

Education in Small States Research Group

www.smallstates.net

2008-2009 Activities

Each year, we welcome several new doctoral (MPhil/PhD and EdD) and MEd students from small states to the University of Bristol. Avenella Griffith and Jasmine Hodge-Thomas from Anguilla are both currently studying for the MEd degree, and Guy Le Fanu (Papua New Guinea) and Mindy Colin (Mauritius) are new doctoral researchers. Nkobi Pansiri, for example, carried out his field work in Botswana (2007) for the EdD programme. His research focused upon school retention for minority groups in Botswana and support was provided by the University of Botswana. Terra Sprague completed her MEd dissertation on education in Armenia, in 2008, and doctoral students Hubert and Beatrice Fulford graduated together in July 2008, as detailed elsewhere. George Bristol, from St Vincent & the Grenadines, completed his MEd dissertation on the topic of educational policy priorities for the small states of the Caribbean, with special reference to St Vincent & the Grenadines.

Coming up in the autumn of 2009, the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta is organising an International Workshop, 'Mainstreaming Small-state Studies in Higher Education', to be held on 20-21 November, at the Gozo Campus of the University of Malta. The University has issued a preliminary [brochure](#) (PDF, 53.1Kb) with details of the conference.

The spring term of 2009 saw Dr Willie Ako return to the University of Bristol for three months as a Visiting Commonwealth Professional Scholar. Dr Ako completed his doctorate in 2003 under the supervision of Prof Crossley. Since then he has been First Secretary to the Minister for National Planning in Papua New Guinea. At the same time, he has been continuing his research, with Dr Jane Fitzpatrick (University of the West of England) and Prof Crossley, into the impact of health education programmes and the introduction of treated mosquito nets in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. The Visiting Fellowship has made it possible for this research to be written up, and for Dr Ako to support other ICS research activities, including providing input for the forthcoming Conference of Education Ministers of Education.

Towards the end of the summer term of 2008, ICS was delighted to see husband and wife, doctoral students, Hubert and Beatrice Fulford, from the Turks and Caicos Islands, graduated together on the same day in the Wills Memorial Building.

The [Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research](#), which specialises in scholarly research on education systems in the Mediterranean region, has launched its new website. The website also gives free access to the Centre's peer-reviewed biannual publication, the *Mediterranean Journal of Educational Studies*, now in its 25th issue.