

*“Positive Futures for higher education;  
connections, communities and criticality”*

SRHE Annual Research Conference  
7-9 December 2011



Society for Research into Higher Education  
Annual Research Conference 2011, Celtic Manor Hotel Newport, Wales UK

## Call for Papers

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 7-9 December 2011** and/or the associated **Newer Researchers' Conference 6-7 December 2011**.

We are returning again to Wales by popular request from previous delegates and from many who have yet to sample this opportunity and hope to attend this year. We will be located at the famous Celtic Manor, close to Newport in South Wales and the venue for the prestigious Ryder Cup held in 2010.

### Conference Theme

This year's Conference will explore:

#### **Positive Futures for higher education: connections, communities and criticality**

The pace of change in higher education, in its identities, purposes and roles in society, is gathering momentum. However, for many academics, professionals, managers and students, the pace and direction of this transformation of higher education raises issues of real concern. A tendency to see some of the most recent changes in higher education in a negative light appears to be strong in some countries undergoing significant repositioning in the way higher education is accessed, financed and regarded by society, and this contrasts with many developing nations where expansion of higher education and its transformative impact for society and the individual remain highly prized and valued.

The higher education research community undertakes work which explores, examines, critiques and analyses the nature of higher education provision in all its constituent elements. As higher education researchers, we aim to provide significant, meaningful research insights and new knowledge to inform and guide universities, governments and societies. Do we, as a community of researchers, devote sufficient time and thought to the impact of the knowledge gained from research and the potential conclusions that research findings might support? Do we contribute effectively to make the connections, build the communities and identify what is critical for there to be positive futures for higher education in all its contexts?

The **Society for Research into Higher Education** takes seriously its role to provide a platform for academic discussion. Its annual research conferences offer not just an opportunity for the presentation of current research work but also the scope to bring different researchers together to examine and debate deeper theoretical and scholarly issues.

Taking a global perspective of higher education, the most fundamental question of the moment has to be *'Higher Education – for what and for whom?'* Is the concept of higher education as a universal public good sustainable? Or, is there a more complex but equally powerful set of objectives that would both describe and shape positive futures for higher education and have the potential to be shared universally?

We will explore these ideas broadly within the conferences, encompassing current debates regarding policy, globalization, economic challenges, governance, leadership and management, pedagogic and learning development, quality and space management, the student experience, e-learning and marketisation.

The SRHE Annual Research Conference welcomes all research proposals from those carrying out research into higher education. The contribution of the keynote speakers will be structured to illuminate and examine the Conference theme and the questions the theme poses.



*Professor Yvonne Hillier SRHE Chair; University of Brighton*

There will be a separate Call for Papers for the Newer Researchers Conference of 2011. The remainder of this document relates only to the Call for Papers for the **SRHE Annual Research Conference 2011**.

### **SRHE Annual Research Conference 2011 - Research Contexts**

The global recession anticipated in our 2010 Call for Papers has now had some very specific impacts on higher education provision in some contexts. Planned cuts and government led policy changes in England have led to pressure on universities to raise fees beyond what was initially envisaged. Universities must 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. Numbers of part-time and mature students continue to rise, as cash-strapped learners take on both study and work. 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. Student choice to study outside their home nations is now a very real option in a competitive market. Within Europe a new market is opening up and China, India and Middle Eastern nations continue to expand both campuses and capabilities. In Australia, strong growth in international higher education student numbers is predicted, while in Africa, exploding demand for higher education continues, despite continent-wide challenges of infrastructure and staffing. Global demands for higher education are undoubtedly on the increase. Examining how individual institutions are developing diverse, proactive responses to opportunities for multi-ethnic and multi-lingual partnerships and the impact of these market conditions will be of considerable value.

Equally important are the potential shifts in relative values afforded by society or government perspectives to different subject disciplines. The potential weighting through fees and government support for some subject areas (for example, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is seen as critical to the needs of society against other subject areas (for example, Humanities and Social Sciences), which are subjected more openly and directly to the power of market forces.

