

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## **Prof Stuart Billingham**

Stuart has worked in tertiary education for nearly 30 years. His teaching in sociology and his research, writings and practice has centred on issues of inequality and widening participation especially in higher education. Among a wide range of policy and practice development work in this field over many years, and numerous presentations at major national and international conferences, he was a member of the national 'Aimhigher' Evidence Group which sponsored research helping to significantly enhance our understanding of what works best in trying to widen access to higher education. He was also a member of the ministerial task group which advised the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on new national good practice guidance for targeting activities and resources to widen access, published in May 2007. Stuart is the UK academic representative on the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research (CDESR).

Stuart is Editor of the European Access Network (EAN) e-newsletter ([www.ean-edu.org](http://www.ean-edu.org)). His inaugural professorial lecture was published as *Old Dogs and New tricks: Skills, Lifelong Learning and Higher Education*, in FACE-to-FACE (the e-journal of the Forum for Access and Continuing Education), Issue 30, Summer 2008 – see [www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/face2face.html](http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/face2face.html) . He is one of the editors of *Challenging isolation: the role of lifelong learning* published March 2009 also by the Forum for Access and Continuing Education (ISBN: 978-1-905858-15-6).

## **Marion Coy**

Marion Coy was appointed Director of the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) in October 2002, becoming the second Director of the Institute. She graduated with a degree in History and English from University College Galway and taught for a time at secondary level in Dublin before joining GMIT in the early 1980s, when the Institute was known as the Regional Technical College Galway. Marion Coy began her career in GMIT as a lecturer in communications and immediately set about introducing more humanities subjects to the curriculum. In 1993 she set up a new Department of Humanities and successfully lobbied for the establishment of an arts-based campus in the city, Cluain Mhuire, which offers courses in film, television, art and design. She became Head of Centre at Cluain Mhuire and under her guidance RTC Galway also became one of the first Irish colleges to offer theology courses. In 1998, Marion Coy was appointed head of the amalgamated Schools of Business Studies and Humanities. She served a term as a staff representative on the Governing Body and was also a member of the Academic Council.

As Director of GMIT, she oversees a community of 9,000 students, 600 full-time staff and 400 part-time staff in four campuses. Marion Coy has delivered numerous papers and addressed national and international conferences on topics including: European Higher Education Policy/Bologna Process, Spatial Strategy/Regional Development (BMW region), Youth Culture, Contemporary Irish Theatre, Cultural Industry and Education in Ireland, and the Arts. She is a member of the Executive Council of the Board of Directors of Institutes of Technology and the Coiste Liaison with NUI, Galway. She is on the board of the Regional Higher Education Network (Lionra), and on the Galway City Development Board, and is associated with a range of community and arts organisations in the west. She worked towards the development of tertiary education in Ireland and contributed to the deliberations of the Points Commission, the development of the Bologna Process, the establishment of Lionra and the development of a national quality framework for the Institutes of Technology. Marion Coy lives near Tuam, Co. Galway, with her husband Joe Coy, a teacher, and her three children, Garrett, Ruairí and Deirdre.

## **Prof Rob Cuthbert**

Professor is Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West of England, UK, and Professor of Higher Education Management. His current emphasis is on academic freedom, the links between teaching and research, higher education culture and the social purposes of higher education. He has a continuing interest in ambiguity and paradox in higher education organisation and management, and in widening participation, HE-FE links, marketing and students 'as (much more than) customers'.

Through his research and practice Professor Robert Cuthbert says he aims to change the way people think about management and policy making in higher education. He says:

'I oppose managerialism and remote policy making and try to help managers and policy makers to be more authentic through stronger connections with academic practice - what academics actually do.'

Robert Cuthbert teaches on range of programmes, from Undergraduate to Doctoral level, inside and outside the University of the West of England. His main areas are: higher education policy; university management; organisation and strategic planning; access and participation in higher education; marketing.

## **Prof Kelvin Everest**

Professor Kelvin Everest is Bradley Professor of Modern Literature at the University of Liverpool. He was Dean of Arts for three years (1998-2001) and served for six years (2001-2007) as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University, with responsibility for Learning and Teaching, quality assurance and enhancement, widening participation, diversity and equality issues, staff and student services, and liaison with the student community. He also had overall responsibility for the Faculties of Science and Social Studies. He chaired the University's Heritage Committee and had oversight of the University's preparations for Liverpool Capital of Culture, 2008. He is currently Director for Academic Affairs in China, with particular responsibility for academic liaison with the University's new venture of a University in Suzhou near Shanghai. He is also Public Orator of the University.

Professor Everest's research interests are in English poetry of the Romantic period, and he has published widely on Coleridge, Keats, Shelley and their contemporaries. He is currently editing Shelley's Complete Poetical Works. He is Associate Editor of the New Dictionary of National Biography, and a member of the Peer College of the Arts and Humanities Research Council. He is a Governor of the Royal Northern College of Music, and a member of the North West Regional Board of the National Trust.

