

## **SRHE NEWS Bulletin**

### **August 2010**

#### **Society News**

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##### **SRHE Conferences 2010**

**We have much to report on how the SRHE Conferences are shaping up for December.**

SRHE Annual Research Conferences 2010 *'Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?'*

*Exploring Meaning, Identities and Transformation in the Academy.*

Postgraduate and Newer Researcher Conference *"Transforming Identities in Globalised Higher Education"*.

*'Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?'*  
Exploring Meaning, Identities and Transformation in the Academy

SRHE Annual Research Conference  
14-16 December 2010

SRHE Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference  
13-14 December 2010



Society for Research into Higher Education  
Annual Research Conference 2010, Celtic Manor Hotel Newport, Wales UK

## Conference Submissions

We are very pleased to report that, the SRHE Conference has again attracted a very high number of paper submissions (over 300) and we have a wide range of quality submissions from around the world. We can see already that the conference has continued to attract great interest and will be another high profile event with superb opportunities for networking and meeting with a very large international group of researchers in Higher Education.

## Keynote speakers

We have an excellent range of Keynote Speakers addressing the main theme of the Conferences. Our Keynote speakers will be participating fully in the conference and each keynote address will be followed by discussion workshops designed to provide the opportunity to discuss and debate issues raised and integrate the input from the keynotes with the issues arising from research presentations during the conference.

### Dr Amanda Goodall

#### **"Why managers should not replace Socrates in the boardroom"**

Amanda Goodall is in the Marketing and Strategic Management group at Warwick Business School. Her research is on leadership and productivity, with a focus on knowledge-based organizations -- such as universities and hospitals. During the first half of 2008 Amanda was a Research Fellow at Cornell University, and she spent the latter part of the year as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Zurich.

### Dr Nicholas Maxwell

#### **"The Urgent Need for an Academic Revolution: From Knowledge to Wisdom"**

Nicholas Maxwell is an Emeritus Reader at University College London (UCL). Nicholas is a philosopher who has devoted much of his working life to arguing that there is an urgent need to bring about a revolution in academia so that it seeks and promotes wisdom and does not just acquire knowledge. In 2003 he founded Friends of Wisdom, an international group of people sympathetic to the idea that academic inquiry should help humanity acquire more wisdom by rational means.

### Professor Etienne Wenger

Etienne Wenger is a global thought leader in the field of communities of practice and social learning systems. He is the author and co-author of seminal books on communities of practice, including *Situated Learning*, where the term was coined, *Communities of Practice: learning, meaning, and identity*, where he lays out a theory of learning based on the concept, *Cultivating Communities of Practice*, addressed to practitioners in organizations who want to base their knowledge strategy on communities of practice.

### **New for conference in 2010**

As always there will be innovations and additions to the conference programme this year. Each of the **Society's Networks** will be running research seminars exploring current research in their particular area. These seminars will provide an early opportunity during the conference for researchers to meet other academics working in similar topic areas.

Throughout the Conference The Society will be supporting a range of other **Networking Opportunities**. On the first day of Conference there will be a lunch for our **International delegates** and for our **Newer researchers and first time attendees** at Conference there will also a special lunch.

### **Additional Events and excursions available for all SRHE Conference Delegates**

We are pleased this year to be able to offer all delegates at the SRHE Conference 2010 the opportunity to take advantage of a range of events, both cultural and academic, whilst visiting Wales for the Conference. We are able to offer these events through a link up with Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) at The University and Wales, Newport. They have very helpfully organised pre and post conference events for all our delegates to provide an opportunity to experience more than the Conference Resort venue-excellent as it is. We do hope that Conference delegates from around the UK as well as our international delegates will want to take advantage of these opportunities.

For further details on the range of events/visits available and how to book them please visit [here](#)

### **Postgraduate and Newer Researcher Conference (PGNR)**

*"Transforming Identities in Globalised Higher Education"*.

