

EASA / OVS SA

**The EASA EXCO 2011 wishes all members
a blessed and safe festive season**

Linda

Liesel

Philip

Eldrie

Raj

Aslam

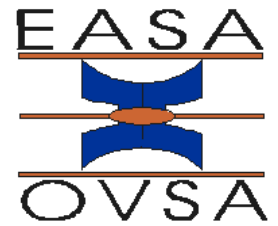
NAYDENE

Anne-Mari



EASA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011

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MESSAGE FROM THE EASA CHAIR

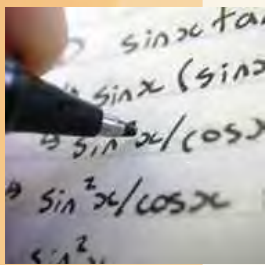
Dear EASA members

2011 is galloping to a close. This is a good thing, not just because it means that we can hopefully take some form of break, but also because we are closer to seeing one another at our annual conference in January 2012.

Wishing you a blessed and safe festive season, and looking forward to debating the possibilities of transformed and transforming education, and other related matters, with you in January 2012!

Linda Theron

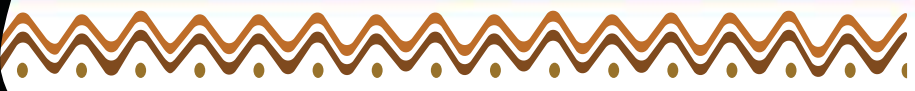
EASA Chair 2011



NEWSFLASH

SAJE's new home is University of Pretoria and the editor is Prof Liesel Ebersöhn. A whole new editorial committee and board will be announced.

The official welcoming of SAJE to the Faculty of Education, University of Pretoria is earmarked for 7 March 2012. A full report will be given in the July 2012 newsletter.



EASA / OVSA

Education Association of South Africa





THOMAS PRINGLE AWARDS 2011 WINNERS

The English Academy of Southern Africa announced the winners of the Thomas Pringle Awards on 28 November 2011. The Thomas Pringle Awards recognise writers who have demonstrated extraordinary insights in their work.

Category: Educational Article

The 2011 Thomas Pringle Award for an article on English in education and the teaching of English published in a South African academic journal in 2009-2010 is awarded jointly to Aslam Fataar for his article "Youth self-formation and the 'capacity to aspire': The itinerant 'schooled career' of Fuzile Ali across post-apartheid space", which was published in *Perspectives in Education* 28(3), and to Charles van Renen for his article "Dahl's chickens: How do they roost in the 21st century?", published in the *Journal for Language Teaching* 43(2).

The judges were unanimous in making a joint award on the grounds that both articles make a highly valuable contribution to research in English teaching and learning in southern Africa: Prof Fataar's at a broad sociological level and Prof van Renen's at a more specific pedagogic level. Prof Fataar demonstrates to us the complex contexts that lie behind our students' schooling trajectories, while Prof van

Renen demonstrates the importance of literature in developing language competence in classrooms. In this sense, the two articles are complementary both in their foci and in their significance for English education in this country.

Aslam Fataar is currently Professor and Head of the Education Policy Studies Department at Stellenbosch University.

He is a NRF B-rated scientist, which is an acknowledgement of international academic standing. Professor Fataar has also published widely in national and international journals. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal, the *Southern African Review of Education*. He is a recently appointed member of the Western Cape Education Council and a member of the UNESCO country committee on Education.



EASA would like to congratulate Prof Fataar on this prestigious award. As a scholarly community we are very proud.





Criticality, Creativity and Connections: In Pursuit of Educational Innovations

Don't miss our annual EASA conference in : Mpekweni Beach Resort, Eastern Cape from 17 - 20 January 2012.

Registration commences in the afternoon of 17 January and the conference starts on 18 January 2012.

The keynote speakers include:

Prof Salim Valley , Prof Katherine Odora-Hoppers, Prof Piet Naudé

We anticipate a provocative contribution from our keynote speakers.

