

ICSEI Early Career Forum

Melbourne, Australia

February 2025

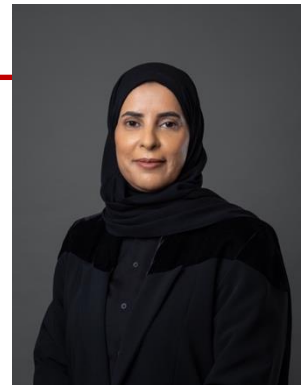


Rosie Connor, BTS Spark, Australia

Rosie founded BTS Spark to enable school leaders to access world-class leadership development and coaching at not-for-profit prices and has launched hundreds of programs supporting school leaders across four continents. Rosie has led school turnaround, worked for England's National College for School Leadership and facilitated the launch of Australia's Professional Principal Standard. Named a 2023 Most Influential Educator by The Educator, Rosie collaborates with WISE, OECD2030 and leading-edge school systems on future-focused school leadership. Her book, *Embracing Messy Leadership*, was released mid-2024 and has been read by thousands of school leaders globally.

Asmaa Al Fadala, HBK University, Qatar

Dr. Asmaa Al Fadala, an Assistant Professor at the College of Public Policy at HBKU, holds a rich 28-year career spanning K-12 education, higher education, and policy development. Her multi-faceted journey includes roles as a governmental policy writer, professor, author of leadership reform publications, and board member of educational organizations. Dr. Al Fadala's research expertise covers leadership for learning, education transformation, teacher professional development, educational reform, innovation in education, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Alfadala holds a Ph.D. and M.Phil from the University of Cambridge in Educational Leadership and Policy and has made significant contributions to the RAND-Qatar Policy Institute.



Shelby Cosner, University of Georgia, United States

SHELBY COSNER is the Morrill M. Hall Endowed Chair in Educational Administration at the University of Georgia, Mary Frances Early College of Education, the Educational Administration and Policy program. Cosner is an expert on the capacity-building and improvement-oriented work of school leaders, the preparation and development of educational leaders, the continuous improvement and evaluation of preparation/development programs for educational leaders. She examines these issues more generally as well as for a variety of equity-oriented aims.

Andrew Wambua, CP University of Technology, South Africa

Dr. Andrew Wambua is a Kenyan scholar currently serving as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Global Institute for Teacher Education and Society (GITES) at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa. He is a co-founder of Africa Voices Dialogue and a board member of the Journal of Professional Capital and Community (JPCC). He previously served on the board of the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI). Dr. Wambua holds a doctorate in Educational Sciences from the University of Heidelberg, Germany. His research focuses on teacher professional development, school leadership, and the development of sustainable and thriving networks.



Liz Robinson, Big Education, United Kingdom

Liz is the co-founder and CEO of Big Education, a Multi-academy Trust running schools in underserved communities in inner London. Liz and the team are seeking to act as change makers in the wider system by modeling practices which embody 'a big education' - an education of the 'heart, head, and hand'. They run a number of projects and programmes, including Rethinking Assessment, Rethinking Leadership, the 'Rethinking School' project and the Big Education Leadership Programme, to facilitate innovation, build capacity in others and advocate for change. Liz is part of the Bell childcare review for the Labour party.



Mollie McQuillan, University of Wisconsin Madison, United States

Mollie McQuillan is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. McQuillan's research examines the intersections between gender, sexuality, educational policies, school climate, and health. This includes examining how leaders make sense of policies concerning LGBTQ+ people in schools, the misalignment of educational laws and policies across governmental systems, and how policies can be modified to promote equity. Prior to obtaining their PhD in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University, Dr. McQuillan worked in elementary and secondary schools as a teacher and athletic coach for over a decade.



Jenny Lewis, Western Sydney University, Australia

Jenny is an experienced national and international consultant and is passionate about collaborating with education systems and schools to cultivate flourishing learning cultures. She has led systemic and organisational reviews and reforms in response to improving professional capability to bring about sustainable change in differentiated geographies in the Asia and Pacific Regions, the Middle East, North and Southern Africa, and Australia. Jenny's previous roles include the Executive Director of ICSEI, CEO of the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management, CEO of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders, and school principal.

