



## Michael Crossley

# International Policy Transfer and Education: An Academic Biography in Comparative Education

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Centre for Comparative and International Research in  
Education, Graduate School of Education  
University of Bristol UK



# Some Starting Points

- . Halifax Yorkshire...surnames, wool and foundations for the industrial revolution
- . Shibden Valley...adventure
- . Geography and travel...
- . Swimming, surfing, diving, badminton, squash, tennis and music...
- . 'Before Elvis there was nothing' ( Lennon)

# Shibden Valley Yorkshire



# Study

- . Geography and Education University of Keele ...and Comparative Education
- . MA: University of London, Institute of Education
- . PhD: La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia

# Early Theoretical Influences

- . Phillip Foster (1965) ' The Vocational School Fallacy in Development Planning'
- . Sir Michael Sadler (1900) and challenges to education policy transfer...
- . C.E. Beeby (1966) ; and Hugh Hawes and the quality of education...
- . Julius Nyerere and Education for Self Reliance (1967)
- . Dependency Theory (Martin Carnoy, 1974)

We cannot wander at pleasure among the educational systems of the world, like a child strolling through a garden, and pick off a flower from one bush and some leaves from another, and then expect that if we stick what we have gathered into the soil at home, we shall have a living plant

...

(Sadler 1900: 49)

# Early Theoretical Influences continued....

- . Barriers to change literature (c/f resistance to change)
- . Legitimation theory ( Apple, 1978)
- . Postmodernism...constructions of reality...
- . Lawrence Stenhouse (1979) case study, qualitative and practitioner research

Pooh Bear :

**Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it.**

**A. A. Milne**





# Teaching in Schools

- In England
- In Australia
- In Papua New Guinea

# Papua New Guinea



# The Papua New Guinea Years

## Doctoral field research

- Kagua Provincial High School, Southern Highlands Province : 1980
- Port Moresby, NDoE and Milne Bay Province : 1981
- Case Study and education policy transfer...school based curriculum development ( Crossley, 1984; Crossley and Vulliamy, 1984)



**Kagua Provincial High School, Southern Highlands  
Province: school grounds and grade 10 pupils (1980)**



# The Papua New Guinea Years : 2

- The University of Papua New Guinea, and NDoE : 1983 – 1990)
- Lecturer – Senior Lecturer – Associate Dean – Acting Dean
- School based INSET...
- Practice informing theory
- Qualitative educational research in developing countries
- Working with Mark Bray.....



# University of Papua New Guinea: Graduation Day 1990



# Life in PNG

- Anne Crossley, small aircraft, coastal villages, islands and mountain cordillera
- Andawe Mirupasi : Southern Highlands to UPNG and Mirupasi Lawyers. Wives and 'grandchildren'
- Diving, windsurfing, mountain climbing, jungle trekking, volcanoes, Birds of Paradise, white water rafting and bows and arrows...
- Martin Crossley...
- Higher education in small states (IJED, 1989)
- Editor: PNG Journal of Education (1985 -1990)
- Sam Crossley...the fax machine and Eric Hoyle/Bristol

# Port Moresby to Bundahi High School, Manus Province

Bundahai High School, Manus : going to work, Malaria, Margaret Mead and the dangers of theory...uncritical international transfer of theory .....

1. 6.00 am Depart Port Moresby by jet aircraft for Rabaul in New Britain (town now destroyed by volcanic eruption);
2. 8.00 am Depart Rabaul for Lorengau, Manus Island by six-seater, propeller-driven aircraft;
3. 12 noon Depart Lorengau town by four-wheel drive Landrover over unsealed mountain road for jetty on south coast;
4. 2.30 pm Depart jetty in outboard motor boat to bypass inner reef and reach river estuary heading up to Bundahi High School;
5. 3.30 pm Boat gets stuck going up narrow river passage due to fallen trees;
6. 3.45 pm Begin walking/wading along river bank, knee deep in mud, to reach school before nightfall;
7. 5.30 pm Arrive at the High School to be well greeted;
8. Evening Go down with malaria – return trip only possible following recovery!



