

'Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?'
Exploring Meaning, Identities and Transformation in the Academy

SRHE Annual Research Conference
14-16 December 2010

SRHE Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference
13-14 December 2010



Society for Research into Higher Education
Annual Research Conference 2010, Celtic Manor Hotel Newport, Wales UK

Dear Colleagues,

As chair of the Conference organising committee, and on behalf of the Society, I would like to extend a very warm invitation to you to participate in the SRHE Annual Research Conference 2010. We are returning to Wales and will be located once again at the famous Celtic Manor, close to Newport in South Wales and the venue for the prestigious Ryder Cup in 2010

Conference Theme

This year's Conference will explore the theme ***'Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?'; Exploring Meaning, Identities and Transformation in Higher Education.*** Higher education is gradually undergoing a series of changes in its identities, purposes and roles in society. What are the emerging new roles of the university in a global context? How are academics, professionals, managers and students changing in the shift from elite to mass participation? What is the significance of the current *mélange* of changes and continuities in higher education? We will explore these ideas broadly within the conference, encompassing current debates regarding policy, globalisation, economic challenges, governance, leadership and management, pedagogic and learning development, quality and space management, the student experience, e-learning and marketisation.

Universities are amongst the oldest, most respected institutions in the world. They have existed more or less as degree-awarding higher learning institutions since at least 859 AD (University of Al-Karaouine), in Europe since 1088 AD (University of Bologna), in the UK since 1096 AD (University of Oxford) and before that date as non-degree awarding learning institutions (258 AD, Nanjing University, China). Universities are, at best, extraordinarily successful for their longevity and for the creation, teaching and dissemination of advanced knowledge through scholarship and research. At best, they are inspiring, freely governed, complex collegial academies of wisdom and deep learning, transforming human society and enabling rich levels of engagement in intellectual, cultural, and social achievement. The success of 'the university' is evidenced in around 17,000 institutions of higher education in the world, amongst which a fierce competition rages continually to achieve top ranking global status.

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Yet within the overall aspiration that higher education institutions continue to retain and develop world class profiles and academic freedom in research, scholarship, teaching and knowledge transfer, there is a growing awareness of multiple challenges facing not only individual universities, staff and students, but also the higher education system as a whole. Is the identity of higher education, once informed by classical and Humboldtian ideals of scholarship, collegiality and academic freedom, now changing beyond recognition, or are these trends merely evolutionary developments naturally occurring in a university sector that, in many important ways, may not really be very different from the past? The conference will explore change and continuity in higher education in considering emergent issues and possible threats to academic freedom amongst university-level institutions internationally and in the UK.

SRHE Conference Theme 2010 - Research Contexts

Planned cuts and government led policy changes are putting pressure on universities to raise fees and justify income and expenditure, while continuing to attract large numbers of students into an increasingly universal system that also aims to cultivate elite profiles in research, scholarship, teaching and quality. How are higher education institutions, staff and students coping with these multiple, sometimes competing, demands? Numbers of part-time and mature students continue to rise, as cash-strapped learners take on both study and work in the global recession. Demographic shifts in the student body are occurring in a highly competitive international student market, a downturn in young people's employment and an increase in population mobility. There are more than a hundred million college students across the world in a competitive market in which China, India and Middle Eastern nations are rapidly expanding both campuses and capabilities. Global demands for higher education are on the increase: but how are individual institutions developing diverse, proactive responses to opportunities for multiethnic and multilingual partnership?

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data demonstrates that the number of UK students has increased by nearly five per cent in the past five years. However, within that, there are strong subject differences. Architecture has increased student numbers by 34.2 per cent, Veterinary science, Medicine and Dentistry by more than 20 per cent, while Biology, Physical sciences, Maths and Creative Arts and Design all had increases of more than 10 per cent in 2003-08, yet Computer science student numbers fell by 29.3 per cent. How and why is the academy changing in subject distribution, curriculum provision and graduate destinations? Is this a worldwide trend? Long-term strategic planning by universities aims to provide a management and quality overview of institutional responses to both challenges and changes in the academy. Is such planning adequate to cope with financial risk in the economic downturn? Are university leaders, academics and policy makers making the most of opportunities for transformation and development? Are the Humboldtian features of universities: scholarship, collaborative research-like learning and academic freedom, sustainable in the current era? In short, to echo T.S.Eliot's words in *The Rock*, are we at risk of losing '*wisdom*' in the academy, in the incessant quantification, commodification and marketisation of '*information*' that passes for '*knowledge*'?

