

International Conference in University Learning and Teaching

InCULT 2010: ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

29-30 June 2010,

University of Hertfordshire, England

Strands

Participants are welcome to submit a presentation proposal for discussion and publication in journal/conference proceedings in any of the six strands outlined below, or for the postgraduate student day.

The six themes being explored in the conference are:

1. **International, Intercultural and Diversity Issues**

As the world reacts to globalisation and the backlash to the global credit crunch is felt around the world, how will universities react and retrench themselves in international markets? Will it be possible for students to have an international experience without leaving their home country? Will the student population become more or less diverse in the future, and what will be the impact of this on the university itself? This strand seeks papers that consider the implications for the future of the university, learning and teaching, with regard to globalisation/internationalisation, intercultural and diversity issues, whether that is within the student body, the academic body, or some other model as presented by the author. Comparative studies that challenge current practice are also welcome to give insight into how matters may need to change in the future.

2. **Teaching and Learning and Assessment Issues for the Future**

A recognised conflict within the Academe is that of research Vs teaching, with many institutions moving to a model of research underpinning teaching. But is this sustainable in the future? The massification and modularisation of Higher Education in the West may not be a model that is sustainable or desirable beyond the next decade. Funding pressures and quality measures are impacting on teaching and learning practice within universities, and assessment practices are being limited by the need to avoid plagiarism and other academic offences. What does this mean for the future of teaching, learning and assessment in universities? And what does this mean for the future role of the academic?

3. **Issues Surrounding Digital Learning**

The option of whether or not to digitalise learning processes will not be one that universities can decide on beyond the next decade. If they haven't, they will no longer exist. While specialist pockets may exist outside of a digital framework, they will be operating in a manner outside the norm, and one that is only accessible to a small number of students. But it is not simply a case of putting one's learning materials online. The issues surrounding digital learning are broader than this, and this conference strand seeks to explore the issues that academics are experiencing now in implementing digital learning, in order to draw out lessons for the future, and develop a more normative engagement between universities and ICT.

4. **Leadership, Management and Governance Issues**

Who will be the future academic and how will they be managed and led? Being the lead researcher in a field may no longer guarantee a Chair; selling and applying the knowledge may be the key to future success. But who will manage these 'consultant Prof's' and how will the Academe ensure that they are operating within ethical and legal guidelines? Where will the intellectual property rights lie, and how will the university workforce be rewarded? While many institutions are currently contracting, ensuring that the University retains the talent it needs for the future is essential, but who is defining that talent and on what basis? How will Universities manage expansion with contracting core workforces? The issues around institutional management and leadership are the core of this strand of the conference.

5. Policy and Quality Issues

Western Universities are expanding into the developing world through the delivery of franchised programmes, overseas validations and off-shore campus off-shoots. But how is this quality assured? Does a paper-trail audit by the national quality assurance agency suffice or is a degree of comparability necessary? How are institutions going to assure quality in an increasingly competitive and comparative market? What is the trade-off between quality and quantity, and to what extent do individual institutions have a choice? This strand explores HE policy and the impact it is having on and is likely to have on the HE sector, paying particular attention to issues of quality and how quality assurance can be a limiting factor on institutional expansion and diversity.

6. Issues stemming from practice based research and reflective practice

What can we learn from today for tomorrow? How can enquiring into our own practice both generate our living theories and improve the practice? This strand offers practitioners the opportunity to show and explain how their complex social ecological contexts influence their professional learning. More common methodologies found in this stream include action research, experience based research, and collaborative inquiry. Papers are welcome in this strand from individuals working both within and outside the Academy whose practice can provide insight into the workings and epistemologies of the Academy in the future.

7. PLUS a post-graduate student's day on Monday 28 June

Masters and Doctoral research students are welcome to submit a paper on any theme linked to the future of Higher Education as part of our post-graduate student's day. This day will offer a more constructive, supportive environment and will suit research students who wish to give their first international conference presentation. It is anticipated that papers on this day will be work in progress, and while students will be critically questioned by the audience, the tone will be more supportive in helping the students move forwards in their work, rather than critically testing the work to ensure it can be defended against a challenge.

Reviewers' comments will be available prior to conference presentation to allow participants to use the conference as a means of further developing their ideas for discussion during the conference. Discussions during the conference may further refine the papers considered for publication in the journals/proceedings drawing from the conference proceedings. Journal editors will advise authors of the deadlines for their particular journals as appropriate.