

The biannual conference of the **Special Interest Group Teaching and Teacher Education** (SIG 11), which is part of the **European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI)**, will be hosted at the University of Fribourg from August 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Made possible through the support of the **Aebli Näf Foundation for the Advancement of Swiss Teacher Education** one of the conference's main presentations will be open to the public and simultaneously translated into French and German.

### **Invitation to public lecture and panel discussion**

## **Teacher Research as a Bridge between Theory and Practice - Implications for Teacher Education -**

**Frances Rust**  
**Erikson Institute, Chicago, USA**

**August, 19th, 2008, 5.00 pm – 6.45 pm**

**Fribourg/Freiburg**  
**Boulevard de Pérolles 90; Auditorium Joseph Deiss**

No matter what the field -- law, medicine, economy, or teaching -- when one talks about professional preparation and support, the major issue that confronts researchers and policy-makers is "the problem of practice", that is, how to get current knowledge into the hands of practitioners in ways that enable both an appropriate response to practical problems at the individual level and a refinement or revision of practice across the profession. The complexity of life in classrooms and in schools makes the problem of practice particularly vexing for those who are engaged in teacher education and teacher professional development. In this presentation, Rust brings together research on teacher education and teacher professional development and her work on teacher research among pre-service and in-service teachers to propose teacher research as a potential bridge between theory and practice in teacher education.

Frances O'Connell Rust joined the Erikson faculty in July 2007 as senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty. Previously a professor of teacher education at New York University's Steinhardt School of Education, she has been working in early childhood education since 1966. She has founded two early childhood schools based on the Montessori method and the British Infant School movement. Since 1985, she has directed undergraduate and graduate-level teacher education programs. She has published widely on topics related to teacher preparation and quality, teacher-driven action research, and school improvement. Active in numerous professional organizations, she has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, *Teacher Education Quarterly*, and *Teachers and Teaching—Theory and Practice*.

**In a short panel discussion following the presentation by Frances Rust there will be first responses from:**

***Jaap Buitink*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands**  
***Fritz Oser*, University of Fribourg, Switzerland**  
***Michal Zeller Mayer*, Levinsky College of Education, Israel**

We look forward to seeing you in Fribourg.  
On behalf of the organizing committee

Fritz Staub, University of Fribourg, Department of Sciences of Education

Map: <http://www.unifr.ch/map/de/perolles.php> (building 22, Auditorium Joseph Deiss)

