

Louise Stoll

Louise Stoll PhD is Immediate Past President of the International Congress for School Effectiveness and School Improvement, a freelance consultant and researcher, and Visiting Professor at the London Centre for Leadership in Learning at the Institute of Education, University of London, and at the University of Bath where, until June 2003, she was Professor in Education and Director of the Centre for Educational Leadership, Learning and Change. Louise started her career as a primary teacher in inner London, was a researcher on the Junior School Project (School Matters), a major study of primary school effectiveness. She spent six years in Ontario, Canada, as research director to the Halton Board of Education, before returning to England as Co-ordinating Director of the International School Effectiveness and Improvement Centre at the Institute of Education, where she established the School Improvement Network.

Her projects include *Creating and Sustaining Effective Professional Learning Communities* (eplc) for England's Department for Education and Skills (DfES), National College for School Leadership (NCSL) and General Teaching Council; *Networking for Learning*, a research-based simulation to support the Primary Networking Strategy; research to help NCSL articulate its key areas of leadership learning (on which the new National Standards for Headteachers were based); evaluation of the implementation of the pilot for the Key Stage 3 Strategy; and a study of Effective School Improvement in eight European countries. Over the last couple of years, Louise has evaluated several aspects of learning in South Gloucestershire.

Her many publications include: *It's About Learning (and It's About Time)* with Dean Fink and Lorna Earl (2003 – RoutledgeFalmer); and *Changing Our Schools* with Dean Fink (1996 – Open University Press). *Professional Learning Communities: Source Materials for School Leaders and Other Leaders of Professional Learning* will be published by the Innovation Unit, NCSL, DfES and GTCe in March 2006 and *Professional Learning Communities: Divergence, Depth and Dilemmas* (editors Louise Stoll and Karen Seashore Louis – Open University Press), will be published in late 2006. Louise is the presenter of the next series of Hot Research on Teachers' TV. She presents and consults in many countries.

Among her outside interests, Louise particularly enjoys singing in a jazz choir!