

Conference Call for Papers/Presentations Citizens and their Universities

Theme: Lifelong Learning, Civic Engagement, Ownership

Dates: Wednesday 22nd – Thursday 23rd April 2020

Venue: Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP

This conference will explore the roles of adult education and lifelong learning in addressing social, economic and cultural divides between communities and higher education institutions. The purposes and effectiveness of universities' civic engagement strategies and the role(s) of adult education are the subject of much current debate. Around the world, universities are being asked how their values are best embedded within the wider arenas of the economy, culture and democracy and within shifting notions of citizenship and place. At the heart of the discussion are questions about the ownership of universities by citizens, communities, regions and nations.

Swansea University celebrates its Centenary in 2020. Mindful of our work in the Department of Adult Continuing Education, of the civic mission expected of Welsh Universities, and Swansea's status as a UNESCO Learning City, we are holding a distinctive, ambitious and international conference. 2020 also marks twenty-five years since the 1995 Swansea conference on *Communities and their Universities* and the subsequent book of that title.

The 2020 conference will place debates and themes within the context of policy developments across the four jurisdictions of the United Kingdom. It will also explore, how lifelong learning and civic engagement of universities are shaped in Wales by the country's bilingual culture, innovative policy developments such as the *Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015)* and the commitment to part-time student funding following the Diamond Review.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

- Kirsty Williams (AM) Minister for Education, Welsh Government
- Professor Mary Stuart, Vice-Chancellor - Lincoln University
- Jane Robinson, Dean of Engagement and Place - Newcastle University
- Rob Humphreys, Member of Council - Higher Education Funding Council for Wales



This conference aims to address 5 key themes:

- “Ownership” of Universities: Engagement Culture and the Civic Mission
- Lifelong learning – a human right?
- Skills and Employability – economic marginalisation/foundation economy and entrepreneurship
- International Perspectives – learning from elsewhere/through other UNESCO Learning cities
- Widening and deepening access including specific action for minority groups

Call for Contributions:

Papers, presentations, workshops and poster presentation proposals should be no more than 300 words and include:

- A title
- A short description of the topic(s) to be addressed
- The approach that will be taken
- Its significance in connection to one of the five conference themes
- Your name (including any names of co-presenters, panellists) your organisation (if any) and your e-mail address.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 12pm Thursday 19th December 2019.

Proposals should be submitted online at COAHconference@swansea.ac.uk

Conference fees:

- £140 (for 2 days)
- £80 for Wednesday only
- £80 for Thursday only

Concessions are available for voluntary sector organisations and community learners. Please email for further information.

We are currently exploring the possibility of publishing conference contributions.

