

Lecture

Widening participation in teacher education: Reflections from an adult education-led project in Ireland

26th January 2022, 17.00 h (Portuguese/ Irish Time)

Dr Jerry O’Neill

Jerry is a lecturer in the Department of Adult and Community Education at Maynooth University, Ireland. He returned to education as a mature student in the mid-1990s and, although he subsequently trained as a secondary school teacher, he has worked with adults in further, community and higher education ever since. He has a particular interest in educator development across the career span that is collaborative, creative and critically reflective with a focus on personal and socially transformative ends. He is also very engaged in working to diversify access routes into, through and beyond universities. Currently, Jerry coordinates the *Thinking About Teaching Foundation Certificate*– a widening participation programme aimed at enhancing diversity across the teaching profession in Ireland.

Gareth Burns

Gareth is a lecturer in the Department of Adult and Community Education at Maynooth University, Ireland. His specific research interest in the study of the lived experiences of student teachers, newly qualified teachers and early career teacher stems from his previous work as a primary teacher, a mentor of newly qualified teachers and a teacher educator. Currently, Gareth is the Director of the *Turn to Teaching* Project, which aims to promote diversity in the Irish teaching profession through a series of social-justice orientated widening participation initiatives. He is currently engaged in a research project that is exploring the experiences of students and teachers from diverse and underrepresented groups and their stories of becoming and being a teacher.