

The Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change is delighted to invite you to a lunchtime seminar (12.00-13.15) on 5<sup>th</sup> of May Room 337 St Andrew's Building

## "Socioeconomic Background and Participation in Higher Education : The Role of Expectations, Wage Premia and Financial Constraints"

## Presented by Kristinn Hermannsson, and Jeanette Findlay, University of Glasgow

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Drawing on neoclassical human capital theory and standard investment appraisal methods we explore the question: When is higher education a good investment and how is this affected by socioeconomic background? A simple discounted cash flow model is used to simulate under what circumstances a rational forward looking student should invest in education. On a purely pecuniary basis, socioeconomic background affects the feasibility of investing in education. This is driven by socioeconomic variation in wage premia, intra-household subsidies and discount rates. Reality is obviously more complicated. However, it is important to realise that even in such an abstract model socioeconomic background impacts the attractiveness of studying in higher education.

Venue: Room 337 St Andrew's Building Please confirm attendance to : education-robertowencentre@glasgow.ac.uk