# Manus Island: Papua New Guinea



# Bundahi High School: outboard motor boat





# Bundahi: path from riverbank





# Bundahi arrival



# Bristol +

- Head Hunted in PNG
- Strengthening publication profiles
- Bristol Papers in Education 1992 +
- Editorial Board: Comparative Education, 1992 + (Crossley, 1993)
- Research in Belize and BPEDP policy transfer?
- Louisy (St Lucia)
- Education in Small States Research Group (1994 +) ([www.smallstates.net](http://www.smallstates.net))
- Ongoing links with HKU and CERC



# University of Bristol



# Primary school children in Belize outside their classrooms, 1996





# BAICE and the Field of Comparative and International Education

- **Qualitative Educational Research in Developing Countries (Crossley and Vulliamy, 1997) challenging simplistic policy transfer context sensitivity**
- **Reconceptualising Comparative and International Education (Crossley, 1999) ..... “context matters more than...”**
- **BAICE Leadership 2000 – 2004 : bridging Comparative & International**
- **Two Millennium Special Issues of Comparative Education : and ‘Bridging Cultures and Traditions’ (Crossley and Jarvis, 2000, 2001)**
- **Research Centre for International and Comparative Studies (ICS) at the University of Bristol (2000/2001 +)**
- **Editor of Comparative Education : 2004 – 2010**
- **Elected as an Academician by the British Academy of the Social Sciences, FAcSS (2005)**



# BAICE

*British Association for  
International & Comparative Education*



Member of the World Council of  
Comparative Education Societies (WCCES)

BAICE promotes teaching, research, policy and development  
in all aspects of international and comparative education

For more information see: [www.baice.ac.uk](http://www.baice.ac.uk)



Centre for Comparative and  
International Research in  
Education



[www.smallstates.net](http://www.smallstates.net)

## Research in East Africa, Theory and Methodology : 1990s

- Western teacher and head teacher training models transferred to Kenya with Jomtien agendas: SPRED and PRISM for DFID
- Adding qualitative educational research for context sensitive international development ... Kenyan team, input and local critique.
- Globalisation and Skills for Development in Rwanda and Tanzania (Tikly, Crossley et al 2003) building enduring research partnerships
- ..and the influence of postcolonialism (Crossley and Watson (2003), Crossley and Tikly (2004), Crossley and Holmes (2004)
- Theoretical and methodological implications – uncritical international transfer more appropriately questioned through North / South Research Partnerships (Crossley et al 2005 + )
  
- Life history and narrative enquiry for the field of comparative and international education (Trahar, 2006 + )
- Prioritising the quality of education : EdQual ( Tikly and Barrett et al, 2011)..quality, local relevance and and social justice

# Kenya research team members





BRISTOL PAPERS IN EDUCATION: *comparative and international studies*

# Research and Evaluation for Educational Development

Learning from the PRISM  
experience in Kenya

Michael Crossley, Andrew Herriot,  
Judith Waudu, Miriam Mwiroti,  
Keith Holmes & Magdallen Juma



SYMPOSIUM

# COMPARATIVE EDUCATION

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 2 MAY 2004

Special Issue (28)

**Postcolonialism and Comparative Education**

Guest Editors: **Michael Crossley and Leon Tikly**

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MICHAEL CROSSLEY AND LEON TIKLY

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FAZAL RIZVI

---

LEON TIKLY

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NAZ RASSOOL

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MARK BRAY AND RAMSEY KOO

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ZELIA GREGORIOU

---

SANGEETA KAMAT

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ANNE HICKLING-HUDSON

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INDEX®

## Changing Educational Contexts, Issues and Identities

40 years of Comparative Education

*Edited by*  
**Michael Crossley, Patricia Broadfoot  
and Michele Schweisfurth**

Education Heritage Series

# North/South Research Partnerships : Challenging Uncritical Policy Transfer

## Project

- The Belize Primary Education Development Project (1994-1999)
- The Kenyan Primary School Management Project (1996-2000 & 2001-2005)
- Globalisation and Skills for Development in Rwanda and Tanzania (2000-2002) (with L Tikly, J Lowe and H Dachi)
- Leading to input for EdQual (Tikly, Barrett et al 2005 - 2010)