#### **PGNR Keynote Speaker: Professor Bruce Macfarlane**

*"Transforming Identities in Globalised Higher Education"*

Bruce Macfarlane, recently appointed Professor in the Faculty of Education at The University of Hong Kong, and previously Head of Academic Development and Professor of Higher Education at the University of Portsmouth (UK) has held previous academic positions at three UK universities and has worked as a researcher and teacher in Japan and Hong Kong. His research interests focus on the philosophy of higher education and the changing nature and ethics of academic practice.

This year the PGNR Conference will run for a day and half, overlapping into the first part of the ARC Conference and giving student and postgraduate delegates the opportunity to participate in two specially organised workshops on Getting Research Funding and Getting Published. They will also have the opportunity to participate in the first Keynote address from Amanda Goodall and the group discussions which follow. The one day PGNR pre conference on Monday 13 December 2010 will also have a range of different events in addition to the presentation of submitted papers.

The PGNR event is a fantastic opportunity for newer researchers to present their work in a supportive and nurturing atmosphere, to network with colleagues and to work and talk with more experienced researchers in developing careers in higher education and mapping out research and publication plans. It is a very worthwhile event for all newer researchers and represents excellent value at only £125 for the one day and £155 for the day and a half. Student delegates can apply for SRHE Bursaries to attend the PGNR and the ARC SRHE Conferences. Details are on the SRHE Conference website.

## **Conference Venue-Celtic Manor Resort, Wales UK**

Those of you at Conference last year will already know that this is a superb venue with excellent facilities which really help make a conference a pleasure to be at. In September 2010 the profile of the resort will increase further with the presence of the Ryder Cup. This may give rise to some speculation that with pressures on funding in HE such a venue may not be the most appropriate and perhaps adds too much to the overall costs to delegates. We like to again reassure all our members and conference delegates that we have been very fortunate to have support from Celtic Manor in making it possible to hold the SRHE Conferences here at prices comparable with all other venues we have used in the last 5 years.

We fully understand that Conferences are expensive and we do all we can to drive down costs. Unlike many learned Societies we do not set out to make money from our members on the fees we have to charge for conference, we set the budget at break even and negotiate hard on all costs to get the best possible venues and services at the best price. We have held our conference fees this year at 2009 rates in order that as many delegates as possible can make it to SRHE Conference in 2010.

We do hope to see you in Newport in December. For all information on the conference please visit the SRHE Conference website [SRHE Conferences 2010](#)

## **A new Publishing Partner for the SRHE Book series**

We are delighted to announce that after a competitive tender process, the Society has now signed contracts with a new publishing partner for our long running and prestigious book series. The contract has been awarded to **Routledge** in open competition with several other major publishers in the field. The Routledge bid was led by Philip Mudd and the Society was impressed with the vision, professionalism and commitment to developing and expanding the series which was demonstrated. We are fully satisfied that this new partnership will be good for higher education research, good for authors and good for the Society especially in relation to our reputation and contribution to the knowledge to be drawn for research across a wide spectrum of interests.

The first titles in the new series will be published in 2011. We are actively seeking proposals from authors for new titles in the series. A forward list of potential titles and authors is now being put together. Any authors wishing to put forward work for inclusion in the SRHE Book series or to explore possible options should contact Helen Perkins-Director SRHE [hsperkins@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:hsperkins@srhe.ac.uk) or [Philip.Mudd@tandf.co.uk](mailto:Philip.Mudd@tandf.co.uk)

## **SRHE RESEARCH AWARDS 2010-2013: New funding for higher education research**

As part of the Society's strategic initiatives on capacity building in higher education research, the SRHE Council has now approved the funding and the strategy for the introduction of SRHE Research Awards over the next three years. These awards will be launched formally in the autumn of 2010 for take up in January 2011. There will be 7 research awards in total as follows:

The Society has decided to offer up to three awards of £10,000 on an annual basis for three years, commencing in the academic year 2010/2011 for research focused on any element of higher education submitted under three overarching themes:

### **Higher Education Policy**

- How would we develop criteria to judge the success of national or institutional efforts to widen access and participation in higher education?

