



# Valuing Higher Education

**SRHE Annual Conference 2008**

**Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 December, The Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool  
and**

**Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference 2008**

**Monday 8 December, The Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool**



**Call for Papers and  
Conference Registration**

Dear Colleagues,

As chair of the Conference organising committee, on behalf of the Society, I would like to extend a very warm invitation to you to participate in the SRHE Annual Conference 2008 in Liverpool, European Capital of Culture.

This year's Conference will explore the theme of 'valuing higher education'. We interpret this broadly. Today, economic values sometimes seem to dominate higher education: throughout the world, governments seek to develop their higher education systems to meet the demands of economic competition in an increasingly globalised market place. Individuals, too, may have economic reasons for seeking higher education: despite rapid expansion, studies still show that there are positive rates of return to higher education. Yet economic values are not the sole drivers of higher education. It is valued as a contribution to both personal and social development, and by a wide range of people and institutions – students, their families, the staff of institutions, employers and other organisations. Moral, social, philosophical and educational values are all central to the debate.

The Society therefore welcomes contributions on a wide variety of issues, such as:

- How is higher education valued by different stakeholder groups, such as parents, students, academics, government, the private sector?
- Are there value clashes in the purposes of higher education?
- How is the value of higher education perceived in different societies, by different generations?
- What values are associated with privately and publicly funded higher education?
- What values do different kinds of students hold (first generation, social class, gender, ethnicity, undergraduate/postgraduate)?
- What kinds of values do academic leaders/managers hold and why?
- How are staff and students valued?
- How is the curriculum valued?
- How is value measured in higher education?
- What is the relative value and valuing of research and teaching in different systems?
- What value do students place on their higher education experience and how do they evaluate it?
- How are the values and purposes of higher education different from and/or how do they relate to those of other education sectors (e.g. further, adult, undergraduate and postgraduate education and professional training)?

You are invited to contribute to this debate in a variety of ways: by presenting a paper, sharing in a symposium based around your own and others' research or scholarly work, including work of a conceptual or theoretical nature, or organising a poster on any aspect of this year's theme – or simply by attending the Conference, or the Newer Researchers Conference on the same theme. Empirical and scholarly research from a wide range of perspectives is welcome.

The Society's Annual Conference has become a truly international event bringing together delegates and contributors from over 30 countries and we aim to build on this reputation this year. We hope that researchers and scholars from the many forms of higher education globally as well as from the UK will contribute to this Conference, stimulating international debate on the way in which higher education is valued by governments, policymakers, institutions, employers, and staff and students themselves.

**Professor John Pratt**  
SRHE Conference Chair 2008

## Conference Venue

The 2008 SRHE Annual Conference will be at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, European Capital of Culture for 2008.

The hotel, a landmark building in the city centre, is easily accessible by rail, road and air. This large hotel will allow us to accommodate all delegates and will house the whole Conference. There is a wealth of public space for networking with colleagues (for the exclusive use of the Conference) and all Conference sessions will take place at this one venue.



## Special SRHE Membership Offer

SRHE is pleased to offer a 12% discount on one year of SRHE membership in conjunction with the Conference. Individuals joining SRHE when registering for the 2008 Conference can benefit from the reduced SRHE member rates for the Conference. SRHE members also benefit from free attendance at all Network events throughout the year. Please see the registration form for full details.

## Conference Programme

**The Conference programme will include a rich and diverse range of contributions:**

- peer-reviewed paper presentations, symposia, discussion workshops, roundtables and poster sessions;
- plenary sessions addressing the main Conference theme of 'valuing higher education' from a range of perspectives with input from invited speakers;
- a chaired panel question and answer discussion on getting published in higher education journals, involving editors and publishers;
- an open event to meet with the convenors and members of the Society's Networks and participate in developing future research topics;
- a linked one-day conference for postgraduate students and newer researchers in higher education to be held at the Adelphi Hotel on Monday 8 December 2008.

## Conference Timetable and Social Events

The Conference will begin on the morning of Tuesday 9 December 2008 (11.00 am) and will end mid-afternoon on Thursday 11 December 2008 (3.00 pm).

The SRHE Annual Conference is planned as a participative event at which delegates presenting their own work will also participate in the discussions in plenary sessions and the presentations of the work of others. The Conference programme is planned on the basis that delegates will attend the whole event.

