

Report from *Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices S-STEP* Special Interest Group

Dr. Kevin O'Connor, President
June 2026

Sixteenth year of the S-STEP SIG of CATE

Executive Members:

Julian Kitchen, Past President
Kevin O'Connor, President
Candy Jones, Program Chair
Shawn Bullock
Tom Russell
Susan Elliot-Johns
Aweeet Sivia
Poh Tan- Graduate Student Representative

Membership 41 members

Number of Sessions: 3 paper sessions & AGM session

Finances (*2023 numbers*): \$ 340.00 Membership Revenue
 \$ 6,874.36 Funds Remaining

The accumulated membership revenue could be used for a special event and/or publication of a polygraph or other initiatives.

The S-STEP executive are planning a pre-conference for CSSE 2027 at SFU next year.

Update:

We strongly encourage members to submit conference presentations. This is especially important given that sessions within CATE are allocated in part based on the number of submissions, not just the number of members.

CASTLE Conference 2026

We are excited for the upcoming CASTLE Conference 2026 (August 3-7, 2026), at the recently renovated Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex, England. Unfortunately, the Herstmonceux Castle was unable to host the Castle Conference in 2025.

The conference theme, "*Self-Study as Continuous Mapping: The Provisional and Evolving Nature of Educational Inquiry*," invites researchers, practitioners, and scholars

to explore the rich and dynamic landscape of self-study as a continuous mapping. Examining our work as an ongoing, fluid, and lifelong practice of making sense of our professional and personal terrain.

S-STEP's biennial residential conference is focused on exploring, sharing and supporting forms of self-study for teacher educators. It is a small conference of around 150 participants, representing something of a 'who's who' in the self-study community. Unlike contemporary research conferences, presentation times at the Castle are quite long and everyone is encouraged to be innovative in their forms of presentation – consequently, each session is quite novel, inclusive and rich in content.

Conference delegates are drawn from a global community, with many traveling from the USA, Australia and New Zealand. Others come from closer places, such as Holland, Iceland, and Belgium.

International Study Association on Teachers and Teaching ISATT 2025: S-STEP Strand

While we awaited our next gathering at the Castle Conference, the organizers worked in partnership with the organizers of the *International Study Association on Teachers and Teaching (ISATT)* to offer a self-study strand at their conference, held on June 30 - July 4, 2025, in Glasgow, Scotland. This was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with the ISATT community, remain active as a self-study of the teaching and teacher education (S-STEP) community, and grow our community of critical friends.

As we return to Herstmonceux Castle and publish the next S-STEP conference proceedings book this summer of 2026, we encouraged those who attended ISATT 2025 to consider using their ISATT proposal and the dynamic feedback from our S-STEP community to springboard or extend self-study research for the 2026 Castle Conference.

S-STEP SIG-Affiliated Journal

Studying Teacher Education invites submissions from authors who have a strong interest in improving the quality of teaching generally and of teacher education. The central purpose of the journal is to disseminate high-quality research and dialogue in self-study of teacher education practices. The journal is primarily a forum for teacher educators who work in contexts and programs of teacher education. The following areas of research are of particular interest:

- Self-study research, design and practice
- The complex nature of teacher education
- The transition from teacher to teacher educator
- The knowledge base of teaching and teaching about teaching
- Enhanced understandings of the processes of learning to teach
- The professional learning and development of teacher educators and teachers

STE offers opportunities for teachers and teacher educators to publish empirical and conceptual research that advances our understanding of the challenges of improving one's own teaching practices and the associated student learning.

Editorial duties are shared by Brandon Butler, based at Old Dominion University in the USA, and Christi Edge of Northern Michigan University. For more information on the journal and guidance on how to submit, please see www.tandfonline.com/cste

Lastly, **the S-STEP SIG are open to volunteers to join the board.** Please let us know if you are interested. Also, please share your suggestions regarding a potential Self-Study preconference for next year's CSSE 2027 at SFU, we would appreciate your input!