

**Pamela Black (Education PhD) - EERA Summer School, on Writing for Dissemination, June 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, University of Birmingham**

Attendance at the European Educational Research Association Summer School, Academic Writing for Dissemination provided an excellent opportunity to focus on academic writing skills with fellow early career researchers, under the expert guidance of experienced academics. Each student was placed in a tutor group, who met each day to focus on various aspects of academic writing, which included the production and presentation of: an abstract, a set of conference presentation slides, a poster, and a press release. I was very fortunate to be placed in Professor Stephen Gorard's group, whom I met with each day to discuss research issues, develop, present and critique our own and fellow group members academic writing. Stephen Gorard is a prolific academic writer – having published nearly 1,000 books, papers, chapters and other reports on the effectiveness and equity of educational reforms, and on the quality of education research in social science. He entered academic life in 1997, after working as a secondary school teacher and leader, adult educator, and computer analyst. His straight talking style, plentiful advice and guidance provided accessible and useful pointers on how to thrive in academia.

I also took the opportunity to learn more about academic writing by attending the guest presentations on: '*Writing for dissemination*' by Erika Hawkes from Birmingham University, '*Publishing in Academic Journals*' by Graham Hobbs, a Chief Editor from Routledge/ Taylor and Francis, '*Writing a book proposal*' by Routledge/ Taylor and Francis, '*Conference presentations*' by Professor Kathryn Ecclestone and Erika Hawkes from Birmingham University, '*Using Social Media*' Dr Chris Allen, from Birmingham University, and '*Life as an Academic*' by Professor Stephen Gorard, from Birmingham University. Attended by early career researchers from across Europe, the Summer School also provided time for networking within our tutor groups, during breaks and social events. The 'Academic writing for dissemination' week was enjoyable and very worthwhile!