

POSITIVE LATER CAREER DRAMA TEACHERS

CHRISTINA GRAY



Title of research project *The coping strategies of positive later-career drama teachers*
Linked [HERE](#)

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Description of the research project

This project analyses late-career teachers and how they maintain their positive professional outlook including the coping strategies this cohort employs and how these strategies can be utilised for re-engaging disenchanted teachers, and nurturing the next generation of beginning and pre-service teachers. In 2019, the research team extended this investigation into prominent universities and performing arts schools in Pennsylvania and New York of the United States of America. This wider data collection has been integral into understanding global issues facing late-career teachers and mechanisms by which these teachers rationalise and maintain their enthusiasm.

Key research findings

Findings highlight four key mechanisms by which late-career drama teachers rationalise and maintain their enthusiasm:

1. The fundamental influence of social networks
2. The ability to recognise and embrace one's strengths
3. The importance of being adaptable in maintaining relevance and social responsibility

The understanding of the difference teachers make to the lives of students.

Keywords Drama teaching; later-career teachers; positive teachers.

Journal article 1

Christina Gray, Geoffrey Lowe, Peter Prout & Sarah Jefferson. *"I feel very fortunate to still be doing what I love": Later career Performing Arts teachers still keen and committed* 20:7 (2019). International Journal of Education and the Arts. Linked [HERE](#)
<http://www.ijea.org/v20n7/index.html>

Journal article 2

Christina Gray, Geoffrey Lowe, Peter Prout & Sarah Jefferson. *Still keen and committed: piloting an instrument for identifying positive veteran teachers, Teachers and Teaching*. 25:4 (2019). Taylor and Francis Online. DOI: 10.1080/13540602.2019.1621829. Linked [HERE](#)
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13540602.2019.1621829?tab=permissions&scroll=top>