Professional Learning Networks

Network coordinators: Cindy L. Poortman¹, Chris Brown²

c.l.poortman@utwente.nl  1: University of Twente; 2: Durham University
Professional Learning Networks

Network coordinators: Cindy L. Poortman\textsuperscript{1}, Chris Brown\textsuperscript{2}

\texttt{c.l.poortman@utwente.nl} 1: University of Twente 2: Durham University

- 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)

\textit{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).
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!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>(Preliminary) Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris Brown and Jane Flood</td>
<td>Formalise, Prioritise and Mobilise: How School Leaders Secure the Benefits of Professional Learning Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauricio Pino Yancovic, Alvaro González Torres, Luis Ahumada Figueroa and Chris Chapman</td>
<td>School Improvement Networks and Collaborative Inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leyton Schnellert (ed)</td>
<td>Professional learning networks: Facilitating transformation in diverse contexts with equity-seeking communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecilia Azorín</td>
<td>The Emergence of Professional Learning Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June/July 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mei Kuin, Lai and Stuart McNaughton</td>
<td>Professional learning networks in design-based research interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:
  c.l.poortman@utwente.nl
  chris.brown@durham.ac.uk