

MEDIA RELEASE

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Challenges for male primary school teachers focus for UTAS education conference

The challenges faced by male primary school teachers will be one focus of a conference on current research in the Faculty of Education to be held tomorrow at the Newnham campus NEW Gallery, 8.45am-3pm.

Around 30 papers will be presented by Masters and PhD students, with keynote addresses by Professor Robert Lingard from the University of Queensland and the new head of the UTAS School of Education, Professor Derek Colquhoun.

PhD student Vaughan Cruickshank, a former primary school teacher, will present his research highlighting the challenges deterring males from entering and remaining in primary teaching, and how these might be more effectively overcome.

He said previous research suggests challenges such as the isolation of working in a predominantly female environment as well as societal perceptions of sexual deviance are significant contributors to the low number of male primary school teachers.

“Another researcher states that the declining number of male primary teachers is resulting in increased pressure and work for those who choose to remain in the profession,” Vaughan said.

Other papers to be presented include topic such as:

- Mental computational methods used by school children and adults;
- The significance of the Web (as opposed to traditional learning and teaching methods) for university students;
- Multiliteracies practices and social engagement on YouTube;
- The impact of early teaching experiences on beginning teachers' confidence in mathematics.

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