

# CENTRE NEWS

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The April newsletter brings much news in the way of our international connections. In addition to the wonderful work of Centre members, we were fortunate to host Dr. Susanne Miesera from the Technical University of Munich at Western from March 25-April 24. Dr. Miesera has worked with Centre members Dr. Laura Sokal, Dr. Donna Mc-Ghie Richmond, and me over the years in the area of teacher education for inclusive education. She presented her work in different talks to B.Ed and MA students. In addition, she gave a faculty address which some members attended in person and on Zoom. The recording of her talk "Inclusive education in Canada and in the German-speaking countries in Europe: Germany, Austria and Switzerland. What are the current challenges?" can be accessed here:

[Watch the recorded session](#)

I am looking forward to our meeting at CSSE and seeing many of you in person. Keep using the link found at the end of the newsletter to report Centre activities and other interesting research and practice opportunities that you want us to share with the larger community.

**Are you or your student(s) presenting at CSSE? Let us know! We are creating a schedule that highlights all Centre members.**

## UNESCO 2024

UNESCO, in conjunction with International Forums of Inclusion Practitioners (IFIP) recently hosted a 3-day event at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. On Wednesday March 13th, delegates from around the globe gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the [Salamanca Statement](#).

This event included reflection on how far we have come in the past 30 years, but also consideration for areas of continued improvement for inclusive education. On the 14th and 15th of March, IFIP and UNESCO hosted the [Global Inclusive Schools' Forum: From practitioners to policymakers](#), which included keynote presentations and panel discussions highlighting exemplars of inclusive education from around the world. Drs. Steve Sider, Monique Somma, and John Freer, of our centre, joined the conference in Paris. They will be developing a brief virtual presentation with the key takeaways to share with our group.

In addition, for those attending CSSE, Steve, Monique and John will be providing a debrief of the event on Saturday morning @ 9am for anyone who may be interested. The digital presentation will be shared in May and a reminder of the debrief session will be discussed at our Centre meeting in June at CSSE.



## RESEARCH UPDATES

Drs. Lesley Eblie Trudel and Kishi Anderson Leachman, along with Wayne Davies, are beginning a new project titled: A Review of Programming through the Lenses of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with the Winnipeg School Division. The purpose of this study is to examine the shift in service delivery in a large urban school district, from specialized programs for students with additional learning needs to programming for all students incorporating elements of equity, diversity and inclusion. This is a mixed methods study capturing data through an online survey and focus groups with students, parents/caregivers, and various school division staff. The results will be shared with the school division's senior administration and board of trustees, and the findings will be published. Stay tuned for updates!

## AERA SYPOSIUM

Earlier this month, CAEP (Canadian Association for Educational Psychology) was invited to present a symposium at AERA (American Educational Research Association) in Philadelphia. Submissions were welcome from the EEI special issue, and 5 papers were selected for the panel, including various centre members. The symposium's focus was on work that has been done in international contexts related to inclusive education, policy, programming, training and implementation, as they relate to and support UNESCO's call to action for inclusive education for all children by 2030. The symposium stimulated critical questions and engaging discussion among presenters and participants in relation to Canada's role in advancing inclusive education on a global level.

### Presenters at AERA

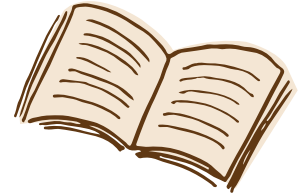
- 1) Framing the Symposium: Why a Focus on Canada's Connection to the World on Inclusive Education? **Jacqueline Specht, Steve Sider**
- 2) "We Need Structures in Place": Exploring Special Education within Polycsaped International Schools Overseas. **Rebecca Stroud**.
- 3) How do attitudes and self-efficacy predict teachers' intentions to teach in inclusive classrooms? A cross-national comparison between Canada, Germany, Greece, Italy, and Switzerland. **Caroline Sahli Lozano & Sergej Wüthrich**.
- 4) A case study on inclusive education in Mauritius and Ontario, Canada: an exploration of Policies and Practices. **Deewakarsingh Authelsingh and Steve Sider**.
- 5) Supporting the transition toward inclusion in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. **Margo Shuttleworth, Monique Somma, John Freer, and Sheila Bennett**



**CURRENTLY READING...**

Disability theatre as critical participatory action research: Lessons for inclusive research by Rachelle Hole and **Leyton Schnellert**. Read it [here](#).

How high school 'university' courses matter for all post-secondary access – more than the name implies. By Kelly Gallagher-Mackay, Carl E. James, Christine Corso, **Gillian Parekh**, and Robert S. Brown. Read it [here](#).



A special issue of Exceptionality Education International titled "Inclusive education: Canada's connection to the world." Co-edited by Centre members Jacqui Specht and Steve Sider. Read it [here](#).



**JUN**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU AT CSSE!**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12**

Centre meeting: 3:00pm at Burnside  
1104, McGill University

Centre dinner: 6:00pm;  
Location TBD

**What's happening on X?****CRC Inc Ed**

@InclusiveEd

Parents! We have partnered with Monash University in Australia to globally recruit parents/carers of children with disabilities in our online survey. Follow the link to share perceptions and opinions of your child(ren)'s education. PLEASE SHARE WIDELY!

[https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_befcr1W5HeDfnHo](https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_befcr1W5HeDfnHo)

**Steve Sider**

@drstevesider

Wrapping up the global inclusive schools forum at @UNESCO in Paris... inclusion is about belonging which is cemented through relationships. Lots of work to be done. #LeadtoInclude

**Jess Whitley**

@EducatorJess

I would add "Education without inclusion is abandonment" and "Education without support is not inclusion."

[@JacquelineSpec9](#)

**Don't forget to tweet, tag us, and reshare!**

**Check out our Linktree for all links related to the Centre!**

**[Click HERE](#)**