It was approved at the EASA EXCO meeting held in October that Programme curriculum review meetings will replace interest group meetings at the EASA2012 conference.

We therefore, urge members to participate in this discussions and to give some thought to what they would like to focus their discussions on. The following Programme curriculum review meetings will be scheduled on the programme: BEd, BEd Hons, PGCE, ACE/ADE and ADT/ACT.

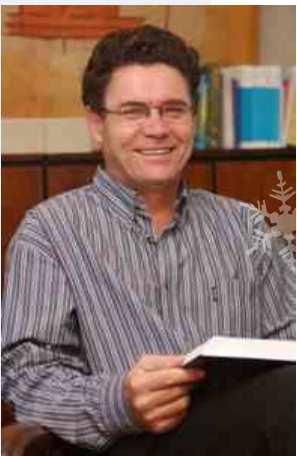
As is its tradition, EASA will honour members for their scholarly contributions to the field of education at the gala dinner on 19 January 2012. We encourage EASA members to start giving thought to whom they would like to nominate for the emerging researcher medal, research medal, and medal of honour, 2013. We remind members that the medal of honour recognizes scholars who have a sustained track record of making a difference to the theory and practice of education – this focus implies that this is not a competitive category where nominees compete against one another, but rather a category that celebrates significant contributions to education in South Africa.



Prof Salim Valley



Prof Katherine Odora-Hoppers



Prof Piet Naudé



Please visit EASA website (<http://www.easa.ac.za>) for further information.

Update on WERA

Following the WERA Council meeting in April 2011 (New Orleans) WERA has re-established their commitment to two exciting initiatives for education research. As EASA is not only a founding member of WERA, but also the South African research association represented on the WERA council, each EASA member can be considered to be included in such initiatives in the near future.

The first WERA-initiative is WERA-IRNs - International Research Networks. WERA invites proposals to establish IRNs with the purpose to advance education research worldwide on specific scholarly topics. IRNs are temporary collaborative groups of scholars working on a specific research topic primarily through virtual communication. More can be read about this initiative following the WERA-link on the EASA website. The EASA representative to WERA, Liesel Ebersöhn, will table two possible topics generated by the EASA executive at the WERA Focal meeting in Koahsiung, Taiwan (13-17 December 2011).

The other WERA initiative is WERA professional development workshops, the first of which is planned to coincide with the Turkish Educational Research Association (TERA-Turkey) meeting in Istanbul on May 2-3, 2012. It is envisioned that these workshops will be presented by members of associations affiliated to WERA (including EASA). The workshop sessions will most probably be broadcast virtually. As a proactive endeavour, the EASA executive have started generating a capacity inventory of EASA-members from which WERA can draw for their presenter corps.



PRESENTING EASA AT WERA SYMPOSIA 2011

Calls went out to all Easa members in 2011 and we are proud to announce that the following colleagues represented Easa at WERA symposia, Prof Aslam Fataar and Prof Jan Heystek

Prof Aslam Fataar University of Stellenbosch

Annual European Education Research Association's conference in Berlin, Germany. September 2011.

WERA presented a panel on urban education in international context at the annual European Education Research Association's conference in Berlin, Germany. Panelists were drawn from Chile, Brazil, Hong Kong and South Africa. I represented EASA on the panel, offering a paper on urban based educational subjectivities in post-apartheid cities. The session was attended by 150 interested conference participants, who were intrigued by the rigorous and provocative analyses on display. Conversation centered on the nature of the emerging urban in various parts of the world, and the reconfiguring dimensions of educational institutions and practices in defining the contemporary urban. My own paper advanced the argument that understanding the urban can be apprehended from the complex ways in which schools participate in it's configurations, as much as they (schools) are shaped by complex social forces now 'living' in South African cities. My contribution seemed too have elicited enormous reaction and critical response, from which came numerous opportunities for further conversation and collaboration.