Networking with colleagues is an integral part of the SRHE Conference and social events are a good opportunity for participants to meet and converse in a relaxed atmosphere. This year, there will be a number of events:

- an opportunity to explore some of Liverpool's famous attractions on escorted tours;
- a complimentary Welcome Reception on Tuesday 9 December at the Pan American Club in the Albert Docks. This is open to all participants at the Conference and will include drinks and buffet supper;
- the Conference Dinner held on Wednesday 10 December at the Adelphi Hotel. There will be a pre-dinner drinks reception sponsored by Routledge/Taylor and Francis and the cost for the dinner of £35.00 includes a three-course menu and wine.

## Call for Proposals

**Proposals are invited for:**

### Individual papers

Each accepted paper will be allocated a maximum of 30 minutes for presentation followed by discussion. Final versions of papers MUST be provided prior to the Conference for publication on the SRHE website and inclusion in a Conference report.

### Discussion workshops

If the number of abstract submissions is as high as in recent years some acceptances will invite contributors to make a brief presentation of their work, along with other contributors, in the format of an invited workshop discussion. These workshops will not offer the opportunity for full individual presentations of papers, but will provide greater time for discussion of papers submitted in advance on related themes.

### Symposia

These consist of presentation of three or more related papers on a single theme, explored in one-hour (3 papers) or two-hour (4–6 papers) sessions. Symposia submissions must be made by one individual and all abstracts for inclusion in a symposium should ideally be submitted together, but can be linked subsequently. Proposals must state clearly the rationale for the theme, name of the convenor and the chair of the symposium, the names and details of all participating presenters and the titles of each presentation planned. The symposium proposal MUST include an abstract for each presentation.

### Roundtables

These comprise discussions of linked contributions for which there is an overall chair/discussant and a minimum of three paper presentations for each 60 minute session. The Roundtable 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 for each presentation. The proposal must include the name(s) of the chair/discussant and all participating presenters.

### Poster sessions

These provide the opportunity for researchers to present their work visually in the format of a wall poster. Poster displays will be on show throughout the Conference and specific times will be allocated in the Conference programme when poster presenters should be with their posters and delegates invited to engage in dialogue and informal exchange. Abstract proposals should contain a title, originator(s), presenter(s), contact details and description of the research work undertaken.

## Submissions Process

All submissions for the Conference must be supported by an abstract of the planned presentation, restricted to one side of A4 in 12-point font including references (max 300 words and to include 3 or 4 references). Longer abstracts will be rejected. All submissions must state clearly the title, author(s)/co-authors and give the name(s) and contact details of all proposed presenters.

## Research Domains

Proposals should state which of the research domains fits most closely with the content of the presentation.

These research domains are aligned with the Society's networks and the peer review process of proposals will be led by network convenors, ensuring rigorous review by peers with appropriate knowledge and expertise. Contributors are encouraged to relate their submissions to the Conference theme and explore their research findings in the context of valuing student experiences, systems and structures, or comparative, social and cultural variations and global or transnational developments.

It is understood that it is not always obvious which domain provides a best fit but authors are encouraged to submit proposals in the domain in which they would like their paper to be themed. The Conference welcomes research papers relating to further, higher, undergraduate, postgraduate and professional education in all research domains and where possible such papers will be grouped on a sector basis as well as by one of the following domain themes.

### Higher education policy:

- the values and valuation of higher education institutions, systems, activities (research, teaching and third stream) and identities;
- explicit or implicit values in policy including relationships between higher education, the state and markets;
- the values associated with privately and publicly funded higher education;
- the relationship between higher education policy and social justice;
- how transnational, global and international forces have affected the values of different higher education systems.

### Management, leadership and governance:

- explicit or implicit values in, management and/or governance, including relationships between higher education, the state and markets;
- what kinds of values do academic leaders/managers hold and why?;
- how are staff and students valued?

### Academic practice, work and cultures:

- how academic work, culture and practice are valued, and changing or being re-evaluated in response to contemporary forces affecting higher education;
- shifting boundaries between academic, and learning support and academic management roles;
- re-evaluation of academic values in teaching, research and scholarship;
- changing relationships between academics and students or academics and managers;
- changing character of academic identities;
- ethical and moral values in higher education.

