University of Birmingham

Professor Gary Thomas

Professor of Inclusion and Diversity

School of Education

Contact details

Telephone +44 (0) 121 414 4836

Email g.thomas.3@bham.ac.uk

School of Education
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham
B15 2TT, United Kingdom

About

Gary Thomas took up the post of chair in education at Birmingham in 2005. Before university teaching, he worked as a teacher and as an educational psychologist. In higher education – at the University of Leeds, at Oxford Brookes University, UWE and University College London – his teaching and research have focused on inclusion, special education, and research methodology in education.

Gary has received awards from the AHRC, the ESRC, the Nuffield Foundation, the Leverhulme Trust, the DfE, Barnardos, the Cadmean Trust, local authorities and a range of other organisations. Most of his funded research has been on inclusive or special education, though his Leverhulme Research Fellowship was awarded to examine the role of theory in education.

Gary Thomas has recently led an ESRC thematic seminar competition in the Teaching and Learning Research Programme on the assessment of quality in educational research.

He was the founding co-editor of the **International Journal of Research and Method in Education** and he has been a co-editor of the **British Educational Research Journal**. He is currently executive editor of **Educational Review**.

His latest book is entitled **Education: A Very Short Introduction**

Qualifications

- PhD
- MEd (Ed Psych)
- CPsychol
- PGCE
- BA (Hons) Psychology

Teaching

His teaching is in his areas of interest and is principally focused in research degree supervision. Gary Thomas also teaches two modules in the UG programme (Special Educational Needs and Introduction to Psychology) and contributes to the MA in Social Research.

Thomas, G. (2009) **How to do your research project: a guide for students in education and applied social sciences (2nd edition).** London: SAGE

Postgraduate supervision

Doctoral candidates

Sonja Casha, Special needs and FE in Europe

John Kirkman, Understandings of science

Michael Nugent, Laughter and inclusion

Raj Pahill, Positive psychology and education

Clare Rawdin, Well-being and the curriculum

Sarah Wall, Effective schools

Former students

Jeanette Nelson, ESRC 1+3 scholarship student. Home schooling

Research

His recent research and scholarship have centred on inclusive education, on the work of additional personnel in schools and research methodology in education, with a particular focus on the epistemology of special education.

Gary Thomas is currently ...

i) leading an AHRC funded research project entitled **The changing nature of 'connectivity' within and between communities**. A link to the project blog may be found here **http://connectedcomms.wordpress.com/**

ii) a co-investigator on the Sense-funded project (PI Liz Hodges) **The experiences of diagnosis for people with Usher syndrome**

Publications

Selected Publications

Thomas, G. (2013) *Education: a very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. **Book details**

Thomas, G. (2012) , A review of thinking and research about inclusive education policy, with suggestions for a new kind of inclusive thinking. *British Educational Research Journal*. 39, 3, 473-490. **DOI: 10.1080/01411926.2011.652070**

Thomas, G. (2012) Changing our landscape of inquiry for a new science of education. *Harvard Educational Review*, 82, 1, 26-51. **http://her.hepg.org/content/6t2r089l715x3377/**

Thomas, G. (2011) A typology for the case study in social science following a review of definition, discourse and structure. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 17, 6, 511 – 521. **DOI 10.1177/1077800411409884**

Thomas, G. (2011) The case: generalization, theory and phronesis in case study, *Oxford Review of Education*, 37, 1., 21-35 **DOI: 10.1080/03054985.2010.521622**

Thomas, G. (2011) *How to do your case study: a guide for students and researchers*. London: Sage. **http://www.uk.sagepub.com/books/Book235663**

Thomas, G. (2010) Doing case study: abduction not induction; phronesis not theory. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 16, 7, 575-582.

Thomas, G. (2007) *Education and Theory: Strangers in Paradigms*. Maidenhead: Open University Press. **http://www.mcgraw-hill.co.uk/html/0335211798.html**

Thomas, G., & Loxley, A. (2007) *Deconstructing Special Education and Constructing Inclusion*. Buckingham: Open University Press. (2nd edition) **http://www.mcgraw-hill.co.uk/html/0335223710.html**

Thomas, G. & James, D. (2006) Re-inventing grounded theory: some questions about theory, ground and discovery. *British Educational Research Journal,* 32 (6): 767–795.

Full publication list for Professor Gary Thomas from 2001 (PDF, opens new window)

Full publication list for Professor Gary Thomas pre 2001 (PDF, opens new window)

© University of Birmingham 2014