

## **Experiencing Higher Education, Transitions and the Graduate Labour Market: The Non-Traditional Student Perspective**

### **Call for Papers: International Conference, University of Seville (Spain), 7 – 8 September, 2017**

The conference offers a unique opportunity to engage with scholars from across Europe and more widely:

- To learn more about a new trans-European study of non-traditional students (<http://employ.dsw.edu.pl/language/en/>) in diverse higher education institutions, and the perspectives of university staff and employers
- To hear and present current research on a vital issues for policy, research and practice
- To network with other researchers in higher education in Europe and beyond



Learning, retention and employability in higher education are key issues for policy-makers at institutional, national and European levels. They are also areas of interest

for researchers. This European conference provides an opportunity to hear about a new, trans European, interdisciplinary, in-depth study of non-traditional students in six countries; and to present papers, round tables, and symposia on related topics to an international audience of academics, practitioners and policy-makers.

The new study suggests that non-traditional students (both younger and adult) experience inequalities (class, gender, race / ethnicity and age) in relation to employability and transitioning into the graduate labour market. And in some countries this is exacerbated by a current climate of precarity and crisis. Research also indicates that many non-traditional students take longer to obtain a job and that when they do this may not be at a graduate level. The conference will explore how non-traditional students experience learning in higher education and as well as their perspectives, expectations and strategies in relation to employability and future employment. Institutional practices and policies can also impact either positively or negatively as well as employers and companies.

An important objective of this conference, as noted, is to open up dialogue about the findings of the EU funded study of 'Enhancing the Employability of Non-Traditional Students in HE' – EMPLOY. It has focused on the experiences of samples of non-traditional students, graduates, university staff and employers in six European countries (Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the UK). The research has involved the use of longitudinal biographical narrative methods.

This conference will provide an opportunity for researchers, policy-makers and HE staff working in the field to learn more about this distinct study and to engage with its findings, but also to present papers and establish a space to discuss all the issues, from a range of perspectives.

### **Papers are invited on one or more of the following themes:**

- Issues of employability, equality and higher education
- Graduate transition into the labour market or other destinations
- Access, retention and drop-out
- Institutional and cultural contexts and perspectives
- Theoretical and conceptual approaches
- Issues of inequality (class, gender, race / ethnicity, age, disability, location etc)
- Research methodologies
- Policy, practice and managerial issues and perspectives

### **Keynote Speaker**

**John Field**, University of Stirling, Scotland

John Field is an emeritus professor at the University of Stirling, adjunct professor at Dublin City University, and honorary professor at the University of Warwick. He has been visiting professor at the University of Cologne and the Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena. He has worked with adult learners since 1978, when he joined

the staff at Northern College in Barnsley, and has continued to campaign for adult learning ever since. He chairs Scotland's Learning Partnership, the national organization representing the interests of learners and providers in Scotland, and is a member of the Wissenschaftliches Beirat of the Deutsche Institut für Erwachsenenbildung. His research interests include social, historical and policy studies of post-compulsory education. His publications include *Lifelong Learning and the New Educational Order*, *Social Capital* (now in its third edition), and *Working Men's Bodies: Work camps in Britain 1880-1940*; his work has been translated into Italian, Japanese, French, Korean, Persian and German. His most recent book is *Universities and Engagement: International perspectives on higher education and lifelong learning* (edited with B. Schmidt-Hertha and A. Waxenegger).

## Abstracts

Proposals for papers, roundtables and symposia are welcome. Abstracts should be one side of A4 maximum. The deadline for abstracts is 31 May, 2017. All abstracts must be submitted written in English. Participants will be informed about their abstract/s by 30 June, 2017. Please send abstracts to:

[Barbara.Merrill@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Barbara.Merrill@warwick.ac.uk)

-Each person can participate in a maximum of two abstracts.

## Papers

Length: 3,000 – 4,000 words. Papers can be submitted in either English or Spanish. Please use Times New Roman font size 12. The deadline for sending papers is 30 August, 2017. Papers to be sent to [Barbara.Merrill@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Barbara.Merrill@warwick.ac.uk)



## **Conference Fees**

Fee 170 Euros

PhD students 50 Euros

A meal will be on offer at the University on the evening of 7 September 2017

## **Conference Times**

7 September 2017 – registration 09:00 – 09:45

8 September 2017 – finish 16:00

## **Organising Committee**

EMPLOY project team  
José González Monteagudo  
M<sup>a</sup>. Teresa Padilla-Carmona  
María Vázquez-Granadero  
María Tenorio-Rodríguez  
Isabel María Muñoz-García  
Rafael M. Hernández-Carrera  
Miguel Ángel Ballesteros-Moscósio

## **Venue**

Facultad de Ciencias de la Educación  
University of Seville  
C/ Pirotecnia s/n  
41013 Seville (Spain)

Faculty website: <http://centro.us.es/fccee/>



## Accommodation

A list of hotels will be available shortly.

Further information registration and travel to be found shortly on the following website:

- <http://employ.dsw.edu.pl/language/en/>