Aslam Fataar



Prof Jan Heystek University of Stellenbosch

BERA conference in London, September 2011.

I want to thank EASA and WERA for the opportunity to present a paper on their behalf at the Bera conference in London, September 2011. The fellow presenters at the Wera session were Prof T Gale from Deakin University Australia and Dr Patricia Ames from Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, Peru. It was a very interesting session under the theme of Equal Learning Opportunities. Although each speaker was from different continents the issue of equal opportunities are universal. Prof Gale emphasised equity Troubles in Australian Education Policy. It sounded familiar from a South African perspective as we also is still in process to determine equal opportunities with policies, but the policies are not always realising the actual aims it intended too. The Peruvian context of poverty is also similar to many communities in South African. Dr Ames's paper focused on the educational transitions for children living in poverty.

My own paper focused on the provision of equal opportunity for quality education to all children with equity school funding as mechanism to support the aim.

The Wera session emphasised the global village with so many issues of similar concerns. But it also accentuates the local context which shapes the issue. We can and must learn each other but must always contextualise the relatedness of the issue. I gave me a sense of – we are not the only country in world battling to provide equal opportunity for all children. It indicated that we are making good progress with the number of children registering for the initial school years but that we still need large scale development for most schools. Policy is not a solution. People must implement and live the policy to make an impact on the reality in schools. Policy does not change the situation; it is merely a plan or direction indicating the direction we are moving towards.

Jan Heystek



Education

AND Research

Update on SAERA

Discussions about the formation of a national education research association proceeded productively during 2011. An interim steering committee was established, with representatives from most education associations. Our EASA chair for 2012, Professor Eldrie Gouws, was appointed as chair. Meetings were held on 8 April at UKZN; 23 June at TUT and 22 September via videoconference at UNISA.

At the Education Deans' Forum (EDF) held on 15 November 2011, part of the workshop was dedicated to the conceptualisation of education research and the possible role of SAERA.

The interim SAERA steering committee, operating on the basis of maximum inclusiveness, is now ready to take the establishment of such an organisation forward.

The first initiative is a SAERA seminar that will be hosted by Unisa on 22 February 2012. Each education association in South Africa is invited to send five members to this seminar. The purpose of this seminar is to deliberate on such an organization's vision, objectives, structure and the final steps towards its realization.

Commissioned speakers will address the following topics:

- The history of SAERA
-
- The role and purpose of educational research in South/ern Africa, based on the vision of different research organisations in SA
-
- Possible models for establishing a consolidated South/ern African education research organisation

The second part of the seminar will focus on organizational procedures and structures to take the establishment of SAERA forward.

SAERA's challenge is to establish a research association across current research associations through amalgamation without individual associations losing their identity.

**EASA members can look forward to an exciting 2012.
A national education research conference(SAERA) is envisaged for
25-27 October 2012.**





EASA SECRETARY



It is with mixed feelings that EASA is saying farewell to our secretary Esmarie Strydom. During her time as secretary of EASA the membership increased. She worked very hard to update the EASA membership list. We wish her all the best in her new position. We will miss her.

The EASA exco approved the appointment of Dr Anne-Mari Dicker from Unisa as the new secretary. We believe that Anne-Marie will take up the challenge and build on the excellent work of Esmarie.



Anne-Mari and Esmarie



MEMBERSHIP FEES

A reminder to all members who have not yet paid their 2011 membership fees: please do so immediately. Members who need an invoice to authorize payment of membership fees through their institutions can contact our new secretary Anne-Mari Dicker:

dickeam@unisa.ac.za
012 429 4630

Members are also welcome to pay their annual fees at the EASA conference in January 2012. Anne-Mari will be available at the registration desk in this regard.



south african journal of education

EASA as an organisation want to thank Prof Philip van der Westhuizen and his team for years of hard work and dedication to the association's journal, SAJE. The unconditional commitment and dedication to build the journal to such a prestigious status (for example, the inclusion in the Social Science's Citation Index) is much appreciated.

