Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE)

Postgraduate and Newer Researchers' Conference (PGNR)
13th /14th December 2010, Newport, Wales UK

"Transforming Identities in Globalised Higher Education?
Newer Researchers' Perspectives"

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Dear Colleagues,

We invite you to participate in the SRHE Postgraduate and Newer Researchers' (PGNR) Conference 2010, which is returning to the Celtic Manor Hotel, close to Newport in South Wales, UK.

This SRHE Conference provides a unique opportunity for postgraduates and newer researchers in Higher Education (HE) to share and discuss their work with peers in the HE research community in a supportive and developmental environment. We bring together students and newer researchers in the early stages of a research career as well as those who may have more experience either in education, or in other fields, but are new to the issues of HE research.

It is an intellectually stimulating event, providing the opportunity to present your own research whilst learning more about the kinds of areas newer researchers in HE are exploring from a wide range of perspectives. The conference welcomes presentations reporting on ongoing research as well as pilot or completed studies, conceptual, theoretical or empirical papers. Submissions are peer-refereed, resulting in a range of high quality presentations and lively debate.

Whether presenting your own work, or attending for the first time to get a feel for things, opportunities are provided for delegates to chair presentations, attend workshops covering key skills for the newer researcher and hear leading speakers. With an international delegate group and a variety of networking activities during the conference, you will have access to a broad range of research contacts and like minds; an important element of the journey into researching and working in HE.

The increasing popularity of the PGNR Conference and the growing number of high-quality submissions means that we are extending to 1.5 days this year, also providing more opportunities for development-focused activities and the chance to link with the opening events of the SRHE Annual Research Conference. This SRHE-led Conference is supported and subsidized by the Society offering these opportunities to postgraduates and newer researchers. We hope you will take advantage of the very favourable delegate rates for such a prestigious event at a leading conference venue and join us in December 2010.

We look forward to receiving your abstracts in due course, and to seeing you at the PGNR Conference in Newport.

Conference Organising Committee

Dr Arwen Raddon (Chair) University of Leicester
Dr Saranne Weller (Co-Chair) King's Learning Institute, London.
Patrick Baughan (Co-Chair) City University, London
Barbara Blake SRHE
Professor Lynn McAlpine, University of Oxford
Dr Georgy Petrov, Kingston University, London

Conference Theme: Transforming Identities in Globalised Higher Education? Newer Researchers' Perspectives

This year's conference focuses on the idea of 'identities' within what purports to be an increasingly globalised HE scene, and considers the extent to which we are witnessing transformation of such identities. The PGNR Conference draws on the overall theme of the SRHE Annual Research Conference (ARC), but we like to add a 'newer researcher twist', creating a unique environment in which to open up debates raised by the research and presence of newer researchers in HE. Our aims are thus not only capacity-building and support for PGNRs, but showcasing the vital contribution of PGNRs to HE research.

This year's conference theme calls on postgraduates and newer researchers investigating HE to examine experience, practice and challenges around the now seemingly more globalised nature of HE at the individual, institutional, national or international level. Abstracts are invited for posters, paper presentations and symposia around this broad theme. You may like to respond to some element of the following in developing your abstract:

- How can we explain, understand, conceptualise, reflect on and critique the idea of a globalised HE and the possible impact on identities?
- What are the most useful questions to be asking about globalised HE and identities, and how can these be addressed?
- To what extent is globalised HE a reality in different contexts? What does it mean 'on the ground' and in practice?
- What are its manifestations and consequences for university activities? What transformations are occurring? What are the 'lived realities' of globalised HE and how are we making/can we make sense of these?

- Is an apparent move to globalised HE challenging core assumptions or certainties? Is it undermining or expanding HE theory, policy and practice?
- How is the globalised nature of HE shaping and transforming identity at the individual and/or institutional level?
- Are we seeing a shift to new times, spaces and cultures of HE?
- What are the gaps in our knowledge?
- What kinds of methodologies can we apply to examine these issues?
- To what extent is globalised HE shaped by economic pressures, social dynamics or policy developments?

These are some pointers to stimulate debate but we will accept submissions that deal with any area that relates to the broad, overall conference theme in some way. We now provide some guidelines on how to prepare your submission.

Submitting an Abstract: Abstract Preparation and Guidelines

Abstracts are invited for posters, paper presentations and symposia around the broad conference theme. All submissions are anonymised and subject to a peer review process. For all submissions, except posters, the requirement is for a 400 word abstract.

Presentation formats

Poster Sessions:
Posters provide an ideal opportunity for those new to presenting, or 'testing out' ideas in formation, to discuss their work using a visual format. Wall poster displays will be allocated 25 minutes in the Conference programme when presenters should be with their posters and delegates are invited to engage in dialogue and informal exchange. However, the posters will be on show in a specific location throughout the conference. 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

Individual Papers:
Each abstract accepted for individual presentation will be allocated 25 minutes for presentation and discussion. Generally, we recommend that you plan for a maximum of 15 minutes speaking, and at least 10 minutes for questions so that you can benefit from interaction with and feedback from the audience on your topic.

Symposia:
A symposium consists of the presentation of three or four related papers on a single theme, presented within a 75 minute session and led by a Symposium Convenor. The following should be provided:

- A clear symposium title;
- Name of the Lead Convenor /Chair of the symposium (the Chair is usually a member of the symposium);
- The Convenor's institution;
- A 400 word overview of the symposium submitted by the convenor;
- A separate abstract for each presentation, including the names and details of all participating presenters. These may be submitted by the convenor, or submitted by individual presenters using the online submission system.

