



## What can and should Comparative & International Education research from Oceania do?

OCIES 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

26<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

ACU, Melbourne, Australia

There have been many calls for the rethinking, reimagining and re-visioning of Comparative and International Education (CIE). This has occurred alongside, and in response to, critical agendas of decolonising and decarbonising, the rise of Artificial Intelligence, as well as the deep questioning of the role of both research and education in our contemporary worlds. This year marks a decade since the vote was taken to support changing the formerly named *Australian-New Zealand CIES (ANZCIES)* to *Oceania CIES (OCIES)*. This change responded to desires from our members for an identity more inclusive and welcoming of educationists from across our region, and for challenging some of the assumed borders of our Society and of CIE as a field. Choosing Oceania for the new name of the Society was a deliberate decision aimed at centring the ocean that connects us as people of/in the Pacific islands, Aotearoa, Australia and other neighbours. In OCIES we promote Oceania not as a geographic concept but as a relational space that connects all those who choose to enter, regardless of where we are researching from or in.

Ten years on from the name-change, and in light of the current tensions and debates within the field of CIE and academic research more broadly, we believe it is timely to *take stock of what it is that CIE from the Oceania region is doing, what it can do, and what it should do*. This includes considering the type of questions we ask, the type of knowledge valued and the ways of working and relating promoted and enabled through our CIE research. Conversely, what does it currently silence, hide or constrain and with what effects? OCIES offers a unique space for asking such questions, being located outside the historically constructed 'centres' of power of CIE.

We have designed the structure of the conference to honour time for connection, collaboration, and discussion, and the ethic of relationality that underpins our Society. In doing so, we have built on previous OCIES conferences in offering session types that centre opportunities for conversation and collaborative learning, and that value diversity in ways of engaging and knowing. Recognising the pressures that many of us are facing in our research and practice to achieve greater efficiency,

productivity and 'impact' with less resources, the conference is designed to be a rejuvenating space that produces connections and conversations that extend beyond the moment in time of the conference itself.

The conference will be structured around four sub-themes. These sub-themes are designed to focus discussions on what our CIE research(ers) within the Oceanian region is, can and should be doing in and for our worlds. We ask those who are submitting abstracts to consider how your area of research or practice links to or facilitates one or more of these practices.

- **Continuing and conserving:** what should stay, what has served us well, what should we continue and amplify in our educational research and practice? What needs saving and protecting? How do we do that?
- **Challenging and creating:** what should we challenge and critique in educational research and practice? And what needs to be created or constructed in its place? How do we bring about those changes? How do we critique while also being caring, fostering connections and conserving what needs to be conserved?
- **Caring:** what is cared about and how do we foster caring through our educational research and practice? How do we enact care and extend care?
- **Connecting and collaborating:** what connections and collaborations are we enabling in our educational research and practice? What connections and collaborations do CIE research(ers) within the Oceanian region enable? What helps or hinders? How do we foster positive connections and collaborations?

#### **Paper options:**

##### *1. Roundtables*

Individual papers, approximately 7-10 minutes each, in groups of 4-5 papers that will be presented at roundtable sessions. PowerPoint presentations are not mandatory, but presenters might choose to produce various resources to accompany their talk, for example, posters, art-work, a poem, photos.

A facilitator for each session will be provided by the conference organisers and will help facilitate discussion amongst the paper presenters and participants.

*(Note: pre-conference sessions will be available online to assist with preparation for roundtable presentations and how to condense research into conference presentations. These sessions will develop skills in how to share your research with others succinctly etc.)*

2. *Conversation circles*

These sessions are for those wishing to address a particular theme/area through conversational, dialogic style approach that involves all attendees in shared discussion. We encourage those submitting an abstract for these sessions to use their preferred conversational/dialogic or other interactive methodologies and name their sessions accordingly e.g. *tok stori, talanoa, yarning circle*. At least one facilitator/contact person for the session needs to be named in the abstract, and there will be a choice of 60 minute or 90 minute sessions

3. *Symposiums*

These sessions are for those wishing to organise several speakers to speak to a connected theme or issue. At least one facilitator/contact person should be named for the sessions. The abstract must include *at least 2-3* questions or exercises that will be prompts for discussion with the audience. There will be a choice of 60 minute or 90 minute sessions.

4. *Practice circles*

These sessions are for those wishing to run an interactive, practical focused workshop or activity-based session. This could involve arts-based sessions, skills workshops, writing workshops or other ideas. We encourage abstracts that engage in creative and innovative approaches to sharing and co-producing knowledge and learning. At least one facilitator/contact person should be named for the sessions. There will be a choice of 60 minute or 90 minute sessions.

Abstracts should be 300-400 words.

To submit an abstract please complete the form by clicking [here](#) or copy and paste the following URL into your browser search bar: <https://forms.gle/1BiPbWSxdtubSJ3F9>

### Key dates and Call for Abstracts timelines

Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Call for Abstracts and Registration opens
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Deadline for abstracts
Fri 31 <sup>th</sup> July	All abstracts confirmed
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Early bird registration closes
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Registration closes
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	New and Emerging Researchers of OCIES (NERO) Day
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Full conference programme begins
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Conference closes

### Registration Fees

Conference registration are listed below in AUD. Early bird fees are available until 30<sup>th</sup> August. Discounted rates are available for current paid OCIES members, full time students, unwaged/retired, and those from Low-Middle Income Countries (LIC) and Pacific island countries (PIC).

To register go to: <https://events.humanitix.com/ocies-annual-conference-2024>

Category	Full Fee	Early bird
Full Rate Member	\$460	\$345.00
Full Rate Non-member	\$600	\$450.00
Student/Unwaged Member	\$280	\$210.00
Student/Unwaged Non-member	\$400	\$300.00
LIC/PIC Member	\$280	\$210.00
LIC/PIC Non-member	\$400	\$300.00
LIC/PIC Student Member	\$260	\$195.00
LIC/PIC Student Non-member	\$380	\$285.00

To become a member of OCIES please go to: <https://ocies.org/members-area/members-login/>

### Conference location and hosts: ACU, Melbourne, Australia

The conference will take place at the [Melbourne campus of ACU](#), located on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri (Woiwurrung) people. The conference will be held in ACU's newly established dedicated conference space in the heart of what is traditionally known as Ngár-go, now Fitzroy. Fitzroy is on the edge of the CBD and is the site of many popular restaurants, cafes and shops. It is in



easy walking distance of CBD accommodation options, as well as the many parks, museums and art galleries that that Melbourne has to offer.

Conference registration includes a welcome reception on Tuesday night, morning/afternoon and lunchtime catering for the three days of the conference, and the conference dinner on Thursday night. Further details on accommodation options will be provided to registrants. We have secured a limited number of rooms in University accommodation, that will be prioritised for students and others with demonstrated need. When registering, please indicate your interest in these rooms. Updates on other accommodation options will be shared via the OCIES website, facebook and through email. When registering, please indicate whether you require a support letter for a visa application. These can be provided by ACU to those who require them.