Coordinator: Dr Tim Allender

Unit description

This unit is designed for students who are interested in conducting research into education in different cultural settings. The course deals with recent literature about comparative education across a range of issues including school and community development in different educational settings. The course focuses on allowing students to compare education in Australia to education in their home countries. In keeping with a broad concept of learning, part of the unit allows students to focus on sites outside of schools where significant learning and development take place. In this way, students from majors or faculties other than education can develop an understanding of the relationships between culture and learning in different societies. A research project is a central element of the unit. Students are required to conduct a five-day (or equivalent) research project at a learning centre negotiated between the student and staff.

Field trips

Students may choose to conduct research in a formal education setting such as a primary or secondary school either in Sydney or elsewhere. There is, however, considerable flexibility in the process of choosing a research site that allows students to conduct research at sites of interest to them such as museums, surf clubs, community centres and sport clubs, which means that students enrolled in other units offered by the faculty such as the new unit, Indigenous Cultures, Community and Learning will be able to conduct their research at some of the sites visited during field trips taken for these units.

About the staff

Dr Tim Allender

Tim teaches and researches the history of education and history curricula and has a particular interest in colonial education, especially concerning India. He teaches in the Master of Teaching and Bachelor of Education courses in both history of education and history curricula as well as their associated honours programs at the University of Sydney. He is also involved in preparing pre-service teachers and has critically examined different strategies whereby universities in Australia have established effective links with experienced school-based teachers who are willing to act as student teacher supervisors. In particular, Tim is interested in cross-cultural paradigms and how their powerful precursors were established. Tim is involved in the following projects:

- writing a book about colonial education in north India
- conducting a museum-based history project in conjunction with curators at the Australian War Memorial and the National Museum of Australia
- the history of, and current reforms in, history curricula in schools
- researching a book manuscript about cross-colonial ideas in educational innovation
- writing several articles about colonial education, and
- digitising rare documents and placing them on the web as part of an Australian Research Council project.

Tim's publications have been concerned with the writing of local history in southern Australia and colonial education in India. He has also participated in history curriculum development.
projects with the NSW Board of Studies, and conducted research in Ann Arbor in the US, India, Pakistan, at Oxford and Cambridge and at the India Office in London.

**Indicative reading list**

- Masemann VL. Culture and Education (pp115–33). In Arnowe RF and Torres CA (eds). *Comparative Education: The Dialectic of the Global and the Local* (1999) Lanham, Maryland, Rowman and Littlefield