### Student experience:

- the values underlying and manifested by 'the student experience' and whether and how this experience is valued;
- what is learnt (both formally and informally) as well as what is taught, in the context of various learning cultures in diverse institutions where different students develop different knowledge and skills;

- how this experience is valued outside the academy by, for example, employers and parents;
- the economic and other forms of return to higher education;
- student experience in the context of potentially conflicting commitments to academic work, employment, domestic labour and 'free' time;
- comparing student experience in the UK national regions, or with other countries.

### Learning and teaching:

- how post-compulsory and higher education are being re-shaped into new forms of teaching and learning, delivery and management;
- widening participation to higher education and how this influences values, pedagogies and practices;
- how social diversity and difference (including social class, race, ethnicity, disabilities and sexualities) influence disciplines, subjects and how they are taught;
- the relationships between research, teaching and learning;
- formal, informal and e-learning provision, new networks, partnerships, changing models emerging in the 'gaps' between the sectors;
- the impact of global contemporary forces and the proliferation of new systems of learning on the boundaries between institutions and sectors;
- the values in lifelong learning, vocational, technical and/or adult education.

### Quality assurance and assessment:

- The relationship of QAA procedures and processes to values, purposes; accountability, control, compliance and improvement/enhancement;
- the impact of the range of QAA approaches on the relationship between quality and learning;
- the impact of transnational developments (such as the Bologna process) and transnational forms of quality assurance;
- credit transfer and mobility.

## Submission of Proposals

The deadline for submission of proposals is **31 July 2008**.

All proposals should be submitted electronically, via the SRHE website at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2008>

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

All submissions will be subject to rigorous peer review by panels of assessors specially selected for each research domain. Some proposals may be accepted for joint presentation only. Please indicate if you are unwilling to accept this (in which case, you may be unable to present).

## Conference Report and Final Papers

Authors of all accepted proposals MUST provide a final version prior to the Conference for inclusion in the Conference report, and to be available to all Conference delegates via the website.

The deadline for submission of final papers is **Friday 21 November 2008**.

## Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference, Monday 8 December 2008

The SRHE Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference will be held one day prior to the main SRHE Annual Conference at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.

Now in its fifth year, the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference is designed to facilitate a number of activities. It aims to enable networking for newer researchers in the field of higher education, build the capacity of such researchers, explore the latest research agenda and methodological practices, provide a supportive environment for those newer to presenting conference papers and, last but not least, provide a lively and stimulating event.

The conference is open to a broad community, including those in the early stages of a research career in higher education, those currently studying in the field and those who may have more experience but are new to the issues in higher education research and want to find out more.

As well as the opportunity to present papers, there will be a range of events and opportunities for networking: small-group discussions about developing a career involving newer and established researchers in the higher education research field; an 'academic speed-dating' activity aimed at widening networks; and an evening event.

The theme of the conference – 'Newer Researchers Valuing Higher Education' – gives rise to a range of interesting questions and issues for examination. We invite you to submit proposals under the following themes:

- Theme 1: The nature and purposes of higher education
- Theme 2: The social value of higher education and learning
- Theme 3: Employability, skills and the imperative to (l)earn
- Theme 4: Newer researchers/'early career academics' perspectives on higher education.

Detailed descriptions of these themes are contained in the Call for Papers for the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference available at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2008>

Proposals for analytical, reflexive or literature review-based papers on these themes are welcomed. Submissions will be peer-reviewed. Proposals which do not fall under the specific themes will be considered. However, please ensure that it is clear how they relate to the conference theme.

This conference will be chaired by Dr Arwen Raddon from the University of Leicester. Dr Raddon is the convenor of the SRHE Newer Researchers Network and a member of the SRHE Research and Development Committee.

### Submissions process

The deadline for submission of proposals for the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference is **31 August 2008**.

Please submit an abstract of up to 300 words to the conference team using the online submission system. All proposals should be submitted electronically, via the SRHE website at

<http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2008>

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

The fee for the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference is £60 (£80 for non SRHE members) which includes refreshments, a light lunch and an early evening reception. We strongly encourage delegates at this one day conference to stay on and attend the main Conference. Significantly reduced registration fees are offered for students to enable them to attend the main Conference.

