

IN MEMORIAM
Chris Duke

*A Tribute to Professor Chris Duke - with a
selection of his publications as an annotated
bibliography*

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It was a sad day for lifelong learning when Chris Duke passed away on 22nd June 2023. He is certainly missed by his family, but also colleagues and friends around the globe. For almost 60 years he contributed to the development of adult learning and education (ALE) as well as lifelong learning (LLL) which he saw as a profession, as an academic discipline, but also as a movement to engage in, where another world was possible.

Throughout his professional life he was a highly respected writer and editor of all kinds of publications which have relevance for today and should be read or even re-read in a different context and time. This tribute serves as one key.

CONVERGENCE and ICAE

For this special issue of *CONVERGENCE* to celebrate 50 years of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), Timothy Ireland and Shermaine Barrett (Guest Editors) invited me to write a tribute to Professor Chris Duke. Both knew very well that Chris has been close to this journal throughout his life in ALE as well as LLL, and also of course to ICAE. His contribution *Does what goes around come around? - the late 20th century adult learning and education agenda today* (Duke 2023) in *CONVERGENCE* (Vol. 44, Issue 1) may be his last published work before his untimely death.

This final article is a clarion call in which he touches on some of his lifetime concerns such as never to mix education with learning; the need to stay close to your communities; the urgency of combatting further destruction of our environments; the need to engage in democratic participation. Here he looked

back to see a certain continuity of his engagements with ICAE and *CONVERGENCE*, and his last great challenge to build PIMA and its *Bulletin*. He was one of the key figures in starting the PASCAL (Place And Social Capital And Learning) International Observatory, and later PIMA, the PASCAL International Membership Association, or (what he liked even more) 'Promoting, Interrogating and Mobilising Adult Learning & Education' (PIMA).

For the *CONVERGENCE* article Chris took his time to look at a number of volumes of *CONVERGENCE* between 1976 and 2007 in which he had roles as a reader, author and steady supporter. In the early years of ICAE (Hall 1995) after its foundation in 1973, Chris served as Associate Secretary-General alongside Budd Hall as Secretary-General. Together with other champions like Professor Roby Kidd and President Julius Nyerere, they gathered at the First World Assembly in Dar es Salaam and afterwards steered ICAE through its stormy foundational years (Hinzen 2006). Alan Tuckett (2015) has described how ICAE became a strong mover in shaping ALE and LLL for the global development agenda.

ASPBAE and Asia Pacific

In these early years, Chris was also Secretary-General of the Asian South Pacific Association of Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) which had been founded in 1964, but then retired for a decade like a kind of sleeping beauty. Chris had moved from England to Canberra for a founding chair in adult education at the Australian National University, and complementary to his university engagement he was eager to do regional work in Asia Pacific through ASPBAE as a professional civil society organization. He brought the *ASPBAE Journal* back to life, and this was included in a cooperation agreement of ASPBAE with DVV International which started in 1977. Since then, the journal has continued strongly until today, with constant adaptations to dramatic and fast changes both regionally and globally.

One of these important changes in the 1980s was the opening-up of China, including for adult education. Chris was behind a major meeting and served as Guest Editor of a *CONVERGENCE Special Issue* which he started off with an article on *Learning from and with Liberation: Report from ICAE China Symposium in Shanghai* (Duke 1984). Key figures at the time like Yao Zhongda, Zhao Wengqing and Anil Bordia contributed; the respective group photo shows Dame Nita Barrow, ICAE Honorary President, together with more than 60 participants from China and 20 other countries. Many opportunities for deepening the exchange through visits, publications and studies followed.

Even earlier, Chris had served as Guest Editor for a *CONVERGENCE Special Issue* looking at *Adult Education, International Aid and Poverty*. In his report, Chris called for a Commission of Inquiry to deepen understanding of this important theme (Duke 1980). Malcolm Adiseshiah, Francisco Vio Grossi, Noren Clark and Margaret Snyder contributed articles. Chris continued to pay special attention to aid and poverty and took the Commission very seriously. Through his efforts two major publications: *Combatting Poverty Through Adult Education: National Development Strategies*, and *Grassroots Approaches to Combatting Poverty through Adult Education* (Duke 2019) brought his substantial experience to bear, so that both books are being re-published around 25 years after their first appearance. The publications will be ready for our current discussions on ALE, contributing to poverty reduction, and hence acting on the first of the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Higher Education

Throughout his working life Chris was employed by a number of different universities in England and Australia. In his earlier years, for two decades, he was also the editor of the *International Congress of University Adult Education Journal*. The number of periodicals and series where he served as editor or member of the editorial board has still to be identified. Chris stayed on as Consulting Editor of the *International Review of Education – Journal of Lifelong Learning*.

