"Positive Futures for higher education; connections, communities and criticality"
Newer Researcher Perspectives

SRHE Newer Researchers' Conference
6-7 December 2011

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

Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE)

Newer Researchers' Conference 2011:
New communities, spaces and places: inspiring futures for higher education

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of everyone at the SRHE, we are delighted to announce the SRHE Newer Researchers' Conference, which will take place 6 – 7 December 2011, at Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, South Wales.

This year, the theme for the conference is ***New communities, spaces and places: inspiring futures for higher education***. We invite you to participate in Conference by submitting an abstract for presentation, or by attending this exciting annual event.

This SRHE Newer Researchers' Conference provides a unique opportunity for newer researchers in the domains of higher education studies and educational development to share and discuss their work with peers in the higher education research community, in a supportive but stimulating 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 higher education research.

The Conference provides the opportunity to present your own work whilst learning more about the kinds of areas other newer researchers in higher education are exploring – and from a wide range of perspectives. We welcome 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, you will have access to a broad range of research contacts and like minds. What's more, it all takes place at an excellent venue where you can enjoy the conference and relax at the same time.

The Conference will run for one and a half days, to provide room for presentations, a number of workshops, a keynote speaker, and plenty of networking time. In addition, the Conference will 'run into' the subsequent the SRHE Annual Research Conference, which means that you will be able to attend the opening events and keynote paper for that event too if you would like to – and at no extra charge.

The Newer Researchers' Conference is supported and subsidised by the SRHE. We hope you will take advantage of the very favourable delegate rates for such a prestigious event at a leading venue and join us in December 2011. Please see below for further details about the conference theme and submitting your abstract.

With best wishes,

Patrick Baughan, Dr Sian Lindsay, Dr Saranne Weller
Convenors of SRHE Newer Researchers' Network.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A **distinctive** and **exciting** conference theme for newer researchers:
New communities, spaces and places: inspiring futures for higher education

This year, for the first time, we have developed our own theme for the Newer Researchers' Conference, which is related to, but distinct from the theme for the Annual Research Conference. At a time of change and some uncertainty in our sector, our Conference focus is based around the notion of inspiring positive futures in higher education, looking at this via communities, spaces and places. This broad theme should enable newer researchers with a very wide variety of backgrounds and interests to submit a paper. Abstracts are invited for posters, paper presentations and symposia around the theme, whilst submissions may address the theme as a whole or just a part of it.

To help you develop your ideas, we have developed three **research strands** to accompany the theme. You may like to link your abstract to one or more of these.

Accompanying Research Strands

New Communities - *exploring the ways in which different communities interact with and within higher education in relation to:*
- The development and reconfiguration of virtual, physical and disciplinary communities.
- Globalisation, international expansion, massification and changing funding regimes of higher education transforming local, regional and global communities.
- The changing relationship between higher education and society and the purpose of universities internationally.
- Emergence of interdisciplinary and intercultural communities leading to new curricula, new learning communities and the development of new research methodologies.
- New professional groupings and hybrid professional and academic identities in the context of higher education.
- Inclusion, diversity and widening participation transforming the student experience.

New spaces and places - *exploring the ways in which new spaces and places are emerging in higher education in relation to:*
- E-learning, virtual learning and social networking transforming learning spaces
- Transformation of the physical space, flexible learning and facilities of universities.
- The student experience and the evolving identities of students.
- Curriculum review and reform creating new intellectual spaces for learning, teaching and research.

- Changes in relation to institutional governance, management and leadership as these shape institutions and the sector nationally and internationally.
- Expansion of higher education into new spaces and places through work-based learning, higher education in further education, community engagement and the impact of the employability agenda on universities.
- The generation of international league tables, comparative benchmarking and quality assurance mechanisms and discourses.

Inspiring futures - *exploring the future of higher education, the opportunities and transformative potential of higher education through:*
- The future purpose and role of higher education in effecting positive social, economic, intellectual change and growth
- Strategic future of higher education in relation to global, diverse and interconnected world
- The role of universities in knowledge-transfer, economic and social empowerment, community engagement and internationalisation.

How to submit an abstract

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. The different presentation formats are outlined below.

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 Chair (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 chair, or submitted by individual presenters using the online submission system.

Abstract Guidelines

As part of our commitment to the developmental nature of the Conference, we provide guidelines to help newer researchers develop skills important to submitting and presenting. As a peer reviewed conference, the quality of submissions is an essential selection criteria. Strong abstracts 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. Each abstract (400 words) 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).
7. Please note above guidelines on submission of symposia.

Some additional tips

• 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.

• 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. The audience will include a range of people researching HE from many different perspectives.

- Make good use of a small number of headings to structure your submission.

- 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).

- 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.

- Make good use of the word count – if you are well below or above the 400 word abstract, then you are probably not making effective use of the space.

- 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.

- Ask a friend, colleague or supervisor to read and comment on your abstract.

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