Under Prof van der Westhuizen's leadership the SAJE-team of editors, as well as members of the editorial committee and board currently see SAJE as a well established journal with an impact factor of 0.632 (ISI - World of Science) - ranking 95th of 177 titles of education.

As organisation we are proud of Prof Philip van der Westhuizen and his team, and we once more want to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for the excellent work they have undertaken for SAJE.

Editor: Prof Philip van der Westhuizen

Administrative editor: Christien Vorster

Puclication editor: Erna Kinsey

The editorial board namely, Proff Tilla Olivier, Naydene de Lange, Liesel Ebersöhn, Raj Mestry, Trudie Steyn and Kobus Maree.



We salute you!!!

In October 2011 the EASA executive committee thanked Christien Vorster on behalf of EASA for her immeasurable contribution to the success of the journal and years of hard work. The following email was received from her



Dear EASA-Friends

Thank you very much for your thank-you letter and gift (cheque).

Philip gave it to me last week as we had our SAJE goodbye-lunch.

I really appreciate EASA's gesture and your words of thanks.

I really enjoyed working closely with each of you this past 6 years, and everyone was very helpful and kind to me.

I am sad to say goodbye, but also excited to start a new season in my life with my husband in mission-training.

Thank you also to my boss, Philip: We worked together as a great team, thank you for your patience with me and encouragement when I needed it!

I appreciate your kindness and help! I am very proud of what we accomplished.

Liesel (the new editor) and Loraine (admin) will be a dedicated SAJE team at UP, I really think they will do an excellent job.

Christien

2012 EASA Annual Meeting

EASA AGM will take place on 18 January 2012. We encourage as many EASA members as possible to be present. One of the important points on the agenda is the election of a new incoming chair for 2012. Only one nomination was received for this position.

Prof Lesley Wood from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University was nominated by Prof Liesel Ebersöhn. We include the motivation of her nomination for your perusal.

Motivation for nomination:

Prof Lesley Wood has been a member of EASA for several years and was a recipient in 2010 of the Young Researcher Medal, which attests to her research competence. She has shown leadership in her institution by carrying out various positions as Head of Department, Head of Programme and as Head of the Action Research Unit. She is also one of the founding editors of the new journal, Educational Research for Social Change.

She is well versed with trends in educational research and pioneers innovative approaches to research that aim to make a real difference in the lives of the participants, rather than just benefitting the researcher (s). She is interested in developing EASA in terms of diversity of members and research approaches and also in forming collaborations with other South African educational research associations to strengthen educational research in the country. She has worked closely with previous chairpersons of EASA, such as Prof Olivier, Prof de Lange and Prof Linda Theron and therefore is au fait with the requirements of the position of vice chairperson. She has shown herself to be an organised person and also a team player by her involvement in research teams such as the HEAIDS research project for the Pilot HIV and AIDS module and the HEARD project to compile the draft integrated strategy on HIV and AIDS for the DBE. On both these projects she demonstrated her ability to work to deadlines and to work with a team to compile strategic and research reports. She has been project leader of several research projects, as well as project associate on several, indicating her ability to work with others.

She has a varied background, having worked as a social worker and also having experience and qualifications in academic development and health and welfare management, something that gives a multidisciplinary approach to her leadership.



CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The annual EASA2011 conference took place at Sun City and hosted by the University of South Africa, with the theme, Beauty and the Beast: towards turning the tide in education.

Of the many interesting papers presented at the conference, 31 papers were reworked into articles by the presenters and submitted for peer review. Twenty-six of these articles were published in a conference proceedings publication. This publication (2012) was printed by Van Schaiks publishers and will be launched at the annual EASA conference on 16 January 2012.

The Editors

Prof Eldrie Gouws

Prof Charl Wolhuter

Prof Johann Dreyer

Dr Anne-Mari Dicker.

2011  
EASA
conference — Sun City