For a period of time Chris moved out of and beyond the adult education movement. His career took him to the highest levels of the higher education sector – from Director and Professor of a Department to the Vice Chancellor and President of a University. His collections and reflections of that period later appeared as stories in *The Learning University* (Duke 1992) or *Managing the Learning University* (Duke 2002) published by the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE). Later, *Making knowledge work: sustaining learning communities and regions* (Duke et al. 2006) was published by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) together with PASCAL. After his retirement from university life he made use of his wide experiences and excellent skills in analysing, reporting and recommending new ways of doing things through numerous reviews for the OECD or the EU, UNESCO and DVV International. Somehow, and especially through his involvement with PASCAL and the learning regions and communities, he found a bridge back into adult education, where he continued to serve very actively for another decade.

CONFINTEA

Chris was active in influencing UNESCO's work for CONFINTEA in a variety of ways. I am not sure whether he joined already in Tokyo for the Third World Conference in 1972, but he was present and one of the rapporteurs in Paris for CONFINTEA IV. He frequently mentioned what he remembered so well: the frozen atmosphere at a high time of the cold war, and the importance of the declaration on *The Right to Learn* (UNESCO 1985) which reads almost like a poem, especially compared with many other world declarations.

He contributed immensely to the *CONFINTEA VI Special Edition of CONVERGENCE* in 2007 with co-authored articles on *Adult education in migration and integration* as well as *Policy, legislation and financing for adult education*. It was a double issue that included an *ICAE Public Paper*, a historical review on the first five CONFINTEAs by Joachim H. Knoll, and many more contributions by Paul Bélanger, Carolyn Medel-Añonuevo, János Tóth, Alan Tuckett, Cecilia Soriano, Babacar Diop Buuba and Malini Ghose to name a few (Agostino et al. 2007). Timothy Ireland ensured that a Portuguese version of this *CONVERGENCE VI Special Edition* was produced and made available widely.

It was a time when Chris Duke's knowledge and understanding of broader contexts opened many doors. He joined the *International Conference on Adult Education and Poverty Reduction: A Global Priority* which the World Bank and DVV International jointly sponsored and organised together with the University of Botswana (DVV International 2004). Chris provided his services for the General Report. He inspired publications like *Basic and continuing adult education policies* (Duke, Hinzen 2006) or *Knowing More, Doing Better. Challenges for CONFINTEA VI from Monitoring EFA in Non-formal Youth and Adult Education* (Duke, Hinzen 2008). He became fully involved in the *International Conference on Financing Adult Education for Development* in Bonn in 2009 which was co-organized by ASPBAE, DVV International, EAEA, ICAE and UIL, where he again wrote the Conference Report and in addition co-authored the *Background Note: A New Effort for New Times – Steps in the Long March to Belém* (Duke, Hinzen 2009). When, much later, during CONFINTEA VI, the Belém Framework for Action was discussed in the Drafting Group, his financing of ALE section was the hottest and most controversial topic.

This challenge of financing ALE as a human right, within a perspective of LLL remained high on the agenda for CONFINTEA VII. The issue had already surfaced in the preparatory phase where DVV International supported a study which Chris co-authored on *Financing of popular adult learning and education (ALE): experience, lessons and recommendations from 14 countries and case studies*

(Duke et al. 2021), and where ICAE took a global perspective for *Financing adult learning and education: the way forward, what works, how and why* (Popović 2021). If we look further at CONFINTEA VII then a number of interventions where Chris was involved come to mind. He had a keen interest on communities and their learning opportunities which he showed in a *Synthesis Report on the State of Community Learning Centres in Six Asian Countries* (Duke, Hinzen 2016) which had been commissioned by UIL and based on respective country reports. He continued this search on learning regions, learning cities, and learning communities with co-author Khau Huu Phuoc in *Community Learning Centres in the Asia Region: Popular Education and Community Transformation* (Duke, Phuoc 2023). All of this background work meant that community learning centres became a strong theme in the outcome document of CONFINTEA VII, the Marrakech Framework of Action.

On a regional level Chris Duke was part of a team which wrote the *CONFINTEA VII Central Asia Sub-regional Report: Challenges, opportunities, and recommendations for ALE in Central Asia and beyond* (Dmitrienko et al. 2021). Members of the team were well placed to do this as in parallel they were all involved in a comparative study on policies in Central Asian countries which developed a *Regional Policy Brief: Policies on Adult Learning and Education (ALE) in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan* (DVV International 2022). Chris co-authored *Community Learning Centres (CLCs) for Adult Learning and Education (ALE): development in and by communities* (Belete et al. 2022) which was one of the articles (pp.259-290) in the *Special Issue on Strengthening the Future of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning for All: Building Bridges between CONFINTEA and the Sustainable Development Goals* (Vol. 68, issue 2, 2022) of the *International Review of Education. Journal of Lifelong Learning* published by Springer and the UIL.

