

International Research Network for Research on Doctoral Education in Educational in Educational Sciences (IRN-DER) – network meeting 2

Notes from the IRN-DER network meeting 2,

Time: 2 June 2025, at 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm CET

Chair of the meeting: Alebachew Kemisso

Notes: Britt-Marie Apelgren

Participants: see Attachment 1 List of participants

Welcome! Alebachew Kemisso welcomed all the participants to the second global IRN meeting.

1. Possible future outputs (Sverker Lindblad)

Sverker presented thoughts on conferencing and publishing as part of the making and development of the network for research on doctoral education, which he highlighted as vital for realizing the very idea of the network and its contribution to our research community.

Three different and interrelated objects of interests for our research were presented:

A Doctoral education as a *science – society object*

B Doctoral education as a *comparative study object*

C Doctoral education as a *knowledge object*

Several possible arenas for conferencing were presented, i.e. EERA/ECER, AERA/WERA, together with possible contributions from the network.

Finally, different symposia proposals were presented.

See Attachment 2 (ppt Sverker Lindblad) and Attachment 3 (Memo: On Conferencing and Publishing for Research on Doctoral Education Sverker Lindblad 20250601)

2. Presentation: Styles of reasoning and intellectual cultures of graduate programs in Education (Thomas Popkewitz, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

A presentation of different ways of reasoning, why styles of reasoning are important in doctoral education, and how we, as researchers and doctoral students, ask questions that are part of cultural aspects and traditions.

See Attachment 4 (Thomas Popkewitz' ppt)

3. Break-out groups' discussions

The participants were randomly organized into groups of 4-5 to discuss how the presentation's theme play out in respective national contexts and in day-to-day doctoral education, as well as in relation to future conference contributions (symposia).

4. Report back from break-out groups and plenary discussion

Short comments from each group were presented orally to the whole group.

Key issues discussed included:

- Systematic changes and reforms in HE, affects the very culture and reality of doctoral research/education
- Marketization, more getting a certificate than doing research/contributing to the research society
- 'Educationalization' or 'schoolification' of the doctorate
- Stately influences of governance and organization of doctoral studies
- Doctoral researchers'/students' strategic behavior and different kinds of agency
- Equivalence of different kinds of Education Sciences
- Comparison between different doctoral educations; cultural differences, different traditions (even within one and the same university)
- Global changes leading to problem changing
- Different styles of reasoning – subjective and related to personal experiences

Further discussion on possible cases (histories) of doctoral education, starting with national cases. Decided that we should start with national cases during the autumn 2025. Members are encouraged to prepare a short presentation of what is already written on the development of doctoral education in specific national contexts. In that respect we will get a broad global picture of the development of doctoral education and the specific styles of reasoning and intellectual cultures that are evident/appear. Each presentation also shares some publications dealing with the development and changes in that specific doctoral education.

Also discussed the possibility of having presentations of one or two national case

5. Presentation of homepage (Gun-Britt Wärvik)

Due to time shortage, it was decided that a link will be sent out to the home page and that the content will be discussed in a meeting later.

6. Reporting to WERA

Due to time shortage, we did not go through or discuss the Progress report to WERA, which was sent out to all participants. See also Attachment 5 (Progress report to WERA 2025)

7. Next network meeting

Upcoming network meetings and times to be announced before the summer break. The network discussed the possibility to find a time where more people from the Global East could participate (China, Australia etc.). Our suggestion is that we will try to organise the third global meeting 22 October 2 pm CET: 6 am Mexico, 7 am Madison US, 1 pm UK, 2 pm South Africa, 3 pm Ethiopia, 8 pm China, 11 pm Australia. This means that we will all meet on the same day.

Alebachew and Sverker thanked all participants for their contributions to the network and hoped for further vivid and constructive collaborations within the network.