## **Fran Ferrier**

Fran Ferrier is Senior Research Fellow with the Centre for the Economics of Education and Training, a joint venture of Monash University (Melbourne, Australia) and the Australian Council for Educational Research.

Fran has a longstanding interest in equity issues in education and training and has conducted many projects in this field. Her most recent work includes: a stock-take of social inclusion in higher education and vocational education and training; research into the training needs of older workers; and a study of attrition among first year students in higher education.

Fran's other research interests are innovation and its impacts and the measurement and management of intellectual capital.

For the EAN Fran recently co-edited a collection of papers from previous conferences.

## **Dr Michel Feutrie**

Michel Feutrie is currently Professor in Sociology of Education at the Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille (USTL) and President of European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN).

He has been from 1987 to 2007 Vice-President of USTL in charge of continuing education and Director of the Continuing Service from 1986 to 2006. He has been appointed from 2002 to 2006 Rapporteur Général of the "Commission Nationale de la Certification Professionnelle (CNCP)", the new French Agency in charge of the French National Qualification Framework and of the national "Répertoire" (RNCP) registering all French qualifications.

He has published numerous articles and edited books in the field of university continuing education, lifelong learning issues and validation of non-formal and informal learning. His main current activities and contributions are shared across three fields:

- Lifelong learning: mainly on the contribution of higher education to this perspective
- Validation of non-formal learning: leader of numerous working groups, contributor to the regulations, pioneer in implementation in universities
- National qualification systems and development of methodologies in registration of qualification in national Repertoire

In 2008 Michel Feutrie played a significant role in drawing up the European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning.

## **Dr Barbara Ischinger**

Dr Ischinger has held a range of senior international positions over the last thirteen years in the fields of international co-operation and education, with a focus on Europe, the United States and Africa.

Before joining the OECD, Dr Ischinger was the executive Vice President for International Affairs and Public Relations at Berlin Humboldt Universität (2000-2005). Her experience includes the reshaping of academic curricula and professional training to adjust them to the labour market conditions and social development.

Between 1992 and 1994 she was a Director at UNESCO heading the Division of International Cultural Co-operation, Presentation and Enrichment of Cultural Identities. From 1994 to 2000, she was Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Germany.

Dr Ischinger's experience with the American university system includes several sojourns of teaching and research at Columbia and Harvard Universities.

She holds a PhD from Heidelberg University and a post-doctoral degree from Cologne University in African Literature. Alongside her full time appointments since 1993, she has been Adjunct Professor in the Institute of African Studies at Cologne University, where she has undertaken research and supervised MA and PhD Students.

She has published numerous papers in English, German and French in the field of international relations and on the international higher education system.

## **Tricia Jenkins, MBE**

Tricia Jenkins is an innovative educator with high national visibility and a growing international reputation. Recognised as an expert in widening participation, access and equity issues, with 30 years experience as a practitioner and over 12 years as manager, consultant and policy adviser. She was awarded the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the 2005 New Years Honours list for services to higher education.

Tricia is Head of Educational Opportunities at the University of Liverpool, where she is responsible for their ground-breaking widening participation activities. Her team delivers a substantial programme of local, regional, national and international activities with a variety of partners, including Aimhigher and the Council for Opportunity for Education in the USA.

The University of Liverpool has developed particular expertise on raising aspirations and understanding of university in younger age groups, most notably through its Professor Fluffy programme.

## **Thomas G. Mortenson**

Tom is Senior Scholar at the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education <<http://www.pellinstitute.org>> in Washington, D. C. and an independent higher education policy analyst living in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Tom's policy research focuses on opportunity for postsecondary education and training and the ways public policy fosters or impedes access to that opportunity. He has special concern for populations that are under-represented in higher education. His studies have addressed academic and financial

preparation for college, access, choice, persistence, attainment, and labour force entry of college graduates. He is particularly interested in public and private finance of higher education opportunity and the enrolment consequences of the cost-shift from taxpayers to students that has been underway since 1980. He has been employed in policy research and budget analysis roles for the University of Minnesota, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois State Scholarship Commission, and the American College Testing Program.

Currently Tom is editor and publisher of /Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY/, a monthly research letter devoted to analysis and reporting on the demographics, sociology, history, politics and economics of educational opportunity after high school. He provides consulting services on higher educational opportunity policy to state and national organizations, and makes presentations on opportunity throughout the country.

## **Dr Tony Sewell**

Dr Sewell is an education consultant who has extensive experience of learning in schools. He has published widely on issues related to race, social justice and emotional and behaviourally difficult children. He is currently running a science summer school for inner city children in partnership with Imperial College. Dr Sewell is Chief Executive of Generating Genius, a charity which works in partnership with several universities and is a former board member of the Learning Trust where he was involved in the modernisation of education in Hackney. He also has experience in the media, writing for Voice and The New Statesman and regularly speaking on radio and television on subjects linked to education and the arts. He has a strong interest in diversity and has conducted research and published several articles on race and education.