Research Strands

In considering the evolving meaning and identity of higher education, the conference will aim to address these debates within seven research domains covering these thematic areas:

- **Policy**

Exploring policy developments in:

- The economic profile of universities; the global economic crisis affecting HE
- Student fees, broadening of the social bases of universities, trends of massification, widening participation, diversity and inclusion, systems expansion alongside economic challenges
- International student recruitment, globalisation, mobility, global engagement, competition
- E-Learning, flexible and distance learning, virtual learning and social networking
- Policy developments and assumptions regarding employment, skills, economic development and social engagement, local, regional and international communities
- Changes and challenges to the higher education curriculum and the role of universities in, for example, the Bologna process and Melbourne Model
- Employment-related dimensions of quality assurance; the relationship of higher education to businesses and employers

- **Learning**

Exploring learning, teaching and student experience development in:

- Academic and professional identities and roles within a massified, diversified and globalised higher education sector; teaching, learning and widening participation developments
- Changing student experiences of higher education and evolving identities of students
- The 'feminisation' of the academy – women may in the future form the majority of student populations in many developed countries; female staff numbers are expanding, but are women equally empowered within the academy?
- Pedagogic and learning debates about academic standards, practices and literacies in the context of increasing numbers of international, older and part-time students; e-Learning, distance and flexible educational trends and developments
- New learning spaces and facilities, the changing profile of academic disciplines

- Disciplinary developments in quality; the challenge of research assessment regimes
- Space management and systems, distance education and e-learning.

- **Management**

Exploring leadership, governance and management development in:

- Government-led and other global and national policy developments: their impact on governance, leadership and management in higher education
- New public management, new managerialism, professional and academic identities
- The strategic management of higher education: curriculum, finances, staff and students, equality, diversity, ethnicity, widening participation and globalisation
- Collegiality versus power and control in the academy, competing cultures
- The changing role of the university and its governance and public profile
- The relationship between higher education and employment: the skills debate
- League tables, research, teaching and assessment regimes, quality assurance systems, benchmarks and processes, student and staff quality monitoring in higher education
- Asian, African, Middle Eastern, South American and indigenous cultural traditions regarding quality standards; contrasting Western ideals of quality

Author Submission

You are invited to contribute to this debate in a variety of ways: by presenting a paper, sharing in a symposium based on your own and others' research or scholarly work, including work of a conceptual or theoretical nature, or organising a poster on any aspect of this year's theme – or, just as importantly, by attending the Conference, or the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference on a similar theme. Empirical and scholarly research from a wide range of perspectives is welcome.

The Society's Annual Conference has become a truly international event bringing together delegates and contributors from over 30 countries. We aim to build on this reputation again this year. We hope researchers and scholars from the many forms of higher education globally and in the UK will contribute to this Conference, stimulating international debate on the way in which higher education is transforming its relations with governments, policymakers, institutions, employers, staff and students.

Dr Jill Jameson

Conference Chair, SRHE Conference 2010

Director of Research and Enterprise, School of Education and Training, University of Greenwich, UK.

Conference Venue

Celtic Manor has gained the reputation of being one of the finest conference and golf resorts in Europe. Set in 1400 acres of panoramic parkland in the Welsh Usk Valley it will be hosting the famous Ryder Cup golf championship in 2010. As you would expect from a world-class facility with five star status, the conference spaces are ideal for our event offering comfortable state of the art conference facilities, lots of networking space, beautifully appointed bedrooms, good food, a health and fitness club and health spa. For international delegates who wish to extend their stay, the resort offers many other activities which can be found on their website: <http://www.celtic-manor.com>

Location: Celtic Manor is only 90 minutes from London Heathrow, 45 minutes from Bristol and Cardiff-Wales International Airport and 5 minutes from the Severn Bridge (M4 Motorway). It is located close to inter-city rail services at Newport, with direct trains to Cardiff, London Paddington, and Birmingham.

