

Research Project Highlight

The History Education Network/ Histoire et éducation en réseau (THEN/HiER)

The History Education Network is a seven-year project, sponsored by a \$2.1 million SSHRC Strategic Knowledge Clusters Grant awarded in March of 2008. I was principal applicant and had seven co-applicants, including Peter Seixas, as well as faculty members from history departments or education faculties at the Universities of Lethbridge, Ottawa, and New Brunswick, as well as Laval, Brock and OISE/ University of Toronto. Our aim is to reform history education in Canada through practice-informed research and research-informed practice.

Highlights of our first year have been our celebratory reception which took place during Congress last June, a THEN/HiER sponsored panel presentation to the Association for Canadian Studies Conference in Quebec City in October and an opportunity to co-publish Exemplars in Historical Thinking, in cooperation with the Critical Thinking Consortium (TC²), one of our 28 partner organizations. Our major project over the past few months has been the development of a new website. We hope to have a highly interactive site where users can participate in fora on topical issues, provide commentary on site content, and upload content themselves. Graduate student Viviane Gosselin has taken on the role of Project Manager and Gabrielle Trepanier is taking a lead role in the site evaluation component. Bjorn Thomson, Communications and Web Coordinator for the faculty and our own Bob Hapke are providing technical expertise.

A second major project is an invitational symposium that will result in an edited collection reflecting the cutting edge



of Canadian history education research. Participants from across Canada have already submitted draft chapters. They examine the teaching, learning and assessment of historical thinking in various settings, including K-12, postsecondary, and museum contexts. The symposium, to take place at UBC on February 9, will consist of presentations, formal critiques and open discussion of each of the chapters. The published volume will be the first in a series of THEN/HiER sponsored edited collections on history education in Canada, as well as internationally.

If you would like more information about our new network, please have a look at our website: www.historyeducation.ca. This site is current, but temporary. The new site should be up by June, 2009. I'd be happy to talk with anyone who would like to know more. I also just happen to have pamphlets for anyone who is interested.

Dr. Penney Clark, Associate Professor