Abstract Guidelines

As part of our commitment to the developmental nature of the PGNR conference, we provide guidelines to help newer researchers develop skills important to submitting and presenting at a conference. The following maps out what we expect to see in a conference abstract. It is important to ensure that you follow this approach so that the panel of reviewers are clear as to the nature of your work and the aims of your proposed presentation.

As a peer reviewed conference, the quality of submissions is an essential selection criteria. Strong abstracts likely to be accepted generally demonstrate some or all of the following elements: clarity of aims or focus, engagement with relevant literature, clear connection to the broad conference topic and the higher education setting in general, sufficient detail to enable reviewers to get a sense of what will be presented and why. For 2010, brief feedback (including reviewers' comments and scores) will be provided on each submission, explaining why a submission was accepted or rejected, any suggestions for enhancing the work when it is presented or, in a small number of cases, asking for amendments and resubmission to ensure clarity/quality of the abstract. Abstracts are published in the conference programme, and you will have the option to submit a written paper for publication on the SRHE Conference Website should you wish to.

Each abstract (400 words max) should contain the following as appropriate to your work:
1. *Title* of presentation (brief but indicative of contents).
2. *Purpose* of presentation: Clearly state what your specific presentation will seek to do before setting out the relevant debates and information on your research.
3. Clear statement on the *nature of the research* being presented (e.g. conceptual work, literature review discussion, reflexive analysis, empirical research) and the *stage* you will have been reached by the time of presentation (e.g. literature review completed, developing methodology, initial pilot study, developing theoretical framework for testing, ongoing research, reporting on completed research).
4. *Methodology*, approach and sample.
5. Key *argument*, *findings*, implications and/or conclusions to be presented.
6. Short list of *references* (it is important to locate your presentation in relation to the research literature and to refer to this in your abstract)

7. Please note above guidelines on submission of symposia.

Tips for Abstract Presentation:
1. Write in a clear, concise and accessible way, keeping focused on what's going to happen in this specific presentation rather than your work in general. 'Get to the point' quickly in the opening section, making it clear what you are going to present and why. Reviewers and delegates only have 400 words to get familiar with your work and your aims in this presentation, so spending a long time at the beginning mapping out the background to your general theoretical framework, or providing a long piece on the wider literature may not be as useful as clearly stating what your presentation will seek to do and then going on to set out some of the relevant debates and information on your research in relation to that.
2. Try to avoid jargon, synonyms that are not explained, overly dense language or a focus on very specific terms or concepts that may not be familiar to a wider audience without explanation. The PGNR audience, just like the ARC, attracts a wide range of people researching HE from many different perspectives and generally few will be researching the exact same topic as you.
3. Make good use of a small number of headings to structure your submission, such as those highlighted in italics in the list above.
4. Ensure that you cover all of the areas required in an abstract that are relevant to your submission, perhaps noting where some are not applicable just to help the reviewer understand what your research is and is not (e.g. if you work is primarily conceptual at this stage, that's fine, just make it clear that is the case and, thus, information on aspects such as methodology or sample are not relevant).
5. Make reference to at least 3-4 key pieces of literature related to your field of research/enquiry. References are included in the word count, so a good balance is needed between using citations and not using up your word count.
6. Make good use of the word count – if you are well below or well above the 400 word abstract, then you are probably not making effective use of the space. If you submit a last minute, short, rushed piece, it is unlikely to do you justice.
7. Don't forget that your abstract is not only submitted for reviewers to judge your submission, but will appear in the list of abstracts from which delegates will decide whether or not to attend your presentation. To help ensure you are attracting your target audience, make sure that your abstract is of a good quality and clearly states what you want to do and why. Similarly, give some thought to your title – try to express the core issue of your presentation to catch delegates' eye, and you might also like to tie it into the conference theme.
8. Ask a friend, colleague or supervisor to read and comment on your abstract to help you refine your ideas and clarify anything that might not be clear to a wider audience.

Submitting an Abstract: Using the online system and deadlines for submission

All abstract 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 31 July 2010.

Conference Timetable, Networking and Social Events

The Conference will begin on the morning of Monday 13th December 2010 (10.00 am) and will end on Tuesday afternoon 14th December 2010 (after lunchtime).

Day One (Monday) is planned to include a keynote speech, delegate presentations, networking activities, workshops and plenaries on academic and research careers, refreshments and lunch during the day, and a drinks reception followed by an informal evening meal for those who wish to join us.

Day two (Tuesday) is planned to include workshops with leading academics and publishers in the field on getting published and accessing research funding, attendance at the opening keynote speech of the SRHE Annual research Conference (ARC) and closing with lunch.

Conference Registration
To register for the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference (PGNR) please register online via the Conference website at
http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2010/registration.asp
Special discounts apply to SRHE members and full-time students. Early registration also attracts discounts. To obtain the 'early registration' discount you must register by **8 October 2010**. Non-members wishing to take advantage of member discounts can join the Society at discounted rates at the time of registering. Participants at the PGNR Conference wishing to attend the SRHE Annual Research Conference (ARC) may register for both events on the main website.

Conference Fees
PGNR delegates can book to attend the first day only or the full one and a half days and there are residential and non residential rates for the conference. Details of all conference fees and the conference resgistration form can be found on the website. http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2010/registration.asp

The costs of the PGNR Conference are heavily subsidised by SRHE and offer excellent value for money at a leading conference location.
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.

Conference Venue

Celtic Manor has gained the reputation of being one of the finest conference and golf resorts in Europe. The conference spaces offer comfortable state of the art conference facilities and lots of networking space. PGNR accommodation is offered in the 4 star Manor House Hotel in the main resort complex. 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. You can find out how to get there by visiting: http://www.celticmanor.com/location.aspx#Road

There are lots of free parking spaces at the Resort.