- How do students understand and respond to policy-related discourses?
- To what extent has research into higher education informed the formulation and development of policy and how has this been measured and evaluated?

### **Higher Education and Society**

- How is the role of universities changing in relation to public engagement and how effective is this?
- What is the role of universities in the 'production of knowledge' in the twenty first century?
- What responsibilities do universities have for the various communities and 'stakeholders' with whom they engage?

### **Higher Education Practice**

- Have efforts to raise the status of teaching in universities improved the 'student experience'?
- How has the nature of academic work changed in recent years?
- What impact have new disciplines and professions had in re-shaping the university curriculum?

These themes have been chosen as central to the current concerns of the Society. The aim is to probe gaps in present research knowledge or offer new research evidence on some key issue. The Society hopes both to stimulate new research and add to the research or evidence knowledge base. These awards, however, are relatively modest and are not intended as equivalent to either post-doctoral projects or Research Council (eg ESRC) awards. They are intended to help further the aims of the Society in its research impact and public engagement for public benefit agenda.

These research awards are only open to members or Fellows of the Society and are therefore a new additional benefit of membership. They will be supplemented by up to four scoping awards of £5,000 each on an annual basis (from 2010) for the exploration of any new or emerging area of higher education research leading to a review of the literature and the development of a plan for further research. These awards are open to members and non members.

In the first year of operation all SRHE Council and R&D Members will not be eligible to apply for awards under this scheme in order to demonstrate fairness and equity. It is envisaged that after the first year of operation this restriction will be relaxed.

The introduction of these awards represents a major area of new activity for the Society and we are putting a great deal of effort into ensuring that they are launched, publicised, evaluated and awarded in the most professional manner possible and that we draw on all known best practice in how we go about this.

The SRHE Research and Development Committee will have responsibility for managing these awards on an annual basis. Awards will be reviewed and decided by an appointed SRHE Research Awards Selection panel and their decision will be final. The Selection Panel will make a full report to R&D on the selection process each year so that the operation of this award scheme may be monitored and kept under review.

### **Scoping Study awards**

The four scoping awards of £5,000 each on an annual basis (from 2010) are offered for the exploration of any new or emerging area of higher education research leading to a review of the literature and the development of a plan for further research. These awards are open to members and non members of the Society.

Applicants will need to make clear the purpose of a proposed scoping study which might be undertaken for a range of purposes including:

- examining the extent, range and nature of research activity
- summarising and disseminating research findings
- identifying 'gaps' in the existing literature and/or evidence base
- determining the value of undertaking a more comprehensive review or further research

Areas where a scoping study of recent research might be undertaken include:

- Higher education funding
- Internationalisation
- Academic identity
- Student "voice"
- Role of universities in a knowledge society
- Widening participation
- Employability

As a significant item of capital expenditure these awards are necessarily overseen by SRHE Council but the responsibility for the planning and implementation is to be devolved to the R&D Committee.

#### **SRHE RESEARCH AWARDS AND SCOPING STUDY TIMETABLE IN YEAR 1: 2010/2011**

In the first year of operation the timetable for the awards will be as follows:

- July 2010: Preparation of Call for applications and the application forms
- July 2010 Early announcement of the Awards in SRHE News Bulletin
- September 2010: Announcement of the Awards and Publicity
- October 2010-February 1st 2011 Applications process open
- 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 Applications process closes
- February 2011 –March 2011 Review process.
- April 2011 Awards Announced.

#### **SRHE Fellows Elections and Honorary appointments**

**The Society is pleased to announce the election of the following as Fellows of the Society in 2010**

Professor Claire Callender  
Professor Rob Cuthbert  
Professor Ian McNay  
Professor Paul Trowler

The Society has also introduced two new awards from 2010 and is pleased to announce the following elections:

**SRHE Honorary Fellowship** to be awarded to an individual of world renown in higher education research and who is not a member of the Society

#### **Professor Michael Peters**

SRHE Lifetime Achievement Award. An Award for a Society Member who has over time offered considerable service to the Society

### **Renate Simpson**

Profiles of these individuals and their contribution to research into higher education will be carried in the next edition of SRHE News to be published in September.

