

Mr Wayne **Pollock**<sup>2</sup> (co-written with Dr Stephen **Bolaji**<sup>1</sup>)

Charles Darwin University

**Stream E:** Cultural Change and Creativity in Science and the Arts

**Title:** Where is Philosophy of Education in Teacher Education Curriculum?

**Abstract:** In the last ten years in Australia, teacher education programs have gone through a shift to accommodate the Commonwealth Government's education policy of global best practice and international assessment benchmarks. Higher education service providers bought into that agenda and have started tailoring their programs toward achieving the government's stand, being their primary funding agency. This has been reflected in a range of programs and curriculum offerings by these institutions to prepare pre-service teachers for the world of teaching. An appraisal of teacher education curriculum against the intent of national educational goals sees a significant narrowing of teaching initiatives, now largely restricted to specialist curriculum areas and certain professional skills. Pre-service teachers currently enter schools without adequate educational foundational knowledge, and without a philosophical understanding of how to engage and develop creative minds in 21st century teaching and learning. In this paper, we argue that the foundation of achieving creative minds is through the integration of philosophy of education within the teacher education curriculum.

Keywords: Philosophy, Education, Preservice Teacher, Curriculum and Creative Mind

**Bio<sup>1</sup>:** Stephen Bolaji teaches graduate programs in the College of Education, Charles Darwin University. Prior to joining CDU, he was a lecturer at the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, University of Lagos, Nigeria. He had his education qualifications from two continents (Nigeria- Africa and Australia). Stephen has research interests in Educational foundations – Comparative, Sociology, History, Philosophy and Policy Analysis in Education.

**Bio<sup>2</sup>:** Wayne Pollock is a fully registered teacher with several years of classroom experience in remote communities and suburban Melbourne. Wayne graduated from Latrobe University with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) majoring in philosophy and sociology, and completed an honours thesis on Sartre's humanism in contemporary film. Wayne continued his academic studies with a Master of Teaching at University of Melbourne and is currently a masters by research student at Charles Darwin University. Research interests include empathy, human nature and existential theories.