

English Conference: A Project for English

Purpose

The aim of the conference is to promote thinking and work on how English (whether in the UK or anywhere else) might be imagined into the future. Beyond opening up and exploring the tensions and contradictions of the School-subject English as it is presently experienced and produced, it aims to develop an agenda for change that pays attention to the diverse interests, voices and needs of those who have a legitimate stake in English. In that spirit the conference will bring together teachers, policy makers and academics.

Focus

The conference will provide a forum for dialogue, grounded in the experiences of teachers and in concerns articulated by academics and policy makers around a curriculum focussed on the needs of learners in their future lives. Major issues will be:

- What remain as essential concerns of the subject English and how should they be developed; what new concerns are emerging as jostling for space on that centre ground?
- What are the potential, imagined, ideological and political projects of English at this time ?
- What are necessary curricula and pedagogies for English in their relation to social & cultural movements outside the school?
- What is the discursive, contested space of policy and curriculum in English and how might these be reconfigured?
- What is the newly central place of text(s), including multimodal and digitally mediated texts. What is their relation to 'shapes of the curriculum'?
- Is there a sense of the profession of English teacher and the legitimate place, role and function of that profession in the community?

Organisation

The conference will take place over two days. The first day will be an open event for about 200 participants. It will offer a series of keynote presentations, possibly with some specifically targeted workshops. The second day will be a smaller event, of about 60 participants who will largely be drawn from the previous day's attendance. The second day will be conducted through workshops with plenary sessions, and will focus on developing themes from the previous day with the aim of setting a broad program of future work, as a structure for ongoing dialogue.

Title

A project for English

Draft: reply to c.jewitt@ioe.ac.uk or g.kress@ioe.ac.uk

≥ 4 ~~places~~ places for CLIE?