Conference Programme

The Conference programme will include a varied and diverse range of contributions:

- peer-reviewed paper presentations, symposia, roundtables and poster sessions

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- plenary sessions addressing the main Conference theme from a range of perspectives with input from invited speakers;
- post-plenary discussion groups
- a forum for international delegates to discuss and share research knowledge and interests
- an open event to meet with the convenors and members of the Society's Networks which will bring together delegates with shared research interests.
- a linked one-day and a half conference for postgraduate students and newer researchers in higher education to be held at the same venue on Monday 13 December 2010

Conference Timetable and Social Events

The Conference will begin on the morning of Tuesday 14 December 2010 (11.00 am) and will end mid-afternoon on Thursday 16 December 2009 (4.30 pm).

The SRHE Annual Research Conference is planned as a participative event at which delegates presenting their own work will also participate in the discussions in plenary sessions and the presentations of the work of others. The Conference programme is planned on the basis that delegates will attend the whole event over the three days.

Networking with colleagues is an integral part of the SRHE Conference and social events are a good opportunity for participants to meet and converse in a relaxed atmosphere. This year, there will be a number of new events:

- ❖ Welcome Drinks Reception on Tuesday 14 December, open to all participants at the Conference at the Celtic Manor Resort, followed by an opportunity to meet with delegates with shared research interests. This will be followed by dinner at one of the five restaurants at the Resort where you can arrange to meet with specific colleagues or mingle with other delegates at tables set aside for conference delegates. For resident delegates this dinner is included in their conference fees. Non-resident delegates may also take dinner at the hotel on this evening for an additional fixed charge.
- ❖ Conference Dinner held on Wednesday 15 December at the Celtic Manor Resort. There will be a pre-dinner drinks reception sponsored by Routledge/Taylor and Francis and the cost of the dinner of (£42.00) includes a three-course menu and wine. The senior overseeing chef at the Hotel is an award winning restaurateur who has been awarded a Michelin star for his associated restaurant nearby.

Call for Proposals

All submissions are subject to a blind peer review process.

Proposals are invited for:

Individual Papers

Each paper accepted for individual presentation will be allocated a minimum of 30 minutes for presentation and discussion.

Discussion Workshops

If the number of abstract submissions is as high as in recent years some contributors will be invited to present their work, along with other contributors, in the format of a discussion workshop. These workshops will not offer the opportunity for full individual presentations of papers, but will provide greater time for discussion of papers submitted in advance on related themes.

Symposia

These provide the opportunity for presentation of related papers on a single theme; the minimum number is 4 and a maximum is 6 papers per symposium. Symposia submissions can be made by one individual and all papers can be submitted together. Alternatively, a planned symposium can be set up and contributors may then add their papers individually using the online submission system. Proposals must state clearly the rationale for the theme, the names of the convenor and/or the chair of the symposium, a discussant, if appropriate; the names and details of all participating presenters plus the title of each presentation planned. The symposium proposal should include an abstract and a paper for each presentation.

Poster Sessions

These provide the opportunity for researchers to present their work visually in the format of a wall poster. Poster displays will be on show throughout the Conference and specific times will be allocated in the Conference programme when poster presenters should be with their posters and delegates invited to engage in dialogue and informal exchange. Abstract proposals should contain a title, originator(s), presenter(s), contact details and a description of the research work undertaken.

Posters will be displayed on 6 foot by 4 foot poster board. We recommend that poster presenters look at the guidelines set out at:

<http://www.siam.org/meetings/guidelines/poster.php>

Submission of Abstracts

In order to maintain the high quality of papers presented at the conference and to ensure that the review process has access to a sufficient level of detail on paper proposals the Society is continuing with the changes to requirements for abstract submission introduced last year. Submitting authors are asked to provide a short paper for peer review in two parts.

Please note that both parts will be required at the point of first submission, but there will be no subsequent call for fuller papers for accepted abstracts.

- Part 1 Abstract: a 150 word summary of the proposal which will be printed in the published conference programme and also made available at conference on the CD Rom.
- Part 2 Outline: a maximum 1000 word paper (excluding reference) to be available at conference on the CD Rom and website only.

