

SRHE Conferences 2016

SRHE International Conference on Research into Higher Education

December 7-9 2016

Celtic Manor, Newport in South Wales, United Kingdom

Conference Theme 2016

Exploring Freedom and Control in global higher education

The theme for SRHE Conference 2016, on which the Conference Keynotes will focus, is an exploration of issues around freedom and control in global higher education. As higher education has expanded and internationalised, it has become the site for collaboration and debate, contestation and struggle over resources, reforms, access, equity and more. This has opened up new opportunities for providing education, pursuing research and developing careers, but it has also closed down options and raised barriers, provoking opposition in some quarters. What are the implications of this tension between freedom and control for those studying, working, managing and leading in higher education? What are the key points of challenge, and what possibilities are created?

The growth of higher education globally highlights in new ways tensions between freedom and control that have always been present in higher education. As national systems expand in countries with widely differing political and social norms, the role of the university is always in contention. Governments that seek to make universities more productive may prefer a route of tight control or to trust market forces. Each has implications for institutional and individual autonomy. Global competition offers new roles and markets but puts pressures on systems and institutions to compete and to conform to norms in ways that may not always be beneficial.

For all, communication technologies offer new ways of connecting globally. However, as knowledge flows more freely, the traditional role of the university in generating and sharing knowledge is threatened. How should universities respond? Technology also enables closer control, as digital data is captured and analysed, for a range of reasons that may be beneficial or may put freedoms at risk.

For the individual academic, questions of the purposes of teaching and research become more obvious: what is the balance between teaching for economic and social and personal ends? What is the place of curiosity-driven research in a world that privileges immediate impact? Where is the space for independent thought when academic staff are increasingly accountable and subject to direction?

For students, old tensions between student- and teacher- or discipline-centred learning take new forms. Who decides what is taught? What rights do students have? How is the tension between freedom of expression and the control of views that some find unacceptable playing out?

Through an exploration of these issues of freedom and control, this conference will seek to improve our knowledge and understanding of the dynamics at work, recognising different local and national contexts, and acknowledging how these tensions play out over time. This will involve investigations of political ideology, global economics, national governance, ethics, regulation and bureaucracy, among other aspects. In doing this, we hope to assist those challenging the obstacles to participation and equality in higher education and support those seeking new opportunities for advancement and innovation.

The SRHE Conference welcomes research submissions on every aspect of higher education. Addressing the conference theme is not a requirement or expectation for research paper submissions. Papers for submission are sought under 10 Research Domains:

Research Domains

- Academic practice, work, careers and cultures **(AP)**
- Access and widening participation **(AWP)**
- The Digital University and new learning technologies **(DU)**
- Employability, enterprise and graduate careers **(EE)**
- Higher education policy **(HEP)**
- International contexts and perspectives **(ICP)**
- Learning, teaching and assessment **(LTA)**
- Management, leadership, governance and quality **(MLGQ)**
- Postgraduate scholarship and practice **(PGSP)**
- Student experiences **(SE)**

SRHE Newer and Early Career Researchers Conference

December 6 2016

Celtic Manor, Newport in South Wales, United Kingdom

The Newer and Early Career Researchers conference will follow a similar theme with particular focus on how these issues impact on newer and early career researchers, their study, their research opportunities and their careers.

SUBMITTING PAPERS AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The **Society for Research into Higher Education** takes seriously its role of providing an international platform for wide-ranging academic discussion and bringing together researchers from around the world to share and debate knowledge and ideas. Its annual research conferences offer not just an opportunity for the presentation of current research work and ideas in a variety of formats but also a highly participative international forum in which researchers with a range of different perspectives and experiences examine and debate deeper theoretical and scholarly issues.

Call for papers

The information which follows refers only to the SRHE International Conference on Research into Higher Education

There will be a separate Call for Papers for the SRHE Newer Researchers Conference, which operates to a different format.

Submissions are invited on any research topic concerned with higher education. Each year the SRHE Research Conference has an overarching theme which it aims to address in the keynote speeches and associated discussions. Researchers are also invited to submit papers and symposia addressing aspects of the conference theme and where relevant to address aspects of the theme in individual papers but no preference is given in the peer review process in relation to topic. The selection of papers for presentation is based solely on quality. All submissions should reference the research methodologies relied on in the research undertaken.

Presentation formats

Individual paper; Symposium; Round Tables; Poster

You are invited to contribute to this conference 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 by organising a 'research directions seminar' on a specific area of research. Empirical and scholarly research from a wide range of perspectives is welcome.

Accepted posters form an integral part of the academic programme and sessions are included in the programme for poster presenters to talk about their work.

