

Teacher Education and the Primary Curriculum: An ASPE Seminar
Wednesday 2nd July 2014
University of Manchester

The first ASPE sponsored seminar took place on Wednesday 2nd July 2014, at Manchester University, and focused on *Teacher Education and the Primary Curriculum*. The seminar featured a distinguished line-up of speakers whose presentations led to reflection and debate on the training and development of teachers in relation to the 2014 Primary National Curriculum. The Association is extremely grateful to the Institute of Education at Manchester University for hosting the seminar and particular thanks go to Professor Olwen McNamara who kindly volunteered to host the event and who led the development of the seminar.

Professor McNamara commenced the event by outlining the background to the topic. Professor McNamara subsequently introduced each of the three keynote speakers, who included:

- Professor Michael Apple, who is John Bascom Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Professor in The Manchester Institute of Education at the University of Manchester. In a forceful and typically erudite address, Professor Apple emphasized the need for teachers to organise and to find ways of projecting their own views in the media in order to influence policy.
- Professor Gary Beauchamp, who is Director of Research for the School of Education and Professor of Education at Cardiff Metropolitan University and lead author of the background paper *Research and Teacher Education: The BERA-RSA Inquiry - Policy and Practice within the United Kingdom* published in December 2013. Professor Beauchamp drew on the BERA/RSA report to explain the complexity of the differing approaches to education across the UK including approaches to the curriculum, inspection, and teacher training and revealed some of the ways in which England is anomalous in its policies on teacher education.

- Professor Ann Lieberman, who is Senior Scholar and Interim Executive Director of the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE), an affiliate of Stanford University and Simon Visiting Professor for 2014, in the Faculty of Humanities at The University of Manchester. Professor Lieberman engaged the audience with a considered and thought-provoking outline of her life-long commitment to education and, most especially, to the 'scholarship of teaching' within which the role of Higher Education is about 'dignifying what teachers do rather than telling them what to do'.

The seminar also provided an opportunity for the 70 delegates from schools, Local Authorities, and Higher Education Institutions to share their views on the trajectory of education policy in England and, more specifically, to discuss the opportunities and challenges stemming from the changing landscape of Teacher Education.

Overall, the key messages of the seminar were about universities finding ways of operating in collaboration with teachers in order to improve teacher knowledge and professional skills and all of those present enjoyed the opportunity to engage with some of the most important international experts in the field.