

# Curriculum Vitae : Dr Martin Levinson

## Qualifications:

1979: BA Joint Hons, English/Spanish, University of Leeds  
1982: PGCE (UK Post Graduate Certificate in Education), University of Sussex  
1989: MA in Applied Linguistics, University of Southampton  
2000: PhD in Sociology of Education, University of Exeter

## Employment:

2003 - Current - University of Exeter

I am a senior lecturer, (Education of Minority and Marginal groups) within the Graduate School of Education, College of Social Sciences and International Studies. I teach across programmes in the Education and Sociology departments – at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels. I lead the Education, Culture and Identity research group with the College.

## Previous Employment:

After my BA, my first job was as a photographer. I worked for two years in this role. My photography work led to extensive travel, particularly across China, India and Mexico. My photographs are now part of the ethnographic collection held at the Royal Albert Museum in Exeter.

After my PGCE, I worked as a Secondary teacher. This entailed work in both urban and rural schools across the UK, including London, Nottingham, Somerset and Devon. I also took two one year contracts overseas, one in a secondary school in Barcelona, and the other as a peripatetic teacher, working in an advisory capacity, in Jutland, Denmark. This background provided a practical framework for my subsequent research in the field of education, and a sense of the real outcomes and applications of that research.

## Research Projects:

August 2009 - April 2011: **Cornwall County Council**: Aspiration and Outcome - What do Gypsy youngsters and their families want from the education system? An inter-generational study.

Sept. 2009- Dec. 2011: **British Academy**: Perceptions of formal education among Gypsy/Traveller students, with particular reference to the 14-19 Diplomas: An action research project in Cornwall.

The above projects are interlinked and involve Roma/Gypsy children as co-researchers. The British Academy project moves into broader themes, considering the impact of education on social and cultural identities. The projects provide new insights about attitudes towards school and the ambitions of secondary children, considering how they fit in with wider cultural aspirations among family and community. There are several further salient issues: Are Roma/Gypsy youngsters showing signs of increased engagement with mainstream education as a consequence of reduced economic opportunities within their communities? What are the experiences of older Gypsy children, who remain within the system when most others in their peer group have left? What strategies do such youngsters employ to cope with challenges in home and school contexts? What happens when there is a mismatch between personal and collective aspiration? How does the social and cultural capital acquired in the school setting affect identity and group membership?

The findings from the above linked projects will provide new guidance for practitioners and policy-makers. While the research is centred in the UK, these findings are relevant in an international context on account of the wider insights about engagement with education systems. The research also highlights the tensions within other minority and marginal communities that ensue from increasing engagement with mainstream education systems.

Oct. 2009 - March 2011: **Education International**, Brussels: Equity Matters in Education

This project focused on an investigation of equity issues in educational provision across different countries, and an exploration of the impact of international and government policies on equity issues. The first stage involved the design of a questionnaire that was distributed through teacher unions across all member countries. This was followed by case studies in six countries: Canada, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland and Zambia. A central theme to emerge concerned particular inequities in the education of minority and marginalised groups, which persist despite various policy interventions. Indeed, in periods of recession, these inequities only appear to increase. Based around the findings, *Education International* published the final report in three languages.

#### **Books:**

1. Levinson, M.P. and Silk, A. (2007): ***Dreams of the Road - Sune Le Dromenge: Gypsy Life in the West Country***, Edinburgh, Birlinn Books.