*...All projects were funded and supported by the UK  
Department for International Development*

# Education in Small States Research Group

[www.smallstates.net](http://www.smallstates.net)

PNG, Belize, St Lucia, Botswana, Education in Small States Group 1994 + : and Commonwealth partnerships (Crossley and Holmes, 1999)

- Special Small States Issue of Comparative Education ( Mayo Ed, 2008)
- 17<sup>th</sup> CCEM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2009)
- 18<sup>th</sup> CCEM, Mauritius (2012)
- Learning from small states (Crossley, 2010)
- Education in Small States: Policies and Priorities (Crossley, Bray et al. 2011)
- Distinctive Priorities ... context really matters !



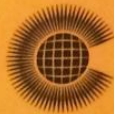
# 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers : Kuala Lumpur 2009



*Educational Development in the  
Small States of the Commonwealth*

**Educational Development  
in the Small States  
of the Commonwealth:  
Retrospect and Prospect**

Michael Crossley and Keith Holmes

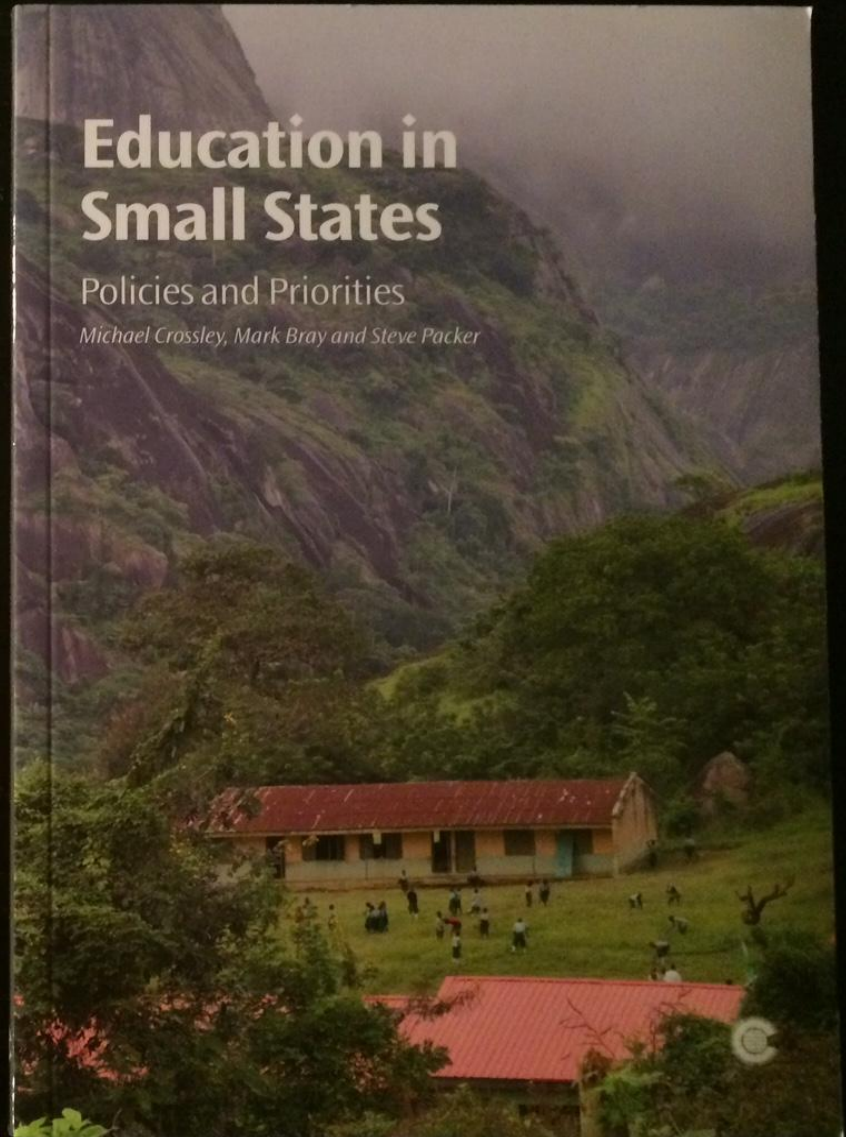


Commonwealth Secretariat

**Education in  
Small States**

Policies and Priorities

*Michael Crossley, Mark Bray and Steve Packer*



‘While [small states] must continue to seek external assistance to implement their development strategies, they know best what their own needs are and what their priorities should be. They have much to contribute to the international discourse and to policy deliberations worldwide.’

Dame Pearlette Louisy,  
Governor-General, St Lucia











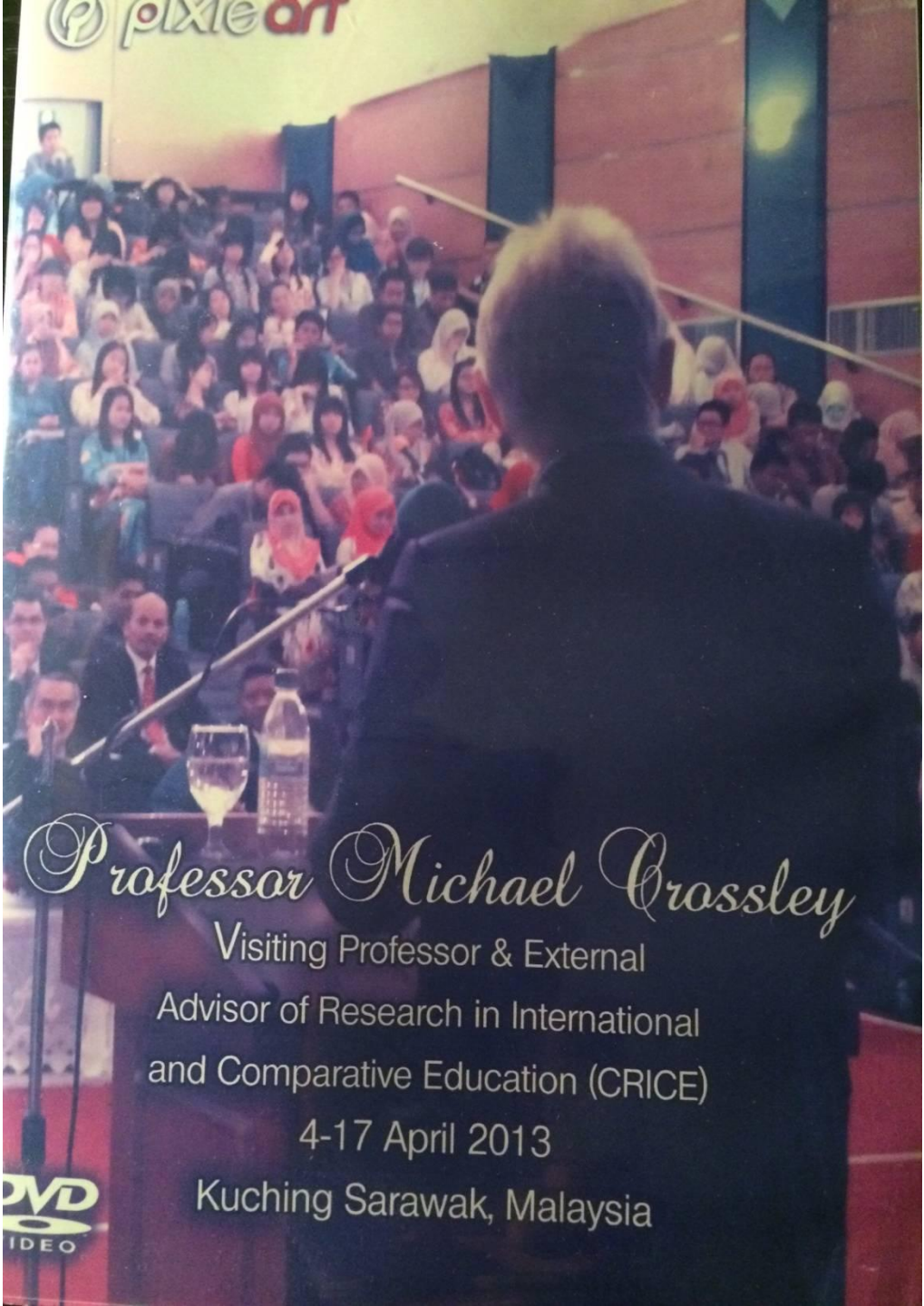
# Asaro Mud Men: Eastern Highlands



# Ongoing Teaching

- **Director of the Doctor of Education Programme (Bristol and Hong Kong) .... including regular collaboration with CERC**
- **EdD teaching: Understanding Educational Research; Comparative Research and Education Policy Transfer**
- **MSc teaching : International Development, Comparative Research and Education**
- **Supervisor for over 30 completed doctoral dissertations and more than 80 at the Masters level**
- **CRICE Adviser and Visiting Professor, University of Malaya , 2012 -2014; Maldives National University 2014, Sultan Idris University Malaysia 2015; Adjunct Prof USP 2011 +**
- **Invited Keynotes and Presentations, 2012 -2015:  
Maldives National University, Sarawak Institute of Education, Borneo; State Department of Education, Sarawak; University of Malaya; Humboldt University Berlin; Oxford University; HKU; HKIOE; Mauritius CCEM & Institute of Education; University of the South Pacific; Bahamas CCEM; Seychelles University....**





*Professor Michael Crossley*

Visiting Professor & External

Advisor of Research in International  
and Comparative Education (CRICE)

4-17 April 2013

Kuching Sarawak, Malaysia





# New and Ongoing Research

- **Three related areas: theoretical and methodological developments in CIR; research capacity building and international development cooperation; education in small states.....**

**All related to the dilemmas of international policy transfer !**

- **Research Partnerships and International Development Cooperation (Barrett, Crossley and Dachi, 2011; Barrett, Crossley and Fon, 2014)**
- **Global league tables, Big Data and the International Transfer of Research Modalities (Crossley, 2014)**
- **Revisiting international policy transfer ... Borrowing Both Ways : Hong Kong and England (Forestier and Crossley, 2015). BAICE Conference Plenary 2014 (BAICE.ac.uk) & Compare Forum (Barrett and Crossley 2015)**
- **Revisiting Insider/Outsider Research in CIE ( McNess, Arthur and Crossley, 2015)....**