Submissions may be made in more than one category of presentation format, enabling delegates to present an individual paper and participate in a symposium or a round table for example.

Individual Papers

Papers are invited for presentation under one of ten broad research domains.

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

Discussion Workshops

The number of abstract submissions to the SRHE Conference is high and in order to include the broadest range of high quality work submitted, contributors may be invited to present their work, along with other contributors, in the format of a discussion workshop. These workshops will offer the opportunity for short individual presentations of papers, and provide time for discussion of papers submitted on related themes.

Symposia

Symposia provide the opportunity to present related papers on a single theme; the minimum number of papers is 4 and the 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. **Symposia proposals must state clearly:**

- the rationale for the symposium,
- the names of the convenor and/or the chair of the symposium,
- name of a discussant if appropriate,
- the names and details of all participating presenters plus the title of each presentation planned.

The symposium proposal must 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 Round table 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.

Posters

Researchers are invited to submit poster proposals for current projects which are at the proposal stage, are work in progress, or which report on specific completed research projects. Poster proposals should include an abstract and a paper. If the proposal is accepted the abstract will be published in the conference proceedings and the

Paper included in the formal record of all accepted work. Presentation of the work at the conference will take the form of a poster. Posters will be on display for the duration of the conference and there will be a timetabled slot for contributors to present their posters and discuss the research with conference delegates.

Research domains

Papers are invited for presentation under one of ten broad research domains.

Submissions must be linked with one of the research domains specified to facilitate the development of a thematically streamed programme and authors should choose the domain which fits most closely with the content of the presentation.

It is recognised that it is not always obvious which research domain provides a “best fit” but authors are encouraged to submit proposals in the domain in which they would most like their paper to be timetabled.

Once papers have been accepted they may nonetheless be timetabled within a domain other than the one specified on submission if this creates the best thematic arrangement of papers for presentation.

Papers will be timetabled for presentation within these 10 research domains.

Research Domains

- Academic practice, work, careers and cultures **(AP)**
- Access and widening participation **(AWP)**
- The Digital University and new learning technologies **(DU)**
- Employability, enterprise and graduate careers **(EE)**
- Higher education policy **(HEP)**
- International contexts and perspectives **(ICP)**
- Learning, teaching and assessment **(LTA)**
- Management, leadership, governance and quality **(MLGQ)**
- Postgraduate scholarship and practice **(PGSP)**
- Student experiences **(SE)**

Submitting a paper: Format for submissions

To maintain the high quality of papers presented at the SRHE conference, and to ensure that the review process has access to a sufficient level of detail to take an informed view, submitting authors for all types of presentations are asked to provide a short paper for peer review in two parts.

- **Part 1 Abstract:** a 150 word summary of the proposal which will be printed in the published conference programme and also included in the formal record of all accepted work made available at conference online.
- **Part 2 Outline:** a maximum 1000 word paper (not including references) to be included in the formal record of all accepted work and available at conference online.

Please note that both parts are required at the point of first submission. There will be no subsequent call for fuller papers for accepted proposals.

The Society uses a bespoke electronic submission process for the Conference and all the data entered at the point of initial submission flows through to the final programme. Particular care should be taken on email addresses as these will be used for auto generated emails.

Authors are asked to ensure that their online submission:

- records important information correctly at the point of first submission
- includes the names of the submitting authors and their correct affiliations
- includes the name of the person or persons who will be presenting the work at the conference with the correct affiliations
- makes clear if any co-authors will also be presenting the work at the conference

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

Timetable for submissions

All proposals must be submitted electronically, via the SRHE website at www.srhe.ac.uk

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

The deadline for submission of all proposals for the SRHE International Research Conference is Friday 24 June 2016 12 midnight GMT

This submission date will enable all decisions on acceptances to be communicated to authors in good time for presenting authors to register for the Conference by 30 September 2016.

Conference Venue

Celtic Manor has gained the reputation of being one of the finest conference resorts in Europe and is set in 1400 acres of panoramic parkland in the Welsh Usk Valley. **Although situated in the Wales on the border with England this location is easily reached by international delegates coming into London airports or main rail stations with a journey time to Newport of less than two hours and special low price rail fares available for SRHE Conference delegates.** For delegates who wish to extend their stay, the resort offers many leisure facilities and other activities details of which can be found on their website: www.celtic-manor.com

The Celtic Manor Resort in Wales is a world class conference venue which provides us with the space and facilities to bring together researchers from around the world to explore the key topics and most challenging issues faced today by the international higher education community.

This venue provides unparalleled networking space and guarantees conference participants the opportunity to meet and talk with colleagues engaged in higher education research throughout the event.

