

Centre for Educational Research and Evaluation Services (CERES)

growing excellence in research



Educational Visions Inaugural Professorial Lecture Series

‘Can progressive education make a comeback?’

The case of Summerhill School in the audit culture

by **Professor Ian Stronach** Professor of Educational Research at LJMU, Faculty of Education, Community and Leisure.

Thursday 28th January, 4.00-6.00pm, Johnson Foundation Auditorium, LJMU Art and Design Academy.

Professor Ian Stronach is a former member of the Centre for Applied Research in Education, University of East Anglia, completing his PhD there. Subsequently he was appointed Professor of Education at the University of Stirling in 1991, going on to lead research development at Manchester Metropolitan University as Research Professor from 1995-2008. He is a former Editor of the British Educational Research Journal (1996-2007), and a current Editor of Power & Education.

Professor Stronach’s Vision

This lecture will look into 10 years research and evaluation work at A.S. Neill’s famous Summerhill School – or perhaps formerly famous – the world’s first ‘child democracy’, as the school has it.

The ‘case’ covers the Tribunal in 2000 when the Secretary of State claimed Ofsted inspection weaknesses called for radical changes to the school. The author was an ‘expert witness’ for the School. The government’s case collapsed. Later, research into the school funded by the ESRC allowed us to offer research evidence on how the school worked.

Further Ofsted inspection in 2008 found that the school was ‘outstanding’ in some respects, and the long-standing attempts by Inspectorate to close or change the school are in current abeyance. But the next Ofsted inspection is just around the corner...

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For further information contact Emma FitzGerald - tel: 0151 231 5334 email: e.fitzgerald@ljmu.ac.uk
or to book a place, please contact Conference and Event Services - tel: 0151 231 3668 email: professorials@ljmu.ac.uk

2010 Programme

Thursday 28th January

'Can progressive education make a comeback? The case of Summerhill School in the audit culture' Prof. Ian Stronach

Monday 22nd February

'Can New Web Technologies Support Radical Pedagogies?'

Prof. Patrick Carmichael

Thursday 18th March

'Including children with special educational needs in physical education – Have we arrived at utopia?' Prof. Philip Vickerman

Thursday 15th April

'The Cargo Cult of 'Education, Education, Education' Prof. Marion Jones

Wednesday 12th May

'Teaching and Learning for a Complex World: a 'wicked' problem?'

Prof. Sue Thompson

Thursday 27th May

'Educational outcomes of fieldwork and expeditions in the UK, Arctic, Alps and Rockies' Prof. Tim Stott

Thursday 24th June

'Impact of LJMU on the local and national community: an education and training perspective' Prof. Patricia Shenton

Tuesday 28th September

'Wise people learn when they can': researching leadership in education' Prof. Mark Brundrett

Thursday 28th October

'Inhabiting different bodies over time: Pedagogical challenges and the narrative turn' Prof. Andrew Sparkes

Thursday 9th December

'Education - subject, process or liberation: a revisionist analysis'

Prof. Diana Burton

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