

**Educational Policies and
Priorities in Commonwealth
Small States:
An Introduction to the Research**

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The Research Centre for International and Comparative Studies (ICS)

- Pleased to welcome you to ICS
- Long tradition of comparative and international research in education – one of the leading centres for such work nationally and internationally
- Commitment to understanding the place of culture and context in educational development and educational research worldwide
- Collective attention to the dilemmas generated by the uncritical international transfer of educational and development policies and practices

Education in Small States Research Group

- Located within ICS – www.smallstates.net
- The only specialist research group working on education in small states in the UK
- Established since 1994: a network of over 100 members worldwide – within and beyond small states
- Close working links with international agencies and organisations such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, Council for Education in the Commonwealth, DFID, UNESCO / IIEP, and Ministries of Education and Universities in Saint Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands, Belize, Botswana, Mauritius, Malta, Maldives, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Introduction to the Research

- Commissioned and funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat who we gratefully acknowledge and thank for supporting the work and this day conference in Bristol
- A study of educational policies and priorities in Commonwealth small states designed to identify how changing global agendas and contexts are influencing contemporary educational trends and development priorities

Introduction to the Research (continued)

- Intended to inform and feed into deliberations at the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 2009
- And, in the light of CCEM input, to document Commonwealth small states experience, inform ongoing policy and practice, and contribute to future support provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat and related agencies
- The final report is to be published later this year by the Commonwealth Secretariat

Introduction to the Research Team

- Convened 2008: collaboration - Comsec, ICS and UNESCO/IIEP
- Director
 - Professor Michael Crossley
- Lead Team
 - Prof Mark Bray (Director IIEP, Paris / Chair Professor University of Hong Kong)
 - Steve Packer (Formerly Deputy Director GMR, Paris / International Consultant, London)
- Team Members
 - Professor David Atchoarena (Director of the Division for Education Strategies and Capacity Building , UNESCO, Paris)
 - Dr. Michaela Martin (Programme Specialist, IIEP, Paris)
 - Mindy Colin (Doctoral Researcher UOB, Mauritius)
 - Terra Sprague, (Research Fellow and Doctoral Researcher, UOB)
 - H.E. Dame Pearlette Louisy (Governor General, Saint Lucia)
- Working in collaboration with 30+ colleagues in Commonwealth Small States and ICS/IIEP Networks

The Research Presentations

- Approximately 1 hour during which we will identify key policy issues and priorities that emerge in the research study.
- Focus upon what is distinctive for small state contexts
- Three speakers with 20 minutes each:
 - Steve Packer
 - Conceptual and definitional issues
 - Statistics on Commonwealth small states
 - The challenges of changing global contexts
 - Terra Sprague
 - Conceptualising and delivering basic education
 - Michael Crossley
 - Potential for higher education, international collaboration and research
- This will be followed by a panel response after the tea break chaired by Professor Richard Mawditt, and opportunity for plenary discussion chaired by Dr. Keith Holmes.