### **Research Strands**

In considering the evolving meaning and identity of higher education, the 2011 SRHE Conference will aim to address these debates within three broad thematic areas outlined below:

- **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, globalization, 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
- 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 and quality 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 globalization
- Collegiality versus power and control in the academy, competing cultures
- The ‘feminization’ of the academy where women often form the majority of students but may not be equally empowered as managers and leaders within the academy –
- 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 other indigenous cultural traditions regarding quality standards; contrasting Western ideals of quality

### **SRHE Annual Research Conference 2011 - Author Submissions**

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 round table on any aspect of this year’s theme or your own research interests. Empirical and scholarly research from a wide range of perspectives is welcome.

The SRHE Annual Research Conference (and the associated Newer Researchers’ Conference on the same theme) has been greatly enhanced in recent years by the attendance of researchers from around the world. The research knowledge and perspectives of numerous participants from many countries has strongly contributed to the breadth and value of conference debate.

The Society’s Annual Conference has become a truly international event bringing together delegates and contributors from over 35 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.

### **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 contributors may 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 time for discussion of papers submitted on related themes.

#### **Symposia**

These provide the opportunity for presentation of related papers on a single theme; the minimum number of papers 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.

### **Round Tables**

These comprise discussions of linked contributions for which there is an overall chair/discussant and a minimum of three paper presentations for each session. The Roundtable format may be especially suitable for 'work in progress' submissions, providing a platform for discussion with other researchers working on related topics. Proposals for roundtables must make clear what links the presentations and **MUST** include an abstract and a paper for each presentation. The proposal must include the name(s) of the chair/discussant and all participating presenters.

### **Submission of Proposals**

All proposals must be submitted electronically, via the SRHE website at [www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2011](http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2011). Authors will find here all the instructions needed on what is required in making a submission.

**Registration by 31 August 2011 affords presenters the opportunity to take advantage of the early booking discounts offered and have accommodation at the Celtic Manor Resort guaranteed. Conference registration will remain open throughout September up to the date of the Conference but accommodation may need to be at adjacent hotels.**

### **Format for Submissions**

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 to take an informed view of the research to be presented, 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 references) to be available at conference on the CD Rom and conference website.

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.

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.

### **Research Domains**

- Academic practice ,work and cultures
- Higher education policy
- Learning, teaching and assessment
- Student experience
- Management, leadership, governance and quality

### **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. 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
- plenary sessions addressing the main Conference theme from a range of perspectives with input from invited speakers of world renown
- a forum for international delegates to discuss and share research knowledge and interests
- open discussion seminars exploring current research topics organised and led by convenors and members of the Society's special interest Networks
- 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 Tuesday 6 – Wednesday 7 December 2011

### **Conference Timetable and Social Events**

The SRHE Annual Research Conference will begin on the morning of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011(11.00 am) and will end after lunch on Friday 9 December 2011.

The SRHE Newer Researchers' Conference will begin on the morning of 6 December 2011 and will end after lunch on Wednesday 7 December, offering the opportunity for newer researcher delegates to participate in the opening plenary and discussions of the Annual Research Conference.

The SRHE Annual Conference is planned as a participative event at which delegates presenting their own work 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 carefully structured to offer a excellent opportunities for participants to meet and converse in a relaxed atmosphere. This year, there will be a number of events:

❖ Welcome Drinks Reception on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, open to all participants at the Conference at the Celtic Manor Resort, followed by the chance to take dinner at one of the five restaurants in the resort and 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 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Conference Registration**

To register for the SRHE Annual Research Conference 2011 and/or the Newer Researchers Conference please register online via the Conference website at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2011/>

Special discounts apply to SRHE members and full-time students. Early registration also attracts discounts and guarantees accommodation at the Celtic Manor Resort. After the early registration deadline date accommodation may need to be at adjacent hotels.

**To obtain the 'early registration' discount and have accommodation at the Celtic Manor guaranteed you must register by 31 August 2011.** Non-members of SRHE wishing to take advantage of member discounts can join the Society at the time of registering, or before at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/join.asp>

## **Accommodation**

Full details of all delegates fees and options can be found on the conference website.

### **Residential Rates**

All delegates choosing the residential package will have single occupancy accommodation reserved for two nights, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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/conference2011>

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

Email: [srheconferenceteam@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:srheconferenceteam@srhe.ac.uk)

**Conference Director: Helen Perkins Director, SRHE**

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