Learning from the Past and Looking to the Future: Reconceptualising Practice-based Research?

This interactive presentation will analyse past and present manifestations of practice-based research in order to consider how the field might be reconceptualised and, ultimately, strengthened for the future. Of particular focus will be the use of various models of practice-based research to develop professional learning in the workplace, whether that workplace is in universities, schools or other educational/professional settings. I will argue that such a focus involves taking critical stances on practice and research as both individual and communal enterprises, with close relationships to developing forms of practitioner identity and agency. The presentation will also explore how practice-based research can promote and reconceptualise practitioner agency and its place in the mediation of change. Ultimately, this could offer the potential for the transformation of how practice and practice-based are understood and how we experience the workplace cultures in which they occur.

Jean Murray is a professor of education in the Cass School of Education and Communities at the University of East London in England. Her research focuses on the sociological analysis of teacher education policies, research and practices internationally. Jean has written well over 100 books, chapters, journal articles and official reports on these issues and has also run a large number of educational research projects. She has taught at all levels of higher education and in schools, as well as being an educational consultant on professional learning for governments, NGOs and universities across the world. She has been an active member of the academic community in the UK and internationally for more than twenty years.