The Society endeavours to assist the attendance of students and newer researchers at the main Conference if at all possible and delegates attending the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference should check the Society's Conference website throughout the year for details of any bursaries or other means of support which may become available for the main SRHE Conference.

### Conference Registration

Special discounts apply to SRHE members and full-time students. Early registration also attracts substantial discounts. To obtain the 'early registration' discount you must register by 31 October 2008.

To register for the main Conference and/or the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference please register online via the Conference website at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2008>. Alternatively you can complete the registration form provided in this brochure.

### Conference Packages

#### Residential rates

All delegates choosing the residential package will have single occupancy accommodation reserved at the Adelphi Hotel for two nights, 9 and 10 December. This cost includes breakfast, lunches, teas and coffees, the welcome reception and attendance at all Conference sessions and plenary events.

The Society has secured preferential rates for delegates taking the residential package and we strongly advise Conference delegates to take this option as it will represent a substantial saving on overall costs.

#### 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 reception.

#### Full-time students

Full-time-student participants at the main Conference paying the subsidised student rates but wanting to take a residential package option will be accommodated at the Lord Nelson Hotel, which is close to the Adelphi, for the nights of 9 and 10 December on a bed and breakfast basis. Additional nights may be booked at our preferential rate.

#### Day delegate rate

A day delegate rate is available for the middle day of the Conference only, Wednesday 10 December. This rate includes attendance at all sessions and plenary events, lunch, teas and coffees on this day only.

### Further Information

For further information and updates on the Conference please consult the Conference website at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2008>

If you require any further information, please contact the SRHE Office:

76 Portland Place, London W1B 1NT

Tel: +44(0)207 637 2766. Fax: +44(0)207 637 2781

email: [srheconferenceteam@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:srheconferenceteam@srhe.ac.uk) web: [www.srhe.ac.uk](http://www.srhe.ac.uk)

**REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT FORM FOR CONFERENCE AND SRHE MEMBERSHIP OFFER**

**JOIN SRHE NOW AND REGISTER FOR THE 2008 CONFERENCE AT THE SRHE MEMBER RATES!**

SRHE is offering a 12% discount on a full year's membership to all registrants for the Conference.  
If you join now you can also receive the reduced rates for SRHE members on your 2008 registration fees!

**Members of SRHE enjoy many benefits including:**

- the opportunity to attend the Society's many network events for free
- free copies of *Research into Higher Education Abstracts*
- reduced subscription rates for *Studies in Higher Education* (over 50% reduction)
- reduced rates for *Higher Education Quarterly*
- free copies of *SRHE News* informing members of the Society's activities and providing a calendar of events, with additional material provided in regular mailings
- 35% discount on all McGraw-Hill/Open University Press SRHE books
- 35% discount on all books published by Routledge/Taylor and Francis
- 20% discount on all books and journals published by Wiley-Blackwell
- reduced rates for conferences
- the opportunity to apply for annual research grants

**Please fill in your details below if you wish to become a member**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from overleaf): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual Membership Type**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standard membership (includes Conference discount) | <b>£88.00</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student membership (includes Conference discount)  | <b>£24.00</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired membership (includes Conference discount)  | <b>£28.00</b> |

**Journal Subscriptions** (SRHE Membership entitles you to substantial discounts on these journal subscriptions of over 50% reductions)

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Studies in Higher Education</i> (6 issues) | <b>£45.00</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Higher Education Quarterly</i>             | <b>£33.00</b> |

<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:</b>	<b>£ .</b>
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES</b> (from overleaf):	<b>£ .</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£ .</b>

**PAYMENT**

- Delegates may pay by cheque payable to 'SRHE' or by debit/credit card (VISA, MASTERCARD, SWITCH, DELTA)

Card type: \_\_\_\_\_ Card no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ Issue no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Security code (all cards): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount to be debited: £ \_\_\_\_\_

- Alternatively SRHE can invoice your institution. Please provide the billing details below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase order no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT FORM FOR CONFERENCE AND SRHE MEMBERSHIP OFFER

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT FORM

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESIDENTIAL PACKAGES – DELEGATE FEES**

