



National Centre for STEM Education



EPI-STEM SCIENCE EDNeT Research Seminar Along the West Coast

Title: *'The Evolving Place of Science in the Primary School Curriculum'*

Dr. Anne O' Dwyer, Lecturer in Science Education, Department of STEM Education, Mary Immaculate College

Zoom On-Line Research Seminar <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85289560296>

Tuesday 7th June 2022 @5.00pm on ZOOM Meeting ID: 852 8956 0296

Abstract:

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education has received increased attention in Ireland in recent years, perhaps more so than science education. There is much evidence that the Irish public values science and the place of science education in our school system. In the current Irish Primary School Curriculum, science is positioned within the curricular area *Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE)*, along with History and Geography. Technology and Engineering are not curricular areas at primary level education. The recent draft of the revised primary curriculum has proposed five broad curricular areas, one of these new curricular areas being *Mathematics, Science & Technology Education (NCCA, 2020)*. Aware of the challenges posed by the inconsistent language and lack of consensus on a common definition of STEM, it is important that educators develop a shared conceptual framework and co-construct a vision for Science and STEM in primary education.

Biography:

Dr. Anne O' Dwyer is a Lecturer in Science Education, Department of STEM Education in Mary Immaculate College. Anne teaches on undergraduate and post graduate programmes in Mary Immaculate College. She is currently working with colleagues in the Department of STEM Education on the *STEAMING* Erasmus project in collaboration with Clare Education Centre. *STEAMING* is an Erasmus+ KA2 Project which commenced in September 2019 with the aim of engaging students in the creation of their own STEAM learning.



Link to Paper:

Hourigan, M., O' Dwyer, A., Leavy, A.M. and Corry, E. (2021). **Integrated STEM - A step too far in elementary education contexts?** *Irish Educational Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/03323315.2021.1899027

<https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/NUQXTCQDTPJTE3ZK6ZFR/full?target=10.1080/03323315.2021.1899027>

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