

## CANDIDATE NOMINATION STATEMENTS

Nominee: **Suzanne Culshaw**

Institution: University of Hertfordshire

Proposer: Deb Outhwaite

### Statement from Nominee

Suzanne has been a secondary teacher for 15+ years and has led subjects, departments and curriculum change. She was awarded SLE status in 2015. She completed her Masters in Educational Leadership with distinction at Cambridge and held a PhD studentship at the University of Hertfordshire (PhD awarded with no amendments in 2019). Her research focused on the experience of struggling and included teachers, middle and senior leaders and two headteachers. Currently she is a Research Fellow working on an ERASMUS+ project exploring arts-based approaches to leadership development. A longstanding BELMAS member, Suzanne has attended and presented at a number of BELMAS conferences. She recently took over leadership of the BELMAS blog, to which she brings a host of innovative ideas to benefit the wider 'BELMAS family'. She has regularly hosted BELMAS chats and has a strong social media presence. Suzanne is a committee member for IPDA England and an active member of a BERA SIG. She is a town councillor, chair of a charity and a trustee of a MAT. Suzanne sees herself as a bridge between practitioners and researchers and is an excellent networker; she would bring energy, enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity to the role as council member.

Nominee: **Jacqueline Baxter**

Institution: The Open University UK

Proposer: Dr Deborah Outhwaite

#### Statement from Nominee

I have served as a member of council for the last 6 years acting as lead on online engagement. As part of this I founded the BELMAS blog, which has been successful in attracting new readers to the website. Its accessible format and style helps to disseminate research making it a key tool for knowledge exchange. For 5 years I also served as Editor in Chief of the Journal Management in Education. During this time I took the journal from 200th place in the world education journal rankings, to 435 out of 1597 education journals: it now features in the top 20 Educational Administration journals category on Google. During my tenure I developed several new categories for articles, providing writers with different ways of expressing their evidence-based opinion, commentary and research. I am a passionate advocate of the society, which, I believe, occupies a special place in the world number of different professional groups and students internationally. I would be honoured to continue to serve BELMAS and contribute to its development as we face ever more complex issues both in education and wider society.

Nominee: **Catherine Simon**

Institution: Bath Spa University

Proposer: Catherine Simon

#### Statement from Nominee

I am an active member of BELMAS Council with responsibility for publications. As such, I liaise between our publishers Sage and editors of our two BELMAS Journals, EMAL and MiE, in representing the needs of BELMAS, its membership and new and established authors, both within and outside our organisation. I am looking forward to progressing a number of ideas that will build on the successes of these publications and forefront our publications as the main repository of practitioner and academic research in Educational Leadership.

I also sit on the Conference Committee and am committed to making our conferences accessible to members across the globe, presenting cutting edge research and knowledge exchange and safe space to develop new and aspiring academics and practitioners in the field of educational leadership and management. My current area of interest is the development of leadership and management studies for undergraduate students of education, widening the concept of educational leadership to include the broader education sector such as cultural and creative industries. To this end I am developing a new undergraduate text book with Deb Outhwaite and a number of authors across the BELMAS membership representing a broad spectrum leadership perspectives and contexts.

Nominee: **Michelle Haywood**

Institution: University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust

Proposer: Michelle Haywood

#### Statement from Nominee

During my career I have developed a wide portfolio of varying experience across the education and although I have a strong SEND and Inclusion focus, all of my recent roles have required operational and strategic leadership within the education sector from Early Years to Higher Education.

Currently as part of a MAT strategic leadership team, I lead, manage and coordinate a programme of professional development, training and school improvement across 12 Schools and it is this lived experience of Leadership that is driving my Phd thesis to consider leadership roles within growing and emerging MAT Structures.

I am the Co- founder of ResearchSEND (also co editing a book entitled ResearchSEND in Ordinary Classrooms) a successful grassroots organisation promoting the use of research in helping to meet the needs of learners with SEND. ResearchSEND hosted a number of national conferences promoting the use of research in SEND and Inclusive practice to share experiences, explore ideas and offer guidance as well as leading on the University of Wolverhampton's sub contract for the nasen led Whole School SEND (WSS) project.

Nominee: **Jan Hetherington**

Institution: Staffordshire University

Proposer: Jan Hetherington

#### Statement from Nominee

BELMAS has been invaluable to me as an ECR and as an education professional, it has provided me with support and opportunities to hone my academic practice. I have had papers accepted for BELMAS Conference 2020, received a BELMAS Student Research Bursary and I have a paper forthcoming in MiE special governance edition. It's about giving back. I have had other papers accepted for ECR BERA Symposium 2020, AERA 2021 and I was also awarded a bursary from the Dr Ruth Thompson Global Teaching Scholarship Fund in 2020. Currently, I have two papers under review for AERA 2022. Studying for the EdD has made me reflexive of my daily practice, made me aware of my unique positioning as both researcher and senior leader in practice, and has significantly changed my practice. This positionality I think could contribute to the Belmas family positively. My research interests are focused on governance, democracy, social justice, policy, and the engagement, in decision-making of those deemed disadvantaged, as well as Bourdieu. My thesis explores co-operative values, democracy, and parental engagement in a neoliberal context of education. Professionally, I 'm a vice principal, an SLE and facilitator for the new NPQ senior and middle leadership suite.

Nominee: **Aly Colman**

Institution: UCL IOE

Proposer: Ruth McGinity

#### Statement from Nominee

Dr Aly Colman is a Lecturer in Educational Leadership at UCL Institute of Education, working within the Centre for Educational Leadership. In addition to postgraduate teaching and supervision, she is Programme Leader for the MA Educational Leadership (In-service/Teach First routes). Aly taught at the University of Brighton (2013-20), having previously worked in secondary and further education.

