

Struggling for our Professionalism

In discussion:

Wednesday April 28th: 6.30 - 7.30

Teacher professionalism & workplace activism

with Janet Farrar (Trade Union Education tutor / UCU President Elect) & Prof. Howard Stevenson (Writer / researcher on teacher professionalism and trade union activism)

Wednesday May 26th: 6.30-7.30

Lesson Observation & Professional learning - regulation or democratic control

with Nina Doran (FE Teacher Educator / UCU NEC) & Prof. Matt O'Leary (Author of 'Classroom Observation' / researcher into teacher professional learning)

Zoom link (meeting 1):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84779580760?pwd=MIUwck9RSmZMRk84dTc5d1UvbHc1UT09>

To access the zoom link for both meetings, go to our website:

www.post16educator.org.uk

All agree: teacher professionalism is a good thing, but it remains a site of controversy and struggle. Who defines it? Who controls it? Who represents it? How do we reclaim it? And if professional learning once meant little beyond initial teacher training, what passes for it now mostly comprises mandatory training and top-down prescribed 'best practice'. Where are the opportunities for thoughtful, ethical, activist engagement with our practice and professionalism? Lesson Observation, Learning Walks, data collection, standardised schemes of work, micro-targets and other mechanics of regulation frustrate and alienate teachers with little productive benefit. Yet, observation and similar techniques can be tools for genuine professional dialogue; evaluating practice can mean more than perfunctory post-obs. confessionals. But what conditions would enable genuinely teacher-controlled, professionally-empowering, pedagogically-enriching professionalism and professional learning? What would a teacher-controlled professionalism look like? Are there bottom-up, empowering examples out there we can learn from? What about an activist professionalism not limited by institutional managements and boundaries? And crucially, what role does workplace activism and organising have in generating demands and mobilising support for teachers to take democratic control of our own professional lives and learning?

Contact us: post16educator@runbox.com