

Leslie S. Woodcock: Profile

Leslie S. Woodcock is a recently-retired university academic, formerly teaching in the School of Education at the University of Leeds in the UK, where he taught on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in English and in Education, particularly in the Initial Training of Teachers. He also taught on courses relating to sociology, culture and language on undergraduate modules in Childhood Studies, and Childhood Education & Culture, and co-ordinated and led research modules for these and Joint Honours' programmes.

He has been Visiting Professor at the University of Macedonia, and has taught at Undergraduate, Master's and In-service levels at the University of Athens, and the University of Thessaloniki (at Florina). From 1994, he has been Keynote Speaker at a number of International Conferences in Greece, including those of the Greek Pedagogical Society, and the Greek Institute for Applied Pedagogy and Education. He has strong connections with the Athens Institute for Education & Research (ATINER).

From 2007 to 2014 he was firstly, an External Assessor, and then an External Expert for European programmes with the British Council in Edinburgh. Other external appointments in the UK have included being a DfEE (Government) External Assessor for the Performance Threshold (Performance-Related Pay for School Teachers) from 2000-2004, and a Member of the DfEE Induction Appeals' Committee for Newly Qualified Teachers in 2004.

He also has held honorary appointments in the International Centre for Inter-Cultural Studies at the University of Bradford, and at the Centre for Ethnic Relations in Education at the University of Manchester.

Earlier, Leslie was a member of staff at Bretton Hall, a College of the University of Leeds, where he taught on Education and English programmes in the Initial Training of Teachers, latterly leading the final year Education programme for undergraduates. He also supervised postgraduate study (through distance learning) with serving teachers in Cyprus and the Irish Republic.

Formerly a primary school teacher for many years, Leslie was very experienced in teaching multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and culturally-diverse pupils. In Higher Education, along with other colleagues, he prepared trainee teachers for teaching in such contexts, working extensively with schools, students and teachers in West, South and North Yorkshire, whilst both at the University of Leeds and at Bretton Hall.

Concurrently with teaching at Bretton Hall, he was appointed as inaugural Head of the European Office there, a post he held for four years. In this, he was directly answerable to the Principal and Directorate. His work involved establishing, organising, and co-ordinating the extensive activities and projects of the Office on a daily basis. The work was extensive and involved many and varied EU projects and programmes, and work with 14 EU partners, including an extensive SOCRATES-ERASMUS exchange programme. It also involved liaison, consultation and negotiation across the EU and with national agencies and distinguished personnel, as well as participation at many EU events, nationally and elsewhere in Europe.

Leslie was educated at the Universities of Newcastle upon Tyne, Bradford, and Manchester. In education, as an experienced writer, editor, and reviewer, Leslie is in demand as an honorary consulting adviser to varied university projects. His first degree was in music, and he also studied this privately at postgraduate level with a distinguished musician. He is now much involved in classical music again, and undertakes special honorary work for the School of Music at the University of Leeds, and also for famous musician friends in Europe.