Academic interests include education leadership, school inspection, policy enactment, and social inequality and its impact on education. Recent published research has also focused on access to the creative arts in areas of deprivation. Regional and national projects include the Further Forces Mentoring Programme led by the Education and Training Foundation, with support from Ministry of Defence, Department for Education and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and more recently, the Department for Education's Early Career Framework, working as part of the UCL Early Career Teacher Consortium.

Having had a range of experience working in school, college and university sectors alongside researching educational leadership enables Aly to contribute an informed voice to the BELMAS council. Aly's research has been underpinned by a strong commitment to equity and equality and is therefore well placed to contribute to the current diversity discourse within BELMAS and beyond.

Nominee: **Vera James**

Institution: Vera James GC Ltd

Proposer: Vera James

#### Statement from Nominee

Dr. Vera James is a leading global consultant, speaker, researcher, coach, with expert insight on educational and organisational strategies with PhD in Educational Management. She is the Principal Consultant of Vera James GC. Ltd., a foremost education consultancy organisation, focused on raising successful, excellence-driven individuals, within the family, educational, national and global systems.

A former Dean of Education at the Corona College of Education, Nigeria where she managed all academic aspect of the institution. She is currently a director at Ask The Paediatricians Foundation, a global child health and welfare foundation with an online community of over 600,000 members across the globe where she leads a team of over 2000 volunteers across 36 states in Nigeria and lectures as an adjunct in University of Lagos, Nigeria.

She is a fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants; and Chartered Institute of Corporate Mentoring and Coaching Nigeria. She is also a member of several associations, ILA, CCEAM and WIMBIZ. She is a Certified Management Specialist and holds a certificate on Leaders of Learning Course from the HarvardX, She sits on the board of several organisations, including: Ask The Paediatricians Foundation, Rhemaword Christian Centre; The Glorious Widows Orphans Ministry.

Nominee: **Paul Miller**

Institution: Educational Equity Services

Proposer: Paul Miller

Statement from Nominee

I have been a BELMAS Council member for the past few years, and this has given me profound insight into the work of BELMAS, its ambitions, its accomplishments and impact and its need for reform in some areas. I co-convene the Race & Educational Leadership RIG and currently leading a small team of colleagues looking at developing an Anti-Racism Strategy for BELMAS. I see my role as crucial not only in helping to develop, but also to deliver this Strategy. Furthermore, I see my role as key to helping to deliver the ambitious plan BELMAS has set out to deepen and widen its international reach and impact.

I welcome your vote to keep me at the table as a Council member.



Nominee: **Neil Gilbride**

Institution: University of Gloucestershire

Proposer: Chris James

#### Statement from Nominee

I am a Senior Lecturer in Education and Educational Leadership at the University of Gloucestershire, with 16 years' experience in Education. I am standing for Council as I believe that, by working with a more diverse range of partners, BELMAS can extend the impact of its members and ensure its central position as a highly inclusive, proudly academic voice.

This goal will require us to work across a plurality of different structures and persuasions. This approach has been a core feature of my work. I am an advisor to Ambition Institute, the Teacher Development Trust, Big Education, and several schools and trusts. Working across these organisations, all with considerably different definitions of Leadership and Leadership Development, highlights:

A) My strong capacity to influence, build consensus and create opportunities across different beliefs.

B) My access to insights, knowledge and networks which I can bring to BELMAS so as to increase the opportunities for our organisation and its members.

In this challenging landscape, the sector needs a critical friend – a strong, inclusive voice to lead the development of research, impact and dissemination. I hope I have demonstrated the skills and track record that can help our organisation to achieve this goal.

Nominee: **Agnieszka Bates**

Institution: Bath Spa University

Proposer: Agnieszka Bates

#### Statement from Nominee

My career in education spans over twenty three years, including twelve years as a primary school practitioner in London and subsequently, designing and delivering Education Leadership and Management (ELM) courses at three UK Universities. I am currently Head of Taught Provision in the School of Education at Bath Spa University responsible for managing the development of the undergraduate and post graduate curriculum. Part of my remit is partnership development and engagement with teacher educators and school practitioners to support research-informed professional practice, as well as contributing to research at our Centre for Equity, Inclusion and Community. My first book, 'Transforming Education: Meanings, myths and complexity' (2016), was based on empirical research with school leaders, building on my consultancy work on implementing school improvement strategies. My teaching experience and research output in the field of ELM were acknowledged by an invitation to join the Comparative Review of Leadership, Management and Administration in the Four Jurisdictions in the UK (BELMAS, 2020). Educational leaders and practitioners now face considerable challenges following the impact of Covid-19. I would welcome the opportunity to support their efforts by serving as a Council Member and contributing to the strategic role of BELMAS in the post-pandemic education recovery.

Nominee: **Bethany K Kelly**

Institution: University of Buckingham

Proposer: Deb Outhwaite

#### Statement from Nominee

My experience as a practitioner and the integration of this with academic studies, or as Dr Colin Russell, former BELMAS chair calls it, working as a pracademic, is a key aspect of what I would bring to the council. Having taught Philosophy and RS for twenty years in schools, working first as a Middle, then Senior Leader, I was introduced to Leadership theory through training offered by an inspirational Head. This led to my Masters in Educational Leadership and Management with the OU. I completed a Doctorate whilst working as a Teacher Trainer and currently work as Director of Programmes at the University of Buckingham overseeing 600 PGCE teachers and approximately 300 students on Masters programmes. My main areas of interest are identity, gender and leadership and how this links to teaching. I shared this at the recent BELMAS Ignite event and at the conference. Next year I will have been a member of BELMAS for ten years, bridging the gap between research and practice and would want to continue to demonstrate this as a Council Member. It is a tough time for teacher training in universities. I would like to represent this aspect of Educational Leadership on the Council.