Full Conference, 9–11 December 2008 (includes 2 nights hotel accommodation, breakfast, lunches, welcome reception and all conference sessions)

**SRHE Member Rates**

- Early registration (registrations before 31 October 2008) **£490.00**
- Delegate fees (for registration after 31 October 2008) **£540.00**

**Non SRHE Member Rates**

- Early registration (registrations before 31 October 2008) **£550.00**
- Delegate fees (for registration after 31 October 2008) **£595.00**

**Full-time Student Rates** (accommodation at the Lord Nelson Hotel or equivalent, Liverpool)

- Early registration (registrations before 31 October 2008) **£230.00**
- Delegate fees (registrations after 31 October 2008) **£250.00**

**NON-RESIDENTIAL PACKAGES – DELEGATE FEES**

Full Conference, 9–11 December 2008 (includes lunches, teas and coffees, welcome reception and all conference sessions)

**SRHE Member Rates**

- Early registration (registrations before 31 October 2008) **£410.00**
- Delegate fees (registrations after 31 October 2008) **£460.00**

**Non SRHE Member Rates**

- Early registration (registrations before 31 October 2008) **£470.00**
- Delegate fees (for registration after 31 October 2008) **£520.00**

**Full-time Student Rate**

- Full-time Student Rate SRHE main conference (3 days) **£160.00**

**Day Delegate Rates** (Wednesday 10 December only)

- SRHE Member **£200.00**
- Non Member **£250.00**

**Conference Dinner** (10 December)

- Number of tickets **£35.00** per ticket

**ACCOMPANYING PERSONS**

For Conference delegates on the residential package wishing to be accompanied by a partner, sharing a double room but not attending the Conference, a single additional fee has been negotiated which includes two nights accommodation sharing room with full paying participant, breakfast, lunches, teas and coffees, welcome reception.

- Accompanying Person Fee** **£160.00**

Name of Accompanying Person \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES**

£ .

**POSTGRADUATE & NEWER RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE** (Monday 8 December 2008, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool)

- SRHE Member **£60.00**
- Non Member **£80.00**

Please see overleaf for payment details AND DISCOUNTED SRHE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION »

**Special dietary and/or individual requirements**

**Terms and Conditions:**

**Cancellation charges.** Written notice of cancellation for both the SRHE Annual Conference and SRHE Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference should be sent to the SRHE offices. An administration fee of £50.00 will be charged on all cancellations received prior to 31 October 2008. No refund will be granted for cancellations received after 1 November 2008.

**Changes in conference programme.** In the event of cancellations of speakers or other changes in any of the conference programmes, no full or partial refund of the registration fee can be made.

**Liability.** All participants attend the conference at their own risk. SRHE will not be liable for the death or injury to any person attending the premises in connection with the conference. SRHE will not under any circumstances accept responsibility or liability in respect to damage or loss of personal effects brought to the conference.

- I have read and accept the Terms and Conditions. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Conference Organising Committee

### Conference Chair

Professor John Pratt  
Visiting Professor, University of Brighton

### Conference Director

Ms Helen Perkins  
Director, SRHE

### Organising Committee Members

Professor Roger Brown  
Liverpool Hope University

Professor Rosemary Deem  
University of Bristol

Professor George Gordon  
University of Strathclyde

Professor Yvonne Hillier  
University of Brighton

Professor Bruce Macfarlane  
University of Portsmouth

Dr Arwen Raddon  
University of Leicester

## About SRHE

The Society for Research into Higher Education is a UK-based international learned society concerned to advance understanding of higher education, especially through the insights, perspectives and knowledge offered by systematic research and scholarship. The Society aims to be the leading international society in the field, for both the support and the dissemination of research.

More fully, its aims are to:

- stimulate new forms of research and inquiry into higher education as a field of study;
- assist in developing research capacity in relation to the field;
- encourage and support those coming into the field of higher education studies;
- develop a network of scholars and researchers in the field of higher education studies;
- offer fora for the presentation of research and scholarship in the field;
- promote the development and widening of research methodologies in the field;
- provide opportunities for the publication of research and scholarship in the field;
- develop opportunities through which researchers in the field can engage with policy makers, practitioners within higher education and other interested parties so that policy and practices may be shaped by research.



### SRHE Office

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