



## BOOK REVIEW

### Teacher Preparation in Scotland

Rachel Shanks (editor)

Bingley: Emerald Publishing (2020) 216pp., hardback £68.00

ISBN: 978-1-839-094811

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With the global Covid-19 pandemic closing schools and initial teacher education departments moving to blended and online provision, teacher preparation in Scotland has not faced a year quite like 2020. With changeable times, it is always worthwhile to revisit how and why teacher education in Scotland is as it is today.

*Teacher Preparation in Scotland* provides its readers with a comprehensive overview of the history and current arrangements for teacher preparation in Scotland. Each chapter builds the reader's knowledge and the chapter sequencing ensures that the reader can make contextual links between the current teacher education programmes available and the history or why these programmes exist today.

Amongst the multitude of interesting discussions throughout the book there are many things to consider. Does personality or team dynamic have an impact on student teacher placement experience? How has policy and change impacted teacher preparation? What does this mean for the future of teacher preparation?

In the final chapter, Robert Doherty considers the futures of Caledonian teacher education. He proposes that the quality of initial teacher education can be an indicator to the wider health of the education system. While Doherty's musings could not have envisaged the pandemic and the reality of the last year, the key notions in his conclusions of the need to recognise and build high-quality partnerships that maximise the contributions of all involved in teacher education remains paramount. Partnerships have been key to navigating the pandemic in teacher education and I agree with Doherty, they are key to the future of teacher preparation in Scotland.

This book is a very readable overview of teacher preparation in Scotland, now and how today's structures came to be. It will be a valuable reference text as Scotland embarks on teacher preparation in post pandemic times.