



## CRADALL SEMINAR

Wednesday 2 June 2010

1.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow

Room 213 St. Andrew's Building

**" The Future of Adult Education in the 21st Century "**

presented by

**Professor Chris Duke Professor Alan Rogers Professor Lalage Bown**

***RMIT Melbourne***

***University of East Anglia***

***University of Glasgow***

**Summary:** This special seminar is one of the final public acts of the Department of Adult and Continuing Education (DACE) at the University of Glasgow which, like all departments at the university, will cease to exist in September 2010 following re-structuring. However the activity in what is one of the UK's and the world's largest academic departments of its kind will continue and develop in the future, offering programmes of study to citizens and communities within Glasgow, informed by expert knowledge and research that crosses all the disciplines of the university. In this seminar the speakers, all very well known in the field of adult education and with unrivalled international experience, as well as local knowledge and experience, will both reflect on the past and project into the future for the discipline. Despite being battered and bruised in some many parts of the UK, adult education in all its forms still is a vital part of the offer of the publicly engaged university and an important local component of a global offer.

**Professor Chris Duke will begin proceedings with a presentation entitled *The evaporation of 'extramural', the mobility of learning, and the Janus of LLL***

This essentially speculative presentation invites participants to reflect and compare views on why after years of embattlement the Great Tradition of liberal adult education has in visible organisational and financial terms finally succumbed – and on what is taking its place. Rather than talk about university mission, structure and objectives he will float ideas about university myth, culture and character. He will also try to consider the condition of socially and politically purposeful adult education – and learning – in our networked local-global environment and ruminate on the place of the various media, including social networking, in all this. As to lifelong learning, how does this concept, now widely adopted politically, help and hinder?

**Professor Alan Rogers will continue with a presentation entitled *The Role of a University in the Promotion of Adult Education***

He will (briefly) look at university extra-mural work in the 1960s and 1970s and suggest reasons why in his eyes we failed; he will then look (again briefly) at some characteristics of adult education in UK today; and he will (briefly) suggest some ways in which university staff dedicated to the promotion of adult education in a School of Education can look into the future. He will draw upon two different epistemologies to illustrate his studies.

**Professor Lalage Bown's** contribution will take the form of a paper suggesting possible options for the future of adult education, within the concepts of lifelong learning and the democratic intellect, in Scotland and particularly the University of Glasgow. The previous contributors focus on principles, so she will largely deal with speculation and strategy. One starting point will be the premise that it is even more important in straitened times for the University to engage with wider society - DACE, with its access work and open programmes, is a major instrument for this. The second starting point will be a reminder that in the tough Thatcherite years, unlike the English universities, the Glasgow Department of Adult and Continuing Education expanded its work and increased its influence; there is no reason why adversity should not lead to new achievement. Speculation about open programmes will cover the new media, changing demographics and the assertion of Scottish identity. Strategy will include the question: where are lifelong learning's allies and what structural opportunities exist in this time of internal structural change?

Questions and discussion will be encouraged as part of the seminar.



**Profiles:** *Professor Chris Duke* currently holds honorary positions as professor in four universities in three Commonwealth countries. He has worked in universities since starting as a Cambridge tutor in 1960 and a Woolwich Polytechnic assistant lecturer from 1961. He entered the extramural world as a storm-trooper turned Young Turk in Raybould's Leeds extramural empire in 1966, and led the equivalent department at the ANU in Australia for 16 years. He founded and led the latest-to-be-endowed RB University of Warwick Department of Continuing Education in 1985-96, then until recently worked in Australian and New Zealand universities and as Director Higher Education for NIACE. His passion reflected in activities and published work has always been in issues of equity and social justice, active citizenship, and how organisations behave. Since the early seventies much of his energy has been devoted to working with NGOs especially in the 'developing world'. He edited the international universities' Congress journal for 25 years, and has played leading roles in UALL, ASPBAE and ICAE, enjoying life membership of all three. He is not good at growing old gracefully.

*Professor Alan Rogers* is an adult educator with a long and wide experience of working in many countries, especially in south Asia and Africa. Currently Special Professor of Adult Education at the University of Nottingham and Visiting Professorial Fellow at the University of East Anglia, his key concerns are with adult learning, training of trainers, adult literacy in the contexts of development, and non-formal adult education. Among his key publications are *Teaching Adults* (Open University Press, 1986-2003, fourth edition in the press and several translations), *Adults Learning for Development* (Cassell 1992), *What is the difference? a new critique of adult learning and teaching* (NIACE 2003), *Non-formal education: flexible schooling or participatory education?* (Hong Kong University and Kluwer 2004) and *Urban Literacy: communication, learning and identity in development contexts* (UNESCO Institute of Education 2006). He is a member of a team working on the training of adult literacy facilitators in ethnographic approaches to adult literacy (LETTER) in India, Ethiopia and currently Uganda and Sierra Leone which has already resulted in three publications, details of which are on the website: [www.uppinghamseminars.com](http://www.uppinghamseminars.com)

**Professor Emeritus Lalage Bown**, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow, worked in university adult education for 44 years, including 31 years in six African universities, founding or co-founding four adult education departments. Director of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Glasgow from 1981 to 1992, she was awarded an Honorary DLitt by the University in 2002. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the Educational Institute of Scotland, was a Trustee of the National Museums of Scotland, chaired the Scottish Museums Council and the Scottish Adult Basic Education Unit and played a leading part in the Scottish Institute for Adult and Continuing Education, Network Scotland and the Scottish Community Education Council. In the UK, she was on the British Council Board and contributed to the National Report on Museums Education. Internationally, she was a member of the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Student Mobility and has undertaken consultancies for UNESCO, the Economic Commission for Africa, the ILO and the US State Department. Recently, she gave the UNESCO International Literacy Lecture and was inducted into the International Hall of Fame for Adult and Continuing Education.

**Chairperson:** The seminar will be chaired by Professor Michael Osborne, Director of CRADALL

**Contact:** To register for the seminar contact **Steven Campbell** (CRADALL) at [steven.campbell@educ.gla.ac.uk](mailto:steven.campbell@educ.gla.ac.uk)

*The seminar is free and open to all. Refreshments will be available from 1300.*