### **Nominations for 2011-input from Society members**

The Society will start to consider nominations for Fellows and for other positions within the Society such as membership of SRHE Council or Standing Committees as well as other external appointments such as Academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences. If members of the Society would like to make nominations for any of these roles or to express personal interest in joining one of the Standing Committees do please get in touch with the Director, Helen Perkins.

### **SRHE Newer researcher Award Winners 2010**

The Society received a very high number of enquiries on the Newer Researcher Prize this year (in the region of 100), ultimately resulting in 33 completed applications a very positive result for 2010, reflecting the increased level of interest in the Society and the cumulative effect of a more concerted and planned approach to the publication of these opportunities. A key factor has been the increased reach and profile of the Society's vibrant *Newer Researchers Network* led Dr Arwen Raddon (University of Leicester) and co convened with Dr Saranne Weller (Kings learning Institute) and Mr. Patrick Baughan (City University).

The Research and Development Committee (R&D) undertook a very thorough review process with all members of the Committee acting as reviewers and each application reviewed by two members independently. The quality and depth of detail of these reviews was first class and greatly assisted the decision making process.

The R&D Committee short listed 11 applications and after detailed consideration of each of these has made the following awards:

**Dr Ming Cheng**, Research Fellow, University of Brighton UK  
*Research project title:* Quality as Transformation: Educational Metamorphoses

**Dr Nataliya Rumyantseva**, Lecturer in HE Studies University of Southampton,  
*Research project title:* Academic workplace in the rapidly changing context: a case study in Russia

The Society offers its warmest congratulations to these individuals on their achievement and we look forward to working with them on their projects in the coming academic year. Also of course our commiserations to the unsuccessful applicants this year in what was a very strong field.

### **SRHE Staffing News**

No one year is the same in the SRHE Office and we embrace change and new horizons. This is fortunate as this month we see a number of changes in the SRHE Office team.

Barbara Blake, Operations Manager, has decided to leave the Society for a new direction; she resigned on 1 June 2010 expressing the wish to pursue other interests. Barbara had been with us for just under three years, having joined us in 2007 some time after leaving the Council for Industry and Higher Education, where she had been for over 20 years. This has obviously been a period of personal transition and we hope that her time at SRHE was a useful staging post for her. For the time being I will take over responsibility again for all our Networks, working as always with Franco Carta and, for the time being, with Carol Salmon. I say "time being" as Carol is currently facing the prospect of a return to Beijing as her husband's company is planning to send him there for a year.

We are all, Carol included, awaiting a final decision on this with a mixture of feelings. We shall be very sorry to lose Carol, even if not permanently, but also recognise that the chance to spend time with family and friends after many years away will also be rewarding and enjoyable.

To maintain service and stability during this time of transition Francois Smit is to take on some additional responsibilities with the Society in addition to his work as Conference Manager and members can expect to hear from him now on a range of matters, not just the SRHE Conferences. We will be replacing the Operations Manager post in the New Year and have already started to secure a new Administrative Assistant for September.

Franco Carta remains our most steadfast, dependable and essential staff member, managing all our financial issues, so there will be familiar individuals to contact as well as some new faces.

Helen Perkins Director SRHE [hsperkins@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:hsperkins@srhe.ac.uk)

## SRHE Membership

**Membership renewal notices** will be coming out in August. I have written to all members to thank you for your support for the Society during the past year. At the Society we are, of course, acutely conscious of the current financial pressures within higher education and the consequential impact for individuals. We have therefore made only minor rounding up adjustments and have now held our Membership subscription rates at equivalent levels for the past three years. I do hope that Members will appreciate the Society's efforts here and that we can rely on your continuing support and engagement with the Society in the forthcoming year. We continue to seek to provide a valuable and affordable service for members.