#### **Journal Articles:**

1. Levinson, M.P. (2010): Issues of access and its maintenance when researching marginalized communities, Special Issue - ***Ethnography and Education***, Ed. B. Dennis.
2. Levinson, M.P. (2008): Not Just Content but Style: Gypsy Children Traversing Boundaries, ***Research in Comparative and International Education***, 3(3), *Special Issue: Early Childhood Education and Care*, ed. Cleghorn, A. & Prochner, L., pp. 235-49
3. Levinson, M.P. (2008): Issues of empowerment and disempowerment: Gypsy children at home and school, ***International Journal Teaching and Learning Citizenship***, *Special Issue: Children's Voice*, ed. Holden, C, pp.70-78
4. Levinson, M.P. (2007): Literacy in Gypsy Communities: Cultural Capital manifested as negative assets, ***American Educational Research Journal***, 44:1, pp.1-35
5. Levinson, M.P. & Sparkes, A.C. (2006): Conflicting value-systems: Gypsy females and the home-school interface, ***Research Papers in Education***, 21(1), pp. 79-97
6. Levinson, M.P. (2005): The role of play in the formation and maintenance of cultural identity: Gypsy children in Home and School contexts, ***Journal of Contemporary Ethnography***, 34(5), pp.499-532.
7. Levinson, M.P. & Sparkes, A.C. (2005): Gypsy children, space and the school environment, ***International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education***, 18(6), pp.751-772
8. Levinson, M.P. & Sparkes, A.C. (2004): Gypsy identity and orientations to space, ***Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*** 33(6), pp.704-34. Levinson, M.P. & Sparkes, A.C. (2003): Gypsy Masculinities and the School-Home Interface: exploring contradictions and tensions, ***British Journal of Sociology of Education*** 20(5), pp.587-604.

#### **Book Chapters:**

1. Levinson, M.P. (2009): Cultural Difference or Subversion: A question of perspective, in ***Traveller, Nomadic and Migrant Education***, ed. Danaher, P.A., Kenny, M. & Leder, J.R., New York, Routledge.
2. Levinson, M.P. (2004): Navigating without fixed points: the perils of open-ended research, In P.N.Coombes, M.J.M.Danaher & P.A.Danaher (eds) ***Strategic uncertainties: Ethics, politics and risk in contemporary educational research*** (pp. 130-142). Queensland: Flaxton Qld: Post Pressed.

#### **Reports:**

1. Wood, E., Levinson, M., Postlethwaite, K. and Black, A. (2011): **Equity Matters**, Brussels, Education International
2. Levinson, M.P. (2007): Report on Traveller Education for the **Cambridge Primary Review** (Alexander, R.), London: Routledge.
3. Levinson, M.P. (2007): Gypsy Traveller Children in Schools, **Into Teaching**, (19), pp. 13-18, London, Optimus.

**In Press:**

1. Levinson, M.P. (2012): Olanakları Genişletme ya da Asimilasyon: İngiltere’de Çingenelerin Karşılaştıkları Açmazlar - Widening opportunities or assimilation: Dilemmas facing Gypsies in the UK, in **Gypsies**, ed. Yildirin O, Istanbul: International Canakkale Biennial.

**In preparation:**

2. Levinson, M.P. & Hooley, N. (2012/3): Supporting Learning of Nomadic Communities across transnational contexts: Exploring parallels in the education of UK Roma Gypsies and Indigenous Australians
3. Levinson, M.P. (2012/3): Integration of Gypsy Roma children in schools: Trojan or Pantomime Horse? In **Roma Education in Europe**, ed. Miscovik, M., New York: Routledge.

**Conference Presentations:**

2011 (May) – (Educational International) Conference, Brussels – **Keynote address**  
 2010 (August) – **ECER** (European Conference on Educational Research), Helsinki  
 2009 (May) - Traveller, Nomadic and Migrant Education, Dublin – **Invited presentation**  
 2007 (September) - **ECER**, European Conference on Educational Research), Ghent  
 2007 (July) – UEL (University of East London), Cultural Studies Conference, London  
 2006 (September) - **ECER**, (European Conference on Educational Research), Geneva

**Membership of International Bodies/ Editorial Activities/ Other Esteem Indicators:**

American Educational Research Association panel member and reviewer (current)  
 International Advisory Board member and Reviewer of the *International Journal of Pedagogies and Learning*, Queensland, Australia (current)  
 2009 – Consulted re. National Strategies reports on Ethnicity, Social Class and Gender Achievement.  
 2007 - Report on Traveller Education to the Primary Review after personal invitation from Professor Robin Alexander  
 2007 - Interviewed by Laurie Taylor on BBC Radio 4 - *Thinking Allowed*  
 2011- Consulted for Channel 4 *Dispatches* television programme on Gypsy life in the UK