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 includes a varied range of contributions:

- peer-reviewed paper presentations, workshops, symposia, round tables and posters
- 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
- themed research directions workshops exploring current research topics
- a linked one-day conference for postgraduate students and newer researchers in higher education to be held at the same venue on Tuesday 6 December 2016

Conference timetable and events

SRHE International Annual Research Conference is a participative event at which delegates presenting their own work also participate in the discussions in plenary sessions and at the presentations of the work of others. Time does not allow for sessions to be repeated. **The Conference programme is therefore planned on the basis that delegates will attend the whole event over the scheduled three days.**

The **SRHE International Research Conference** will begin on the morning of Wednesday 7 December 2016. Registration is open from 09.00 and the opening keynote session will commence promptly at 10.30. The Conference will end after lunch on Friday 9 December 2016 at 14.30.

Social and networking events

Networking with colleagues is an integral part of the SRHE Conference and social events are carefully structured to offer 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 December 2016, open to all participants at the conference, followed by the opportunity to take dinner at one of four restaurants in the resort arranging to meet with specific colleagues, share tables with other delegates set aside for conference delegates or joining the SRHE Director's Welcome dinner arranged especially for international delegates and first time attenders at SRHE Conference. For resident delegates dinner on this night is included in their conference fees. Non-resident delegates may also take dinner at the hotel on this evening for an additional fixed charge.

Drinks Reception on Thursday 8 December 2016. There will be a pre-dinner drinks reception sponsored by Routledge/Taylor and Francis during which the SRHE Network Convenors will showcase the work of these special interest groups.

Conference Dinner on Thursday 8 December 2016. The additional cost of the conference gala dinner (£42.00) includes a three-course menu with 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

Registration as a conference delegate by 30 September 2016 allows presenters to take advantage of the early booking discounts offered and have accommodation at the Celtic Manor Resort guaranteed. It will also enable international delegates especially the opportunity to take advantage of the best travel deals.

SRHE Conference holds accommodation at the Celtic Manor Resort for a period but delegates booking after this date may need to be provided with bedrooms at nearby hotels of an equivalent high standard as the conference resort and the Conference organisers reserve the option to accommodate delegates outside the resort. Conference registration will remain open up to the date of the Conference.

To register for the SRHE International Research Conference 2016 and/or the Newer Researchers Conference please register online via the Conference website at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk>

Special discounts on delegate fees are available to SRHE members. 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 other hotels.

To obtain the 'early registration' discount and have accommodation at the Celtic Manor guaranteed you must register by 30 September 2016.

SRHE Membership

Non-members of SRHE wishing to take advantage of member discounts for conference can join the Society at the time of registering, or beforehand at:

Click on "Join us" at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk>

SRHE Membership offers a wide range of opportunities and important benefits; our highly valued SRHE NEWS (published quarterly) which provides a digest of news, comment and analysis from around the world, SRHE BLOG with weekly posts www.srheblog.com ; free and highly discounted journal subscriptions and access to research grants are just some of the many benefits.

Delegate Accommodation

Full details of all delegate fees and options can be found on the SRHE conference website. The conference is planned as a three day residential event and the fully inclusive residential conference package offers excellent value. The Society has secured highly preferential rates for delegates taking the residential conference package and we strongly advise Conference delegates to take this option as it will represent a substantial saving.

Residential Rates

Delegates choosing the residential package will have single occupancy accommodation reserved for two nights, 7 and 8 December 2016. This package includes breakfast, lunch, teas and coffees throughout the 3 day conference, the Welcome Reception, and dinner on the Wednesday evening, the pre-dinner evening drinks reception on the Thursday, attendance at all Conference sessions and plenary events and all conference proceedings.

Additional nights at the Resort, pre and post conference, can also be booked at special preferential rates.

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

The Conference programme is planned on the basis that delegates will attend the whole event over the scheduled three days. A day delegate rate is made available for the middle day of the Conference, Thursday 8 December, only to accommodate special circumstances. This rate includes attendance at all sessions and plenary events, lunch, teas and coffees on this day only.

Further Information

For all abstract submissions, conference registrations, further information and updates on the Conference please access the Conference website at www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2016

If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the SRHE Conference team:

Email: srheconference@srhe.ac.uk

Conference Director: Helen Perkins Director, SRHE

Conference Organiser: Francois Smit, fsmit@srhe.ac.uk

Society for Research into Higher Education, 73 Collier Street, London N1 9BE

Tel +44 (0) 20 7427 2350 Fax +44 (0) 20 7278 1135 www.srhe.ac.uk