

Catherine Burke

Catherine Burke is an historian of education. Her research focuses on 20th and 21st century progressive education with a particular interest in material contexts. She collaborates with architects designing schools today who are interested in drawing useful knowledge from past efforts to design schools to fit the child. She is currently working on transatlantic transferences of knowledge about the design of education during the 'open learning' era of the 1960s and 70s.

Recent publications

Feet, footwork, footwear and “being alive” in the modern school.

[Paedagogica Historica](#)

International Journal of the History of Education

Volume 54, 2018 - [Issue 1-2: Special Issue: Education and the Body](#)

This article considers the theoretical argument of anthropologist Tim Ingold, that the denial and subsequent encasement of bare feet in footwear was a critical characteristic of the development of modern societies, in exploring three aspects of feet, footwork, and footwear in the history of the modern school.

Humanism, modernism and designing education: exploring progressive relations between Australia, New Zealand and the West Riding of Yorkshire 1930s–1970s

[History of Education](#)

Journal of the History of Education Society

Volume 47, 2018 - [Issue 2: Sight, Sound and Text in the History of Education](#)

This article takes as a starting point the career of Sir Alec Clegg, Chief Education Officer for the West Riding of Yorkshire (1945–1974), and traces his professional connections with educationists in Australia and New Zealand.

Current funded research projects

[Educational Aims and Values through Architecture: revisiting radical pasts to make space for broader visions of education](#)

University of Cambridge Arts and Humanities Research Fund.

Recently completed funded research project

[Sir Alec Clegg revisited.](#)

'Sir Alec Clegg Revisited' was a one-year research project for the academic year 2016/2017 funded by a University of Cambridge Arts and Humanities

Research Grant and based at the Faculty of Education. The project is led by Dr Catherine Burke. Lottie Hoare worked as the Research Assistant. The object of the project was to evaluate the significance for educational history and current practice of the career of Sir Alec Clegg (1909-1986).

Recently completed PhD studies

Lottie Hoare - 'Secondary Education in BBC broadcast 1944-1965: drawing out networks of conversation and visions of reform'

Danai Giampili - 'Exploring the use of participatory practices in Greek museum education through the prism of identity'.

Emma Dyer - 'Where do beginner readers read in the English, mainstream primary school and where could they read?'

Current registered PhD candidates

Tom Bellfield - Tom's current research centres on exploring the use of design as a means to generate and support conversations between individuals, within schools, about education.

Karolina Szynalska - The principal aim of Karolina's study is to explore what insights an evolutionary approach to the subject of school design can afford policy makers, educators and architects.