As Chris believed in the importance of mobilizing civil society voices, he co-edited *Global Collaboration and Advocacy for Adult Learning: Contributions of a Civil Society Network* (Duke, Hinzen 2022) just before the conference in Marrakech. He provided space as the editor for the *PIMA Bulletin Special Issue on CONFINTEA* (Denholm et al. 2022) which shared experiences from all the world's regions.

Recognitions

Chris received several recognitions in his lifetime. I mention a few here which cover different aspects of his life and work, his universities and associations. Chris received an Honorary Doctorate from the Daegu University in the Republic of Korea for his outstanding support in the development of lifelong learning in the Asia Pacific. During his full-time employments and his

university career he was invited by several other universities to be their Visiting or Honorary Professor, namely Glasgow, Leicester, and Stirling in the United Kingdom, and RMIT in Australia. In 2014 he was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame for his contributions to global adult education as a scholar and practitioner.

When in 2022 he informed the PIMA Executive Council that he would step down as Editor of the PIMA Bulletin it was decided to prepare a *Special Issue Honouring Chris Duke*. Members from the Executive joined hands as co-editors and invited colleagues from all over the world who had been working with Chris in a variety of contexts. The outcome is a wonderful collection of articles and letters, and even the link to a video of a conversation. This was called the *Chris Duke Study Circle* (Hinzen et al. 2023).

In Memoriam

Chris followed, much too early on, three other champions in our field of ALE and LLL with a view on their potential of transformative perspectives towards a world we want:

- Professor Lalage Bown, the pioneer of contributions to adult education in Africa and globally from a strong base in Scottish Universities. A former Editor of *CONVERGENCE*, Lalage was a renowned and remarkable speaker, she died in 2021.
- Professor Alan Rogers, the great researcher on ethnographic literacy and his remarkable efforts through the Uppingham Seminars, who published *The Base of the Iceberg. Informal Learning and Its Impact on Formal and Non-formal Learning*. He died in 2022.
- Professor Dénes Koltai, who served in the professionalization of adult education at Hungarian colleges and universities starting from the University of Pécs, co-hosting 2009 the European CONFINTEA VI Pre-conference. He died in 2022.

Chris knew all three of these outstanding colleagues for a long time. Most probably, the longest friendship was with Lalage from their early joint activities in ICAE in the 1970s. Dénes worked with Chris only for the last two decades when he hosted the *International Conference on Adult Education Studies at Colleges and Universities in Central-East Europe* at the University of Pécs in Hungary. Here Chris wrote another of his reporting masterpieces *From Comparison to Cooperation. Partnership and Diversity in the Training and Accreditation of Adult Educators by Institutions of Higher Education* (Duke 2004).

Some personal remarks

I first met Chris and his wife Liz when the cooperation of ASPBAE and DVV started. It was in the context of a conference in Bali in 1978 that we went together for a walk in the mountains and forest beyond Ubud. We shared a number of passions in our struggle for a better world, but also to become better gardeners. He visited our local environmental campaign area and helped in translating information leaflets. Our families met each other in a variety of places in France and the UK, in Thailand and in Germany. Most enjoyable was a getting together with families in an ecological lodge in the Chiangmai hills. Chris and Liz made a final visit to our village home in September 2022.

I enjoyed working with Chris throughout those 45 years we knew each other. At one point we thought about sitting down to write a sort of biography together, which turned out as *Adult learning and education: Active global citizens for sustainable development – a political, professional and personal account* (Duke, Hinzen 2018). It certainly was a little challenge, but worth doing. It now serves as one of those many memorials to a long walk together. I shall certainly continue to miss him.

References

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Glossary of abbreviations used in this text:

ALE	Adult Learning and Education
ASPBAE	Asia South Pacific Association of Basic and Adult Education
CONFINTEA	International Conference on Adult Education, managed as world conferences by UNESCO
CLC	Community Learning Centre
DVV International	DVV International is the Institute for International Cooperation of the Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V. (DVV), the German Adult Education Association.
EAEA	European Association for the Education of Adults
EU	European Union
ICAE	International Council of Adult Education
LLL	Lifelong Learning
NIACE	National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (founded in 1921, covering England and Wales and now called the Learning and Work Institute (L&WI))
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PASCAL	Place And Social Capital And Learning - A programme of activity led by academics and activists in adult education, with international membership:
PIMA	PASCAL International Membership Association also as Promoting, Interrogating and Mobilising Adult Learning & Education
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals, as agreed by all countries
SRHE	Society for Research into Higher Education
UIL	UNESCO Institute of Education (based in Hamburg)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization