



Early Careers Geography Network

Developing and empowering early careers teachers

#ECGeogNetwork

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WELCOME TO #ECGeogNetwork

Hello! Welcome to April's newsletter! This month we are celebrating all things ECGeogNetwork compounding in our appearance at the GA conference from the 8th - 10th of April! Ensure you catch out founder Gemma Thompson's talk at 2pm on Saturday 10th, addressing how to thrive as an NQT and not reinvent the wheel. We will also be available to talk on the exhibition stand throughout the conference!

Our 'Geographer of the Month' for April is Paul Turner (@geography_paul on twitter). He has written an excellent article on challenging the status quo and his work to provide insight into climate change. The Radical Geography Handbook and subsequent Manifesto shows Geography Teacher collaboration at its best!

We hope that you are all having an enjoyable and relaxing half term! I'm sure most will agree that last term was tough and we made it! Here at ECGN we always love to hear from you, so please feel free to message us any time for a chat! ☺



– Team
#ECGeogNetwork

OTHER STORIES:

**Thursday 8th – Saturday 10th
June**

Join us at the GA
Conference 2021!

Delve into a host of spectacular presentations from the best that the Geography Community has to offer around the theme of “compassionate geographies”

**Find Gemma Thompson,
our founder, presenting at
the conference on Saturday
10th April @ 2pm**





Another World is Possible.

By: Paul Turner

Hello - I'm Paul, I've been a geography teacher for more than 10 years and for the last 5 led a department in a school with quite a few differences. Students take GCSEs in only 3 core subjects whilst completing the schools own qualification

in other subjects such as Geography. Increasingly schools across the UK are following this approach with schools like School 21 and the XP Schools being part of progressive alliances such as Big Education and Rethinking Assessment. Covid 19 has shone a light on the fragility of terminal examination and the current system, it's important teachers realise there is an alternative.

It's also so important for early career geography teachers to grow into themselves and feel confident in who they are as an individual. Don't get railroaded by your mentors or forced to teach in a way that doesn't feel comfortable to you. Embrace your personality, your experiences and what makes you you, by doing this your passion and enthusiasm will come through and you'll be the best teacher you can be. When planning schemes of work or considering examples to include in lessons think of places you've visited or places you have a connection to, use photos you've taken whilst travelling or stories from when you visited somewhere.

Whilst teaching at a variety of schools I increasingly realised my enthusiasm was for challenging the status quo and wanting to expose inequality and unjust circumstances. Whilst at one school I organised a geography conference for students called "Can geography help us avert catastrophe?" We invited 100's of students from across the south and hosted inspiring speakers to explore geography's role in creating a better world. I then worked with the Equality Trust to train sixth form students to be Equality Ambassadors. So much is possible when you look beyond the classroom to create learning experiences.

Over a number of years I found that I increasingly enjoyed the creative process of developing teaching resources and lesson activities. This process often started when reading inspiring books or watching a powerful documentary. A good example is the Climate Breakdown teaching materials which have been downloaded more than 7000 times across the world. Google drive has helped facilitate the crowd sourcing of learning resources as well as sharing them with a global audience.

My most recent project is "Who owns England?" based around Guy Shrubshole's book by the same name and "Trespass" by Nick Hayes. Both books I would highly recommend for any teacher or enthusiastic student. The teaching resources follow the principles of radical geography using enquiry to investigate inequality and unfair situations. Land ownership is a little considered topic in schools but fundamentally underpins representation in the house of commons and house of lords, our freedoms of access and ultimately how land is managed. By exposing students to hidden and secretive data, and encouraging them to explore boundaries and land ownership around their local area, students can better understand the world around them.

Social Media

@geography_paul



Website:

<https://www.geographypaul.com/>

Paul's Article continues on the next page...



Another World is Possible (continued)

By: Paul Turner

We live in a climate and ecological crisis. The opening lines from Dr Emily Grossman's "Emergency on Planet Earth" are some of my favourite - "The science is clear, we face an unprecedented global emergency, we must act now." As an educator I like to tweak this to say "We must teach for the anthropocene", it's our responsibility to be bold and communicate the urgency around responding to the age of humans. Education must respond.

This month we launch the Radical School Geography manifesto and bring people together in a democratic and collaborative process to create the future of school geography. Last year a group of teachers came together to publish the Radical Geographers' Handbook which was a provocation to teachers to reflect on their practice and consider how they might teach in a purposefully anti racist, anti sexist and more balanced way. Some awesome geographers came forward and produced videos about why they considered themselves as radical geographers. The Radical School Geography manifesto is an evolution of this, looking to provide a developed vision of the future of school geography.

Teachers are the largest profession globally, we need to embrace the possibility of teaching to create a new and better world for all.

Paul's Top 5 must read books

- Trespass** - Nick Hayes
- Too hot to Handle** - Rebecca Willis
- Losing Eden** - Lucy Jones
- From What Is to What If** - Rob Hopkins
- There is no Planet B** - Mike Berners Lee

OUR ECGEONETWORK HIGHLIGHTS...



"Our Desk" and "Our Classroom"



Our Google Drive packed full of the best #geographteacher resources



Visit the Drive



All of our previous monthly releases with articles, CPD opportunities and our "Book of the Month" reviews...

Find all of this and more at our website!

Don't forget to also check out our GA Conference resources on April's noticeboard created and presented by our founder Gemma Thompson!