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## **Education**

PhD at School of Education, University of Bath.  
Thesis supervisor: Dr. Jack Whitehead.

## **PhD research**

I was awarded a PhD from the School of Education, University of Bath, in 2006.  
Thesis title: How am I creating a pedagogy of the unique through a web of betweenness?  
The thesis can be accessed at <http://people.bath.ac.uk/edsajw/farren.shtml>  
As higher education educator, my thesis involved the development of an evidential base that shows my educational influence in the learning of students as they create their own living educational theories. This evidential based can be accessed at <http://webpages.dcu.ie/~farrenm/>. Clicking on the Educators section at <http://webpages.dcu.ie/~farrenm/currentwork.html> brings you to the Dissertations section at <http://webpages.dcu.ie/~farrenm/dissertations.html> where you will find examples of living educational theory theses. These accounts of educational influence in learning have been legitimated in DCU.

## **Other Qualifications**

M.Ed. (Educational Technology), University of Bath. 1990-1992.  
Research: 'The facilitation of cooperative group-work through use of Interactive video'.  
Teaching Certificate, Garnett College of Education, London. 1988-1989.  
HND Computer Studies, North West College of Technology.

## **Work Experience**

*2002-present*: Lecturer, School of Education, DCU.  
*1999-2002*: Lecturer, School of Computer Applications, DCU.  
*1998-1999*: Research Officer, Centre for Teaching Computing, DCU.  
*1992-1998*: Teacher, British School of Brussels, Tervuren, Belgium.  
*1989-1990*: Migrant Training Company (European Project), Islington, N. London.  
*1987-1988*: Islington Sixth Form College, North London. UK.  
*1985-1987*: Mary Ward Adult Education Centre, WC1, London.  
*1982-1985*: Auto Montan Werke, Co. Donegal.

## **Research Groups**

I am one of the founder members of APPLET – a cross-faculty research group in DCU (<http://www.appletresearchgroup.org>) established in 2007. Applet is affiliated with the Learning Innovation and Knowledge Centre (LiNk), UDRC.

The Applied Learning Technology Research Group (APPLET) is a new research group within DCU dedicated to the advancement of education worldwide through applied learning technologies. APPLET is organised around projects that achieve our mission through research, collaboration, and action.

Working in collaboration with partners including Cambridge University Press, Futurelab and GeSCI, APPLET will use a multi-discipline, multi-stakeholder approach to transforming education at all levels and ages through applied research.

- APPLET colleagues are drawn from a wide spectrum of backgrounds and experience from instructional designers to engineers, teaching to business and from various units in DCU including DCU School of Business, DCU School of Communications, DCU Invent and DCU School of Education Studies.

## **Current research projects**

- Exploring how teachers and learners discover, evaluate and use digital learning resources on globalgridforlearning in collaboration with Cambridge University Press.
- Research on the use of Interactive Whiteboards in Secondary schools.
- Ubiquitous learning in association with Arizona State University.

## **European Projects**

### **Socrates Comenius 2.1 project**

From 2003-2006 I was involved in a Socrates Comenius Project – BASICS. This was a transnational project aiming to improve the success rate of educational reform in the European Union. Educators from nine countries took part in this project. The final project outcome resulted in an International Conference on Change Management in Schools and a book publication called 'Spirals of Change: Educational Change as a Driving Force for School Improvement'.

### **EU Telematics Applications programmes Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci project**

In 2000, I carried out an evaluation study of Multimedia Authoring for Language Tutors and Educational Development (MALTED) on behalf of the National Centre for Technology in Education. The aim of the MALTED was to design and implement a telematic solution for collection and re-use of multimedia materials for language tutors.

## **National Research Projects**

### *Science Unleashed Project*

*Dr. Odilla Finlayson and Dr. Margaret Farren*

In 2005, I carried out an evaluation study on digital content in the teaching of Junior Cycle Science on behalf of the NCTE. This involved carrying out evaluation studies in a number of schools in Ireland and writing up a final report on the Junior Cycle Science DVDs and website. The report provided key recommendations.

Project report: <http://www.ncte.ie/documents/NCTEAnnualReport2005English.pdf>

### **University-School Collaborative Project (SETANTA project)**

In 1999 I established the Setanta project with Ray O'Neill of St. Aidens Secondary School, Dublin. Setanta was a collaborative project between the School of Computer Applications, DCU and St. Aidens School. The project ran from 1999-2002 and resulted

in the development of courseware for use in the school curriculum. The following publications and conference presentations also resulted from the project.

#### *Conferences as part of the Setanta project*

- Seventh International Conference, Integrating Learning Technology: Practice, Policy and Partnership, UMIST, Manchester, UK. 2000
- World Conference on Internet and World Wide Web, San Antonio, Texas, 2000.
- Computer Education Society of Ireland Conference, 2001.
- Information Technology for Teacher Education Conference – Shaping the Future. Trinity College, Dublin. 2002

#### *Publications as part of the Setanta project*

Setanta: a University School Collaborative project in 'Challenges for Learning in a digital Age' publications. 2002. Also available on <http://odtl.dcu.ie/wp/2001/odtl-2001-01.html>

Project details: <http://www.staidanscbs.com/Archive/2000/Setanta/>

### **Online Learning module for teachers in Ireland**

In 2006, I designed and developed an online learning programme for teachers on behalf of the NCTE. This online development work was carried out in collaboration with teachers on the M.Sc eLearning programme in DCU. The NCTE online module will be made available to all teachers in Ireland.

### **Research Awards from DCU**

- Awarded funding from the DCU Research Advisory Panel for research presentation at an International Action Research conference in Holland. (2006).

- Awarded research funding from the Faculty of Humanities, DCU for research presentation at the American Education Research Association Conference in Chicago. (2007).
- Awarded funding from the DCU Strategic Alliance Research Travel Support fund for two study visits to Arizona State University. (2007).
- Awarded funding from the Office of Innovation and Business Relations for International Conference travel. (2000)

## **Learning Innovation Awards from DCU**

- Awarded a Teaching and Learning Fellowship Award from DCU in 2002. This is a special fund designated by the DCU Executive Committee to support strategic innovation and enhancement of the University's Teaching and Learning activities.
- Nominated for the Presidents Award in Teaching and Learning in 2004.  
<http://www.dcu.ie/news/2004/may/mfarren.shtml>
- Awarded funding from Learning Innovation Fund in 2005 for the development of an enhanced integrated environment for e-learning within moodle.
- Awarded funding from Learning Innovation Fund in 2007 for the eLife Connecting People project. The purpose of the eLife Connecting People project is to share the e-media accounts of practitioner-researchers on the eLearning programme as they ask, research and answer the question, 'how do I improve my practice?'

## **Invited talks**

at: Opening Session of Dublin Institute of Technology's eLearning summer school. (2006)

at: Learning Innovation Seminars, DCU on 'Reflective Practice' (2005).

at: (Invited Symposium on Teacher and Teacher Education) European Association for European Research on Learning and Instruction.(EARLI), Demonstrating accountability through our self-study practices as teacher educators. ( 2005).

at: Presentation on Reflective Practice and Action Research to M.Ed. group at NUI Galway. (2004)

at: Critical Debates in Action Research Conference, University of Limerick. How do We Exercise our Pedagogy of the Unique while Educating for Social Formations? (2002).

at: Presentation on Research Methods to M.Sc group at Trinity College, Dublin (2001).