

SRHE International Conference on Research into Higher Education December 9-11 2015

Celtic Manor, Newport in South Wales, United Kingdom

Conference Theme 2015

Converging Concepts in Global Higher Education Research: Local, national and international perspectives

The global higher education research agenda is increasingly concentrating on common issues and concerns, with local, national and international perspectives converging to focus on shared questions and possible outcomes. New ways of addressing current concerns are being developed and refined internationally through shared national knowledge and experience. A significant body of research knowledge across issues of policy and practice now exists and informs understanding of what it takes to build and sustain effective systems of higher education.

Given this convergence of concepts, the need to continue to assess, evaluate and understand context and how this impacts policy and practice becomes ever more important. Convergence is itself a contested concept which needs to be put under closer scrutiny and investigation, as, for example, what 'counts' as research, theory and knowledge may be seen as highly uncertain and debateable.

This international conference on research into higher education takes a bold step in addressing research issues from this perspective; examining shared research knowledge on what we know, what this tells us about delivering looked-for outcomes and how this is evidenced. This conference will look back, look across and look forward in seeking to identify areas where our research agenda needs to go further and to look deeper, locally, nationally and internationally

Paper presentations, symposia, keynotes, workshops, seminars and discussions will explore common trends in higher education concerning every aspect of policy and practice. Funding higher education, ensuring wider participation, encouraging the transition from informal to formal learning, integrating new technology, developing curricula, recognising excellence in teaching, improving the student experience, balancing public and private provision and maintaining ethical, values-driven leadership and governance are all research topics where convergence is being examined and explored.

This conference affords space to all researchers into higher education to present their work and ideas within this framework of local, national and international perspectives.

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. This 2015 international research conference presents a great opportunity to build on 50 years of higher education research and make a significant contribution to defining future research priorities.

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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 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 and later timescale for submissions.

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 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 nine 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 on the CD-ROM 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 nine 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. Papers will be timetabled for presentation within these 9 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)**
- 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 made available at conference on the CD Rom and online.
- **Part 2 Outline:** a maximum 1000 word paper (not including references) to be available at conference on the CD Rom and 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 26 June 2015 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 25 September 2015.

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. 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 8 December 2015

Conference timetable and events

SRHE 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 9 December 2015. 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 11 December 2015 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 9 December 2015, 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 10 December 2015. 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 10 December 2015. 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 25 September 2015 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 very late bookings may need to be provided with bedrooms at nearby hotels of an equivalent high standard as the conference resort. Conference registration will remain open up to the date of the Conference.

To register for the SRHE International Research Conference 2015 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 25 September 2015.

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, 9 and 10 December 2015. 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 10 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/conference2015

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

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