

The Vere Foster Trust and the Institute of
Educational Research in Ireland (IoERI) present

EDUCATION POLICY PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

The future of Irish education in an age of
austerity & inequality: what is the model?

Venue: Royal Irish Academy
19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2



Vere Foster, 19th century philanthropist and Anglo-Irish gentleman, established progressive emigration and education schemes in post-famine Ireland. Recognising the connection between education and the strength of the nation, he founded the Irish National Teacher's Organisation (INTO) in 1868. His legacy offers many valuable lessons for contemporary Irish Education.

6pm Monday 10 Sept 2012

SCHOOLING AND PUPIL PROGRESS: WHAT NEEDS TO BE
DONE IN POLICY, SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS

'In these times of imposed austerity that has particularly impacted the education sector, the teaching profession may offer the greatest hope in the reshaping of educational policy in Ireland in the interests of students.'

This public lecture will consider multiple ways to address the pressing political and policy issue of inequalities in schooling, which needs to be overcome if we are to ensure pupil progress and secure improved learning outcomes for all. The argument begins with an analysis of the macro systemic policy settings both within and external to education, followed by a discussion of the necessary community infrastructure of support: the required school leadership practices, school culture, and the need to work with community 'funds of knowledge' to promote pupil engagement and achievement. Finally, the lecture will focus on teachers 'leading learning' and improving schooling through productive classroom pedagogies and their alignment with broad curriculum goals and educative assessment practices. The pressing need for an holistic approach at systemic policy levels, and at school and community levels for addressing, indeed confronting, inequality and schooling will be stressed. In traversing this range of issues, the paper will draw on relevant practice and research literatures and my own research work to offer an agenda of hope for schooling in a difficult economic and policy time of austerity. The lecture will conclude with some recommendations for educational and broader policy developments in contemporary Ireland set against global developments.

Professor Bob Lingard is currently a Professorial Research Fellow in the School of Education at The University of Queensland and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He has also been Professor at the University of Edinburgh (2006-2008), where he held the Andrew Bell Chair of Education, and the University of Sheffield (2003-2006) in the UK. From 1989-2003, Bob worked in the School of Education at The University of Queensland, where he was also Professor and for a time Head of School. Bob has an international research reputation in the areas of sociology of education and education policy and has published widely in these fields. His most recent books include: *Globalizing Education Policy* (Routledge, 2010), co-authored with Fazal Rizvi, *Changing Schools* (Routledge, 2012), co-edited with Pat Thomson and Terry Wrigley and *Educating Boys: beyond structural reform* (Palgrave, 2009), co-authored with Wayne Martino and Martin Mills. Bob has published more than 100 journal articles and book chapters and was co-director of government research in Australia which developed the influential concept of 'productive pedagogies', which has had policy and practice impact around the globe. Bob is also co-editor of the journal *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education* and editor of the book series, *Keys Ideas and Education* with Greg Dimitriadis (Routledge, New York). Bob was the first two year President of the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE), 1999 and 2000 and was also a long term Executive member. He was also the inaugural Chair of the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA), appointed by the Minister for Education, and is currently a member of the Governing Board of the QSA and Chair of its P-12 Curriculum Committee.



RSVP verefostertrust@gmail.com to reserve a seat and hospitality