It is a very great help to the Society if Members can settle their membership invoices with us as soon as they are received. This saves us resources in administration costs and therefore helps us keep subscription levels pegged. It also allows the Society to plan ahead more easily, investing in activities and services for members. Your help in renewing your Society subscription on receipt will be extremely helpful to us and would be very much appreciated. For the next subscription year we are introducing a new category of membership to help our student members retain their Society membership when they cease to be full time students. A new category of mid career researchers will offer our student members a bridge between their student level of subscription and full individual membership.

Any enquiries on SRHE Membership renewals, or joining SRHE, should be addressed to Franco Carta [fcarta@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:fcarta@srhe.ac.uk) +44 (0)207 447 2529. You can join online or find information about membership and subscription rates at [Join SRHE](#)

## SRHE Diary of Events

Please note these dates for SRHE Network and other events and remember that attendance at network events is free to individual members of the Society.

For more details of SRHE Network events please go to <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/events.asp>

Members wishing to reserve a place at one of these events or interested in joining the mailing list for any of the SRHE Networks should email the network events coordinator Carol Salmon ([csalmon@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:csalmon@srhe.ac.uk)) stating the Networks for which you would like to receive event information or event on which you want a place reserved.

### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010**

#### SRHE Academic Practice Network

##### ***'Problematising the relations between students' pasts, presents and futures in higher education'***

Speakers: Dr Monica McLean (University of Nottingham)

Dr Paul Ashwin (Lancaster University)

Time: 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 1-4pm

Venue: SRHE Conference Room, 44 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4LL

### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

#### SRHE Student Experience Network

##### ***'New Activism or Old Politics? Sounding Student Reaction to HE's Crisis'***

Speakers: Ben Little (University of Middlesex)

Jonathan Ward (Studentforce for Sustainable Development)

Jim Dickinson (NUS)

Time: 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010 11am- 4pm

Venue: University of Aston

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010** (to be confirmed)

#### SRHE International Research & Researchers' Network

Speakers: David Bridges (University of East Anglia)

Gert Biesta (University of Stirling) – to be confirmed

For more details of SRHE Network events past and future please visit [here](#)

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010** (date to be confirmed)

**NEW in 2010 SRHE Seminar Series on Theorising Higher Education, a series of 3 seminars focusing on Higher education Policy and the theoretical perspective.**

#### Theorising Higher Education: Beyond Policy Analysis

We are pleased to announce that the launch seminar of the SRHE Higher Education Theory Group will take place at the SRHE offices in October 2010. The aim of the seminar is to explore the theoretical perspectives on higher education studies pursued by different academic disciplines. The broad intention is to open up theoretical, methodological and pedagogical questions and debate

relating to the higher education research agenda. The seminar will be of interest to higher educational practitioners, research students, researchers and academics from a variety of disciplines. This Seminar Series will be devoted to the promotion and development of higher education theory in the broad sense of the term, though with particular emphasis on the capacity of higher education theory to understand, respond to and shape the development of contemporary thinking and action in the field of higher education  
Further details regarding the launch seminar will be announced in August 2010.

*Get your Network event covered in News. Send a report (200-300 words) to [rob.cuthbert@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:rob.cuthbert@uwe.ac.uk)*

### **SRHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010 – Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, Wales, UK**

13-14 December SRHE Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference (PGNR)

14-16 December, SRHE Annual Research Conference (ARC)

### **SRHE Annual General Meeting 2010**

The Society AGM will take place during the SRHE Annual Conference in December and we duly give notice that the SRHE AGM will be held on Wednesday 15 December 2010 at 2.00pm and will be held at the Celtic manor resort, Newport, South Wales.UK

### **Contact us**

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### **Future editions of *SRHE NEWS***

Copy deadline dates and publication dates for 2010 are:

SRHE News 3 Copy deadline 16<sup>th</sup> August Publication Date 20<sup>th</sup> September

SRHE News 4 Copy deadline 9<sup>th</sup> November Publication Date 1<sup>st</sup> December

**Bulletin August 2010 ends**