

## Call for Papers 2017

### The Adult Learner The Irish Journal of Adult and Community Education

**The theme of The Adult Learner 2017 will be: Quality in Adult and Community Education**

**The Adult Learner** is the Irish Journal of adult and community education founded in the mid 1980s. It aims primarily to serve the needs of the adult education community in Ireland by providing a forum for critical reflection on the practices of teaching and learning. The Journal aims to continue to make knowledge, research and writing accessible to the widest possible audience and emphasises the implications of critique for practice. The Journal has a long established practice of giving priority to subject matter that addresses disadvantage, social exclusion, equality, workplace learning and the study of the teacher/student relationship. Community education, literacy, citizenship and access issues are also of importance in the Journal. The Journal welcomes papers which are relevant to those working across the broad field of adult and community education and which make a contribution to debates both in Ireland and internationally.

This year's edition of the Journal we will be looking for submissions which focus on the concept of quality in adult and community education in the broadest sense, as a guide qualitative/quantitative research based articles relating to the following topics could include:

1. Quality provision in adult and community education
2. 'Quality' and non-accredited adult learning
3. 'Quality' and quality assurance processes in adult learning
4. 'Quality' adult learning, from a learner perspective
5. Challenges/opportunities for improving the quality of adult and community education in the current context
6. National or international policies in the field of quality

1. **Papers which** engage in critical debate and analysis of concepts, policies and theories and/or practices in the field. They may include findings from recent research and where this is so, should include a brief outline of any research methodologies used. Papers which initiate dialogue between individuals, groups or sectors in the field of lifelong learning are also welcome. These papers should **NOT** exceed **5,000** words in length including references.

2. **Practice-based papers or other contributions including case studies** which exchange ideas about what works in various programmes and contexts, which are innovative, and which share examples of good practice. These papers engage in analysis of practical aspects. Papers should **NOT** exceed **3,000** words in length including references.
3. **Responses/Critiques.** The Journal will consider publishing critiques of articles or responses to topics/articles in the previous issue of the Journal. These should be written in academic style and should be backed up by evidence. They should be no more than **1,000** words in length.

Please state clearly on your submission which section you are submitting to. We will not accept papers which exceed the word limits. **Please note papers which exceed the word limits will be returned.**

**Only one submission paper will be accepted per author for an edition of the Journal unless otherwise specified by the Editorial Board.**

All papers submitted undergo a refereeing process which involves at least two referees. Where contributions are accepted this may be on condition that changes recommended by referees are taken into account. We recommend contributors consider the diversity of our readership and ask that articles are written with an international readership in mind. We are very grateful for all contributions submitted and will consider each on its merits and provide feedback.

**All papers submitted should conform to the following guidelines:**

- *Relate to the broad aims of The Journal and relevant to the field of adult and community education*
- *Provide evidence of a coherent and focused argument and be supported by robust evidence*
- *Outline and explain any methodology used*
- *Be contextualised for an international audience (e.g. explain use of acronyms)*
- *Be submitted in the format outlined (see separate guidance, available online)*
- *Begin with a short abstract ( not more than 100 words )*
- *Include a reference section which refers only to articles mentioned in the text*

All papers should be presented in a style as outlined in the [Style Guide for Contributors](#). Only books/articles /web-sites referred to in the text should be included in the references.

The name, address, a short statement and email address of the author, or the corresponding author in case of multiple authorship, should be submitted on a separate attached sheet rather than on the manuscript and where appropriate should include the work-place of the author. A short statement about the author (**no more than 60 words in length**) should be attached.

The number of words should be included at the end of the article and should conform to the word limit depending on which section you are submitting to. Articles which exceed the length will be returned to the author(s).

Please note we cannot accept papers which do not conform strictly to the guidelines.

The editor welcomes queries from writers who may wish to discuss possible subject matter and approaches.

**The deadline for all submissions will be the close of business Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Please note that contributions cannot be accepted after this date.**

**Please mark for the attention of:**

The Editor, The Adult Learner Journal,

Please send all correspondence to Mairéad Tynan, Secretary to the Adult Learner Journal at [mtynan@aontas.com](mailto:mtynan@aontas.com)