- **Teacher Education in the Pacific: Identities, Capabilities and Quality (British Academy/USP) 2014 -2016...with University of Nottingham...**

# Conclusion

- Ongoing attention to policy transfer.....but a new emergent focus on Education for Sustainable Development and small states (Crossley and Sprague, 2014; Sprague and Crossley, 2013)
  - [‘Learning from the sharp end’](#)
- . See materials and three videos from our July 17<sup>th</sup> 2014 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference on Living at the Sharp End of Environmental Uncertainty in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- . [Cabot Institute](#) (for comprehensive coverage and videos)
- . [UN-recognized SIDS Partnership](#)

Adjunct Professor of Education, The University of the South Pacific 2013 – 2016...and the recent book:

[www.bloomsbury.com/9781623567859/](http://www.bloomsbury.com/9781623567859/).

# LIVING AT THE **SHARP END** OF ENVIRONMENTAL UNCERTAINTY IN SMALL ISLAND STATES

Learning from the '**sharp end**' - Exploring implications for sustainability and Education for Sustainable Development

This multidisciplinary event will bring together participants from small island states with researchers and practitioners from across the University of Bristol and the wider UK.

Contributions from Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean small island states, including The University of the South Pacific, Indian Ocean Commission - ISLANDS, Teachers from Zanzibar and Wales and a Keynote Address from Dame Pearlette Louisy, Head of State and Governor General of Saint Lucia

**Registration to the event is required.**

**To register & find out more:**

**Web:** <http://bristol.ac.uk/education/events/2014/1002.html>

**Email:** [EducationSmallStates@gmail.com](mailto:EducationSmallStates@gmail.com)

University of Bristol  
Graduate School of Education  
35 Berkeley Square, Bristol BS8 1JA

**17<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
9am - 5pm 2014



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