ESREA – European Society for Research on the Education of Adults
Life History and Biographical Research Network
The Annual Conference will held in Magdeburg, Germany
at the Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg www.ovgu.de
from Thursday 6th to Sunday 9th March 2014

3rd Call for Papers

"Before, Beside and After (Beyond) the Biographical Narrative"
"Avant, Auprès et Après (Au delà du) le Récit Biographique"
"Vor, Neben und Nach (Jenseits) der Biographischen Erzählung"
"Przed, Obok, i Po (Poza) Biografycznym Opowiadaniem"
Prima, Accanto, Dopo (e Aldilà del) la Narrativa Biografica

The convenors and the organizer of the 2014 conference recognize that the field(s) of life history and biography research are very much characterised by schools of practice, are often separated by national boundaries as well as by linguistic boundaries/barriers. We wish to explore the possibilities of crossing some of the boundaries of practice, some of the frontiers dividing country-specific cultures of research.

The Magdeburg conference will concentrate both on the contents and the results of our research, as well as on how we do our work. We would all agree that the narratives – in the widest sense of the term – that we elicit, collect, listen to, record, film, transcribe, analyse and communicate (and co-construct) are located at the very core of our theory and practice. All the more reason, we feel, to take this opportunity to turn our attention to what "goes in" to the biographical narratives in our research.

The aim is to open up a discussion around the "before" and "after" (and the "beside" and "beyond") of people's biographical processes, that is, turning our attention, besides to our more visible practices, as well to that which isn't protocolled, transcribed, described, or presented and yet which is in the stories, and is an intrinsic part of the narratives.

The many ways of doing life history and biography research, and a deep theoretical and epistemological reflection on the the practice of biographical research and biographical narratives, will be a central focus of this meeting.

We invite contributions from the following fields of research

- Biography + therapy, biographical method + counselling, auto/biographies, narratives and psychoanalysis
- Videography + medialisation of biographies
- Autobiographical writing + biographies of learning
- Visual Art, photography + narrative methods
- Documentary methods
- Literature, social media, discourse methods
- Mixed methods, CAQDAS
We also welcome presentations on research where biographical methods are used to answer questions touching on all that goes before, beside and beyond narratives. These may include, for example:

- Silence and learning in adult life (and research)
- Themes of voice and recognition in different groups and contexts
- The building and transformation of relationships (in life and research)
- Care, health, and learning
- Human becoming and the quest for wisdom
- Participation and political engagement
- Stories of loss, pain, and challenging lives
- Unconscious processes, narratives and the relationships constituting research

In our conference, we want to help create spaces for dialogue, demonstration, reflexivity and discovery. There will be a series of keynotes from internationally renowned colleagues, dialogues /round tables, alongside individual papers and symposia, focusing on our theme of before, beside and beyond the biographical narrative and the importance of this in researching learning lives.

Guidelines for submission of paper abstracts/ proposals for symposia / workshops

Abstracts should be submitted by 31st October 2013 to the conference organiser at esreabios@ovgu.de

Your paper proposal (preferably a WORD document) should have no more than 500 words and should be in Times New Roman, 12 points. The title of the abstract should be clear. Your name, etc, should NOT be included in the abstract.

Your professional / personal data (name, institutional affiliation, phone and email) should be on a separate page.

If an abstract is submitted by more than one author, one of the authors must take on the responsibility for their co-authors for all communications with the conference organiser.

The proposals for papers, symposia, workshops, posters will be blind reviewed by the Scientific Committee (see conference website).

Acceptance will be announced by

30th November 2013

Final papers (3000 – 5000 words) should be submitted by email to Rob Evans at esreabios@ovgu.de by 31st January 2014

For detailed information about

- submission of papers
- conference languages
- the conference venue
- hotel booking
- bursaries
- becoming a member of esrea

go to the conference website at

www.esreabios.ovgu.de
### Conference Fees and registration / Conference Dinner

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<tr>
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<th>Early Bird Registration (until 15th January 2014)</th>
<th>Full Fee (after 15th January 2014)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESREA members:</strong></td>
<td>€ 150</td>
<td>€ 180</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-members:</strong></td>
<td>€ 200</td>
<td>€ 230</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PhD/Research Students:</strong></td>
<td>€ 75 (a limited number of bursaries for PhD students will be available)*</td>
<td>€ 100</td>
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**Conference Dinner:** € 40

For questions and expressions of interest in the meantime, please contact the Conference Organiser at esreabios@ovgu.de or the Convenors of the Network:

**Professor Linden West** (convenor of the network)
Canterbury Christ Church University
linden.west@canterbury.ac.uk

**Professor Laura Formenti** (convenor of the network)
Università di Milano Bicocca
laura.formenti@unimib.it

### Organising Institutions

**ESREA (European Society for Research on the Education of Adults)** [www.esrea.org](http://www.esrea.org)

ESREA promotes and disseminates theoretical and empirical research on the education of adults and adult learning in Europe through research networks, conferences and publications. It was established in 1991 as a scientific society which provides a Europe-wide forum for all researchers’ engaged in adult education and learning. Today it has more than 400 members (individual and institutional) throughout Europe. It comprises a series of research networks that hold annual seminars for the exchange and scientific opened debate of research results and to encourage publications.

**Sprachenzentrum/Language Centre, Magdeburg University**

**Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg** [www.ovgu.de](http://www.ovgu.de)