

Intention:

The intention of this paper is to bring to members' attention the existence of the New and Emerging Researchers Forum (NERF's) and to further discuss how the members perceive the place and role of NERF as a formal entity within OCIES.

Main points:

1. The formalisation of NERF as an entity within OCIES is a benefit to OCIES and its early career members.
2. Formal recognition of NERF within OCIES is necessary for it to flourish.
3. The formal endorsement of two co-ordinator positions for NERF, within the OCIES General Committee, will recognise the value of NERF within OCIES.
4. The formal establishment of two co-ordinator positions will clarify the leadership of NERF.
5. An annual budget (to be agreed annually with the OCIES Executive Committee) is proposed to assist with sustaining NERF activities.
6. The NERF activities would benefit from support by senior OCIES academics.

Action required at AGM:

1. Members to discuss as to whether NERF should become a formal entity within OCIES.
2. Endorse two co-ordinator positions within the OCIES General Committee
3. Appoint two members to the shared co-ordinator positions/roles within NERF
4. Endorse the proposal for an annual budget for NERF, to be negotiated annually with the Executive Committee

Background and rationale

NERF was originally established in 2018 by OCIES members, Drs. Donella Cobb, Daniel Couch, and Sonia Fonua as part of an initiative to support new and emerging researchers within the society. The initiative was funded through the Fellowships and Networks Grant 2018 and was implemented by the provision of a day of workshops for 50 early career researchers at the 2018 OCIES conference in Wellington. This was followed by a Special Edition of the Society's International Education Journal: Comparative Perspectives which enabled seven NERF workshop participants to publish their research.

NERF has the potential to provide opportunities for the development, mentoring, and networking of new and emerging scholars across Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, and the wider Oceania region. It will provide mentoring of early career scholars/researchers by more senior and well-established academics within the society.

Proposal

This document outlines a proposed governing structure for NERF and proposed activities:

a. Governing Structure

A governing structure is required to ensure NERF is sustained and functions well. The overall aim of NERF is aligned to OCIES' vision to grow the society and membership within Oceania. NERF's governing structure could reflect the OCIES Executive Committee structure. When taking into consideration OCIES' vision to grow the society and enable wider participation by members in Oceania, we propose two coordinator roles to provide guidance to NERF akin to the shared co-presidency of OCIES. One (or both) coordinator(s) would sit on the OCIES General Committee.

We also propose the creation of a NERF working group responsible for the development of regional hubs to connect Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, and the wider moana (Oceania) from which we will draw future NERF leadership (i.e. coordinators). The working group will be responsible for generating new ideas for activities, organising those activities and ensuring that early career OCIES members have opportunities to connect with each other, build networks and share their work.

The NERF Coordinators will be responsible for calling for nominations for the working group within three months of the 2020 AGM. This working group will then together agree on governing structure, and then take that to the OCIES Executive for approval within six months of the 2020 AGM.

b. Proposed activities

- NERF coordinators -
 - creation and facilitation/leadership?? of NERF working group
 - actively participate in, and represent NERF on, the OCIES General Committee
 - membership of the International Education Journal: Comparative Perspectives editorial team
 - communicate with NERF members about OCIES matters
 - actively promote NERF, and OCIES, through networks, and work with the working group to grow membership
- NERF activities
 - organise and host NERF day symposium at OCIES conference (estimate \$2,500 for catering and koha)
 - contributions to the International Education Journal: Comparative Perspectives
 - host monthly webinars
 - annual NERF 3-minute thesis competition (estimate \$500)
 - other activities as/when developed by the working group

c. Formalisation of NERF within OCIES

As noted above, we propose that NERF is formalised as an entity within OCIES, and two shared co-ordinator positions/roles for the NERF group be established, within the OCIES General Committee. This would ensure sustainability and appropriate recognition for NERF, as well as transparency in the decision-making around NERF. We also propose an annual budget is committed by OCIES to contribute to the cost of NERF activities, the exact



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amount of which would be negotiated annually with the Executive Committee dependent on activities plans, availability of funds etc.

Another aspect that will support the formalisation of NERF within OCIES is the establishment of a group of senior and well-established OCIES academics to mentor the NERF members.