



# ICSEI

International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement



## Professional Learning Networks

Network coordinators: *Cindy L. Poortman*<sup>1</sup>, *Chris Brown*<sup>2</sup>

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# Professional Learning Networks

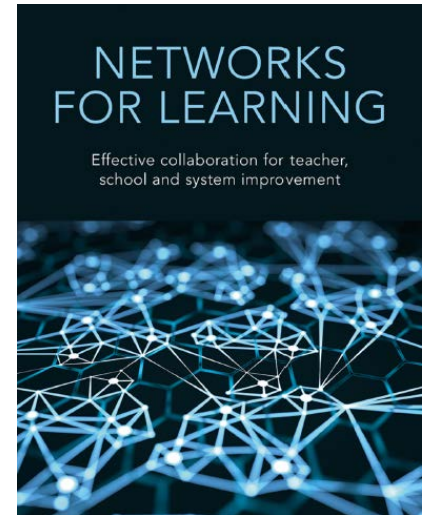
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- The literature shows that teacher collaboration in learning networks can lead to improved teaching practice and increased student learning
- Teachers often report they like participating in networks and learn from this participation
- At the same time: Conceptual and methodological challenges; mixed effects (on student outcomes)

*PLN: a group of educators (e.g., teachers, school leaders, possibly in collaboration with researchers, and/or policy-makers) coming together with the intention to engage in collaborative learning to improve outcomes for students (Poortman, Brown, & Schildkamp, submitted).*



@icseiP

ICSEI\_PLN



# Networking starts with YOU

- So...turn to your neighbours (someone you *don't* already know) and exchange for about 5-10 minutes:
- **What is your work about?**
- **What is your main question or challenge regarding PLNs?**
- **Mind the time, please let everyone have a turn 😊**

# KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

## Conceptual clarity:

e.g. types of PLN, aims of PLNs, countries and jurisdictions

## Methodology:

Understanding impact and findings; effective ways to assess impact that go beyond self-report

## Understanding depth and breadth of learning:

e.g., processes of PLN and the wider participating communities



## New insights into:

1. Focus
2. Leadership
3. Collaboration
4. Individual and group learning
5. Reflective Professional Inquiry
6. Boundary Crossing

# What network members are working on

## 1) Conceptual clarity

- AERA research conference 2019 and related papers  
*Professional Learning Networks In Education: Tearing down boundaries for school and system improvement*
- Emerald PLN Book series: different types of and contexts for PLNs in the books included so far
- ICSEI and AERA sessions, and other conferences (e.g. ECER)
  - So look for 'PLN' in the ICSEI program!
  - Contact us if you have more ideas!
- Keep each other posted in the PLN newsletter (3-4 times/year)
  - Send us news for the PLN newsletter!

Authors	(Preliminary) Title
<p><b>Chris Brown and Jane Flood</b></p> <p><i>Published 2019</i></p>	<p>Formalise, Prioritise and Mobilise: How School Leaders Secure the Benefits of Professional Learning Networks</p>
<p><b>Mauricio Pino Yancovic, Alvaro González Torres, Luis Ahumada Figueroa and Chris Chapman</b></p> <p><i>Published 2019</i></p>	<p>School Improvement Networks and Collaborative Inquiry</p>
<p><b>Leyton Schnellert (ed)</b></p> <p><i>May 2020</i></p>	<p>Professional learning networks: Facilitating transformation in diverse contexts with equity-seeking communities</p>
<p><b>Cecilia Azorín</b></p> <p><i>June/July 2020</i></p>	<p>The Emergence of Professional Learning Networks</p>
<p><b>Mei Kuin, Lai and Stuart McNaughton</b></p> <p><i>June 2021</i></p>	<p>Professional learning networks in design-based research interventions</p>

# Further work planned/in progress

- 2) Methodology and depth-breadth => *mobilizing knowledge in PLNs*, e.g.:
- Boundary crossing, knowledge use, impact
  - Also: study design, how to measure
  - For special issue or book series. Interested? Send us your abstract:
    - Aim/research question; theoretical/conceptual framework; method, results and conclusions; scholarly and/or practical significance – 750w max; before February 15, 2020
    - Will be reviewed with special issue journal or book series publisher
    - Timeframe publication: longer term, e.g. book series after June 2021, special issue about 12-18 months from start
  - In a later stage: book with more specific practice guidelines based on research



# IDEAS, CONTENT AND SOURCES FOR FURTHER WORK

Discuss with your neighbour/group for 10-15 minutes and **please fill out 1 post-it per question below**

1. What are your comments on the key areas of focus?

- Any other; Ideas to improve?
- References to papers, projects, books/chapters?

2. How can we involve a larger group of people with different perspectives and from more different countries?

- please give 1-2 specific ideas

3. What ideas do you have for the next business meeting and/or in-between activities from the network?

- please give 1-2 specific ideas

*We will make available your ideas through website and/or newsletter and plan to work on this with you*

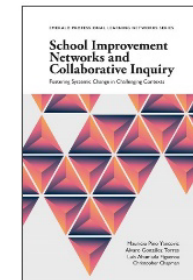


# Thank you for networking with us!

## Formal membership

- Please don't forget to register as a PLN-network member when becoming an ICSEI member or when renewing your membership!
- This will help us to serve you more effectively both in-between and at congresses.
- For questions, comments and ideas:

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<https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/series-detail/Emerald-Professional-Learning-Networks-Series/>