

Submissions Abstract Book - All Papers (All Submissions)

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Interrogating methodologies and approaches on employability from different disciplinary perspectives and country contexts

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Research Domain: Employability, enterprise and graduate careers (EE)

Abstract: As part of the conference theme, SRHE 2019 urges researchers globally to examine whether “the increasing emphasis on measurable, economic outcomes” underpins conformity in terms of methodological approaches and impact on criticality in the academy. Indeed, there is a growing interest in employability and within the last three years, different authors have reviewed different theoretical and empirical conceptualisations of employability in different global contexts including the UK, Australia and the USA (Potts, 2018; Tomlinson and Holmes, 2017). Yet, despite the continuing review of employability in higher education discourses, there is little consensus on a commonly accepted conceptualisation of employability. This lack of unanimity can be considered as evidence of robust and critical debate in the field. Unlike dominant conceptualisations of employability as a measurable graduate outcome (that is in relation to employment), the panellists will share methodological and strategic approaches about employability development opportunities in institutions in different disciplines and international contexts.

Paper: As part of the conference theme, SRHE 2019 urges researchers globally to examine whether “the increasing emphasis on measurable, economic outcomes” underpins conformity in terms of methodological approaches and impact on criticality in the academy. This submission for a panel discussion will discuss employability which is largely conceived as a measurable economic outcome for graduates. Indeed, there is a growing interest in employability and within the last three years, different authors have reviewed different theoretical and empirical conceptualisations of employability in different global contexts including the UK, Australia and the USA (Potts, 2018; Tomlinson and Holmes, 2017). Yet, despite the continuing review of employability in higher education discourses, there is little consensus on a commonly accepted conceptualisation of employability. This lack of unanimity is not necessarily problematic, as this can be considered as evidence of robust and critical debate in the field. Unlike dominant conceptualisations of employability as a measurable graduate outcome (that is in relation to employment), the panellists will share methodological and strategic approaches about employability development opportunities in institutions in different global contexts.

The questions below would be directed at attendees during the session:

How can different conceptualisations and methodological approaches in research on employability extend current understandings in the field?

Do current conceptualisations of employability take into account the internationalised context of the delivery of higher education in the 21st century?

The panel discussion brings together an international cohort of speakers at different stages of their careers and from diverse disciplines (Business, Law and Management Studies, Music and Education). This highly participative session will provide a space for scholarly and critical exchange and encourage criticality rather than conformity with current emphasis on 'measurable economic outcomes'.

Topic of panellist discussion
Insight on employability in Europe and the UK: Empirical research and strategic institutional approach
Approaches to employability in South Africa and Nigeria
Unleashing the creative in creative arts: Supporting entrepreneurial skills for employability
Comparing international student perspectives on employability and institutional approach

References

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Jones, E. (2012) Internationalisation and employability: Are we missing a trick? In EAIE Forum, Winter 2012. Amsterdam: European Association for International Education.

Potts, D. (2018) Learning abroad and employability: Researching the connections IEAA Research Digest 13.

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