

Centre for Teaching and Learning Research (CTLR)

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The Centre for Teaching and Learning Research (CTLR) is concerned with teaching and learning in all its pedagogical and social complexity. Members' research interests and areas of expertise span both formal and informal contexts and all age ranges, from early years through compulsory schooling to Higher Education and including Initial Teacher Education. The centre has a particular interest in bringing together research, theory, policy and practice with a view to supporting positive change. Consequently, there is a strong focus on supporting the development of reflexive practitioner-led inquiry, reflected in the range of taught courses that we offer and in the associated annual conferences hosted by the centre.

OUR RESEARCH

The research interests of CTLR members are diverse, covering areas of particular curriculum expertise, but also key areas of educational practice such as Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, disciplinary exclusion and transition where there is a particular focus on widening participation to university.

Recently completed research includes:

- A qualitative, longitudinal study, exploring the impact on English teachers' knowledge and practices of theorised professional development on reading and dialogic talk
- A large-scale survey of how the delivery and uptake of music education has been changing nationally over time
- A collaborative project involving the development of an inclusive education course for teacher trainers and teacher trainees in Uganda
- An exploratory study of the influence of local and institutional context on approaches to widening participation funded by the Sussex Learning Network

DOCTORAL RESEARCH

CTLR staff bring a wealth of experience as doctoral supervisors. Doctoral researchers come from home and international contexts, some studying full time and others choosing to combine part-time study with an existing professional role. Examples of doctoral research studies include:

- A mixed methods study of the impact of recent national policy changes on science education in England
- A participatory study of the links between how reading is taught at secondary level in England and students' independent reading
- An exploratory study of the links between creative thinking and social disadvantage in Early Years settings
- A comparative study of First Generation students' narratives of transition to Masters level study.

To find out more about becoming a doctoral researcher with CTLR, contact Centre Director, Louise Gazeley.



TEACHING

CTLR is connected with a range of courses from Undergraduate to Masters and Doctoral level. Together these afford opportunities to develop expertise in teaching and learning across all ages and settings, a number also leading to nationally recognised professional qualifications. Affiliated courses include:

- Primary and Early Years Education BA
- A range of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses, including the International Teacher Education Postgraduate Diploma
- Education MA, with full and part-time options which include the Early Years Education MA and specialist pathways for practitioner-researchers in areas including inclusion and widening participation.
- Courses designed to support professional development across the university, including the Higher Education Postgraduate Certificate and Starting to Teach.

CTLR is also home to the Sussex Research Network. This provides a bespoke route for school leaders interested in working in partnership to develop research leadership and capacity at institutional level.

CONNECT WITH US

The Centre for Teaching and Learning Research is led by Dr Louise Gazeley (Director), Dr Sindi Gordon (Research Fellow) and Dr Tamsin Hinton-Smith (Deputy Director).

We are always keen to make new connections and welcome enquiries about all aspects of our research and teaching. We have a particular commitment to the development of local and national practice and welcome opportunities to collaborate around areas of shared interest. We also have a history of successfully leading a range of events for academic researchers and practitioners to promote research-informed understandings of good practice.

We welcome all enquiries, including from academic staff and doctoral researchers, interested in visiting the University of Sussex for a fixed period and being hosted by CTLR.

You will find more information about the centre, our members and links to additional resources on our website:

www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ctrlr



CTLR: “Making Connections”

LOCATION

The Centre for Teaching and Learning Research is located within the Department of Education in Essex House on the University of Sussex campus. The University is situated on a modern campus on the edge of the South Downs National Park near the lively seaside city of Brighton. London is one hour away by train, and there is easy access to Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

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For further information about CTLR, visit:

www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ctlr

The logo of the University of Sussex, consisting of the letters 'US' in a stylized, serif font.

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