctorate of Education (EdD) at the University of Liverpool was undoubtedly a demanding journey. Fortunately, I had the steadfast support of my supervisors, Dr Anthony Onwuegbuzie and Dr Deborah Outhwaite, whose guidance was pivotal to my growth as both a researcher and a practitioner. The insightful questions they posed prompted me to explore innovative perspectives, reigniting my passion for a field to which I had dedicated over two decades of my professional life.

The coursework that preceded my thesis was far more than a mere obligation; it became a crucial source of knowledge that now enriches my dual role as a professor teaching a Master's program in healthcare leadership and as a social work practitioner—what I refer to as a "pracademic." When I began my doctoral journey at Liverpool, I held high aspirations, all of which have been fulfilled thanks to the unwavering support of both the administrative and academic staff.

Although the process demanded countless hours of writing and revising—often accompanied by frustration—this rigorous focus on critical thinking has proven to be one of the most significant aspects of my academic experience, fundamentally shaping my professional identity and research approach.



STUDENT & GRADUATE NEWS

European Conference on Educational Research (ECER)

from Dr Natalya Smernitskaya (EdD)

I completed my doctorate at the University of Liverpool in November 2023. Now I have to find a proper place to apply my skills, vision, and knowledge for the benefit of the educational community. With this idea I joined the European Conference on Educational Research (ECER), organized by the European Educational Research Association (EERA).

This year the conference welcomed 4000 participants at the University of Cyprus. This conference is organized in such a way that every researcher can find the way to networking and socializing with different communities. There are many opportunities to communicate at sessions, join 'ignite' talks, visit the poster exposition, and



Dr Deborah Outhwaite and Dr Natalya Smernitskaya at the European Conference on Educational Research

enjoy lunch-breaks. Outside the conference, there is the opportunity to join one of 32 active networks in EERA. I am in Network 26 for Educational Leadership and I am going to

introduce myself to this community soon. The best way to make yourself known is to present your work and show your interest. I intend to join the 2025 conference in Belgrade, Slovenia. If anyone on the EdD wants to present at next year's conference, then visit EERA to find out more details. I will choose to be a speaker at one session, for which I need to write a 1,200-word abstract (less than that will be rejected), and to present my poster – infographics of the research, which is an interesting way of presenting research.

If anyone is interested, do find details about the coming conference in Belgrade, EERA or contact me (nsmernitskaya@gmail.com).

From Bratati Bhattacharyya

On July 5th, I had the honour of serving as a session chair and speaker for the inaugural session of an international conference organized by the Association of Indian Management Schools—West Bengal Chapter. The conference's theme was "Management Education in Transition in Asian Countries." The event saw an attendance of 100 participants, including representatives from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the USA, and Spain.

On June 22, I had the honour to speak on transforming lives in higher education at an education summit organised by TV Channel News 18.

On July 13, 2024, I spoke on the topic "Management Education is a Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Alliance" for a TV channel, TAAZA TV, for a live session.

On July 26, 2024, I will be a speaker at a panel discussion organised by

the Daily, Times of India on financial literacy.

On July 27, 2024, I will be the session chair and a speaker for a panel discussion on K-12 to prepare students for higher education and beyond.

On 3rd August 3, 2024, I was part of a panel discussion as a speaker on Empowering Educators: Elevating Effectiveness with Competency-Based, Data-Driven, and Collaborative Approaches.

STUDENT & GRADUATE NEWS CONTINUED

Bridging Research and Practice: Navigating Leadership Challenges in Pathway Colleges from Dr Robert Close (EdD)

One of the key criteria for evaluating an EdD degree is its contribution to professional practice. Establishing this practical contribution can take many forms, one of which is disseminating knowledge to fellow practitioners. I had the opportunity to present the findings of my doctoral research in a presentation titled *Leading with Purpose: Navigating Accountability in Third-Party Pathway Colleges* at Australia's Association for Tertiary Education Management (ATEM) conference. Additionally, I had an abstract accepted for my organisation's inaugural Learning and Teaching Conference, held online for the academic and professional staff of the University Partnerships Australasia (UPA) division. This conference focused on showcasing best practices,

innovative research, and strategies for enhancing student success within higher education pathways. My presentation, *Navigating Accountability Challenges and Leadership Dynamics in Pathway Colleges*, aimed to bridge the gap between my insider research and professional practice by illustrating how my findings could be practically applied. Specifically, it explored the unique leadership challenges faced in pathway colleges (known as embedded colleges in the UK), emphasising the importance of leadership that can navigate uncertainty, ambiguity, and foster collaboration in environments where public universities and private companies coexist to offer transition education.



Dr Robert Close at Australia's Association for Tertiary Education Management Conference



STAFF NEWS

Dr Martin Gough has been giving talks in the first half of 2024. One was an online talk invited by the **Middlesex University Centre for Education Research and Scholarship Higher Education Special Interest Group** on 19 March, entitled "Seeing your research in a broader picture: learned societies within research into higher education and some considerations about methodology", aimed especially at doctoral researchers. Another talk to doctoral researchers was at the **PESGB Conference** at New

College Oxford on 22 March, entitled "It's all a subjective matter!" – When is that so? Or: How to think about research methodology and succeed in disentangling ontology and epistemology from each other". Soon after, 5 April, followed "Generative AI, Identity, Selfhood and the Place of Language" to the same Society's Artificial Intelligence Group webinar series. <http://www.philosophy-of-education.org>.

PaTHES has been running a

webinar series 'Ontology & University', on 26 February Martin presented "For Knowers, the Order of Knowing is more important than the Order of Being"; <https://pathes.org/> It runs the annual **Philosophy of Higher Education Conference**, this year (11-13 June) hosted in Trondheim, his paper "Doctoral Student Perspectives on the Desirabilities of Characteristics of Supervisors: what it tells us about the place of Ontology in higher education and about prospects for bringing research education to life".

STAFF NEWS CONTINUED

Dr Deb Outhwaite visited Winchester in June, to attend **The International Education Studies Association** (TIESA, previously BESA) conference <https://educationstudies.org.uk/conference-2024/>, where she presented her latest research on school leadership in England. TIESA is a small and friendly conference, with less than 100 people and is a good first conference to present at, with an online option available.

Deb then went to Scotland in July for the **British Educational Leadership, Management and Administration Society** (BELMAS) conference: <https://www.belmas.org.uk/>, where she is the current Chair until 2026. This is a larger conference, with around 300 people, but very international, focused specifically on leadership and with delegates from 27 countries, it's only available in person, next year it's being held in Brighton.

Dr Isabel Huet, Honorary Doctoral Supervisor at the University of Liverpool, was invited to become an international expert for the **Slovak Research and Development Agency** (SRDA), a national grant agency supporting research and development in Slovakia through state budget project funding. She will review the quality of research projects in the field of Education during 2024.

Deb says if you're researching anything on leadership, please join us (student membership is £25) as you can then access our Early Career Researcher (ECR) Online Events, to help get abstracts accepted at conferences and access our Awards, Bursaries and Grants - please note if you have finished your EdD recently then you count as an ECR for five years from the date of your Viva. We also have 13 flourishing Research Interest Groups (RIGs) where you can meet researchers from across the field and have opportunities, usually online, to present your doctoral research.

Deb will be speaking at the **CCEAM conference** <https://cceam.info/> in Cyprus in August (this is Day 0 of the ECER conference: <https://eera-ecer.de/conferences/ecer-2024-nicosia>) and then she will be representing BELMAS at ECER in Cyprus, so more on those in the next newsletter!



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Publications

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