



## Society for Research into Higher Education

International Conference for Newer Researchers in higher education research

### Global Higher Education Research: Local, national and international perspectives

Tuesday 8 December 2015

Celtic Manor, Newport, Wales, UK

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**Submission deadline: Friday 10th July 2015**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE), we are delighted to announce the details of the SRHE Newer Researchers' Conference, which will take place on 8 December 2015 at Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, Wales, UK.

The SRHE Newer Researchers Conference is an important and prestigious annual event which brings together newer researchers from around the world to share and present their research in a unique environment of peers and senior scholars in the field. The conference has a strong developmental focus and in addition to the presentation and discussion of individual research work, the programme includes a range of professional development seminars to choose from, small group discussions with senior scholars on their research work and academic writing and a wide range of different networking opportunities.

This year, echoing the theme of the SRHE International Annual Research Conference which follows on 10-12 December at the same venue, we invite you to contribute to the critical discussion around Global Higher Education Research: Local, national and international perspectives of the Newer Researcher.

You can participate in this year's Conference by submitting an abstract for a paper or giving a poster presentation. Or you can take advantage of the opportunity to experience this conference as a delegate, participate in all the discussions and the seminars and other opportunities on offer. There will be extensive networking time and the opportunity for all participants to discuss work in progress and seek the input of peers and other senior scholars participating in the event.

Many new researchers have found it extremely helpful in their careers to attend this conference initially as a delegate and then to submit and present a paper in the following year. The SRHE Newer Researchers' Conference provides a unique space for newer researchers in higher education to share and discuss their ongoing work with peers in the international higher education research community in a stimulating but supportive environment.

This Conference brings 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.

As part of our commitment to promoting the development of higher education research and researchers, we welcome papers or posters reporting on ongoing research as well as pilot or completed studies and work of a conceptual, theoretical or empirical nature. All submissions are peer-reviewed, resulting in a broad range of high quality presentations.

2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE). The Society was formed as a learned society in 1965, supporting from its formation an international community of researchers focusing on higher education policy and practice. In recognition of the importance and value which the Society places on supporting and developing newer researchers in this field, we are marking this anniversary year by offering this prestigious conference at greatly subsidised delegate fee level in order to make this opportunity available to the widest possible group of newer researchers.

Delegates fees for the entire Newer Researchers Conference will therefore be £79 for SRHE members (Student membership is £35 per annum) or £99 for non-members. A limited number of places at subsidised accommodation rates at the Celtic Manor Resort will be available to NR Conference delegates on the night before and the night after this event.

Please see below for further details about the conference and how to submit your abstract.

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

We look forward to welcoming you to Celtic Manor for what we know will be another stimulating and inspiring conference.

#### **SRHE Newer Researchers Conference Team**

Helen Perkins Director SRHE

Francois Smit SRHE Conference Organiser

Co-convenors, SRHE Newer Researchers' Network

Dr Mark Kerrigan, Dr Sian Lindsay and Dr Anna Mountford-Zimdars

## **INFORMATION ON ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS AND DELEGATE REGISTRATIONS**

Within the Conference theme, we invite abstracts that engage in Higher Education research associated with, for example:

- Approaches to learning, teaching and assessment
- Policy developments
- Quality assurance and quality enhancement
- Leadership, governance and management of Higher Education
- Critical analysis of methodologies and methods that we use to understand higher education
- Staff and students working in partnership
- Student experience

### **How to submit an abstract**

Abstracts are invited for presentations or posters which explore issues in higher education research. All submissions are subject to a blind peer review process.

A 400-word abstract is required for all submissions and this will form the basis of your presentation.

All abstract proposals should be submitted electronically using the direct links on the conference website at [www.srhe.ac.uk](http://www.srhe.ac.uk)

### **Individual Papers**

Each abstract accepted for individual presentation will be allocated sufficient time for presentation and discussion. Generally, we recommend that you plan for a maximum of 15 minutes speaking. Participants offered an individual presentation session are also strongly encouraged to prepare and submit a poster of their work for display throughout the conference.

### **Poster Sessions**

Posters provide an opportunity to engage your audience in discussion and invite feedback using a visual format and should not be regarded as a less important presentation format to any others. In particular they enable newer researchers to present ongoing research to an international audience, especially pilot studies, preliminary results or information on new projects. Poster displays will also be featured in the Newer Researchers' Conference programme and will be allocated sufficient time in the Conference programme for participants to engage in dialogue and informal exchange. Posters will be on show in a specific location throughout the Newer Researchers' Conference and all accepted posters are entered for the high profile competition for the best posters displayed. Posters awarded a prize, or highly commended, are also displayed at the SRHE Annual Research Conference, and the two best posters are then displayed for the following year at the Society's central London headquarters.

Posters should be A1 in size (594mm x 841mm), landscape or portrait orientation, and will be displayed on 6 foot by 4 foot (1.8m x 1.2m) poster board. We recommend that poster presenters look at the guidelines set out at:

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/gradschool/training/resources/designing-poster/designing-poster>

### **Abstract Guidelines**

As part of our commitment to the developmental nature of the Newer Researchers' Conference, we provide guidelines to help you develop your skills in submitting and presenting research. As you will be submitting to a peer reviewed conference, the quality of your submission is an essential selection criterion.

In writing a strong abstract you will need to demonstrate some or all of the following elements: clarity of aims or focus, engagement with relevant literature and clear connection to the higher education setting in general.

The abstract should provide sufficient detail to enable reviewers to understand what will be presented. Each abstract should be up to 400 words in length and should contain the following:

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. Up to 5 keywords separated by a comma

Following peer-review, if reviewers have recommended that an abstract is not suitable for an individual presentation, it may be possible for an abstract to be re-written or for the work to be submitted as a poster presentation. This could be for a number of reasons which would include work still under development, or not of significant scale for individual presentation.

If you are invited to re-submit your work you will be given feedback to support you in re-writing your abstract in order that it meets the quality required for the conference.

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 become 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, acronyms that are not explained, overly dense language or a focus on very specific terms or concepts that may not be familiar to a wider, international 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 to help the reviewer understand what your research is and what it is not (e.g. if your work is primarily conceptual at this stage, or presents preliminary data 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 as a critical friend.

All abstract proposals should be submitted electronically, via the SRHE website at [www.srhe.ac.uk](http://www.srhe.ac.uk)

Authors will also find here the instructions on what is required in making a submission.