Proposals should state clearly the title of the paper on which the abstract is based, the name of the authors and their affiliations as they should appear in the conference proceedings, the name of the person or persons who will be presenting the work at the conference, again with the affiliations as they should appear in the conference proceedings.

Submissions must be made under one of the specified research domains and authors should choose the domain which fits most closely with the content of the presentation.

It is appreciated that it is not always obvious which domain provides a best fit but authors are encouraged to submit proposals in the domain in which they would like their paper to be timetabled. It is our intention that all SRHE conferences should be open to the widest field of current research and for this reason we have included an open strand to allow authors to submit work in this category if the research domains do not offer a best fit. In addition new domain on research methodology has been introduced to focus discussion on this important area.

The Conference welcomes research papers relating to further, higher, undergraduate, postgraduate and professional education in all research domains and where possible such papers will be grouped on a sector basis as well as a domain theme. All submissions are subject to blind peer review and final decisions on acceptances are taken by lead assessors in each domain.

Research Domains

- Academic Practice, Work and Cultures
- Higher Education Policy
- Management , Leadership, Governance and Quality
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment
- Student Experience
- Research Methodology
- Open Strand

Submission of Proposal

All proposals should be submitted electronically, via the SRHE website at: <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2010/> Authors will find here all the instructions needed on what is required in making a submission.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 24 July 2010.

Conference Registration

To register for the main Conference and/or the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference please register online via the Conference website at: <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2010/registration.asp>

Our 2010 conference rates have been held at the same level as the 2009 rates. However we have had to adjust prices to include the higher rate of VAT now in force but have made no other increases this year.

Special discounts apply to SRHE members and full-time students. Early registration also attracts discounts. To obtain the 'early registration' discounted rate, you must register by 8 October 2010. Non-members wishing to take advantage of member discounts can join the Society at the discounted rate at the time of registering.

Accommodation

Residential Rates

All delegates choosing the residential package will have single occupancy accommodation reserved at the Celtic Manor for two nights, 14 and 15 December. This cost includes breakfast, lunches, teas and coffees, the Welcome Reception, dinner on the Tuesday evening and attendance at all Conference sessions and plenary events. Dual occupancy is also offered at a preferred rate.

The Society has secured preferential rates for delegates taking the residential package and we strongly advise Conference delegates to take this option as it will represent a substantial saving on overall costs.

Additional nights For delegates wishing to extend their stay beyond the inclusive two nights, additional nights can be booked at the time of registration at a discounted rate.

Accompanying partners ; Delegates who wish to bring partners are welcome to do so at a reasonable additional cost. Details can be found when booking on-line.

Non-residential Rates

Delegates not taking the residential package and requiring accommodation for the duration of the Conference will be responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements at prevailing commercial rates. The non-residential package includes attendance at all sessions and plenary events, lunches, teas and coffees and the Welcome Drinks Reception.

Day Delegate Rate

A day delegate rate is available for the middle day of the Conference, Wednesday 15 December, only. This rate includes attendance at all sessions and plenary events, lunch, teas and coffees on this day only.

Student and Newer Researchers Bursaries

The Society provides a number of bursaries each year to help full time students and newer researchers to attend one or both conferences as presenters. Details of how to apply for these bursaries will be posted on the conference website.

Further Information

For all abstract submissions, conference registrations, further information and updates on the Conference please access the Conference website at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2010>

If you require any further information, please contact the SRHE Conference Team:

Email: srheconferenceteam@srhe.ac.uk

Conference Director: Helen Perkins Director, SRHE

About SRHE

The Society for Research into Higher Education is a UK-based international learned society concerned to advance understanding of higher education, especially through the insights, perspectives and knowledge offered by systematic research and scholarship. The Society aims to be the leading international society in the field, for both the support and the dissemination of research.

More fully, its aims are to:

- stimulate new forms of research and inquiry into higher education as a field of study
- assist in developing research capacity in relation to the field
- encourage and support those coming into the field of higher education studies
- develop a network of scholars and researchers in the field of higher education studies
- offer fora for the presentation of research and scholarship in the field
- promote the development and widening of research methodologies in the field
- provide opportunities for the publication of research and scholarship in the field
- develop opportunities through which researchers in the field can engage with policy makers, practitioners within higher education and other interested parties so that policy and practices may be shaped by research