The organisation of an annual Advanced Study Colloquium (ASC) is an initiative that is co-organised and funded by EARLI. The scientific scope of an ASC is to take stock of an established research domain or to open a new domain within the field of learning and instruction. In either case, an ASC is a meeting of senior and junior researchers where they explore new ground and focus on both the key issues and the methodological aspects. It is expected that an ASC will lead to an output that has substantial impact for research on learning and instruction.

After reviewing the proposals submitted for the ASC 2013, the Executive Committee of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction unanimously decided to co-organise the ASC: "The Roles of Theory in Research on Learning and Instruction" together with Gert Biesta (University of Stirling, UK) and Rupert Wegerif (University of Exeter, UK).

The 2013 ASC took place 8 to 11 May 2013 in the London Knowledge Lab. The London Knowledge Lab (http://www.lkl.ac.uk/) has an excellent meeting room in the heart of London. Access to London will be easier and cheaper for the participants than other possible venues in the UK.

The purpose of the proposed colloquium was to open up the diversity of approaches to theory and theorising across Europe in order to generate a better understanding of the roles of theory and theorising in research on learning and instruction, and a better understanding of diverse traditions of theory and theorising (why and how they differ, and where and how that matters), so as to be able to facilitate a mutual learning process across different approaches and traditions within European research.