

ExEDE Project Conference

Excellence in European Doctoral Education: Innovation and Enhancement

Date: 28th and 29th November 2013

Venue: John McIntyre Centre, University of Edinburgh, UK

Conference Overview and Aims

Excellence in European doctoral education is cited by the EU, national governments, funding and quality agencies, employers and universities as a key priority now and for the future. While the Salzburg II recommendations and numerous reports from European organisations set out in general terms the key elements of doctoral training, there are few examples of how these principles and concepts can be translated into innovative practice, particularly at an institutional scale. To address this, the University of Edinburgh and Aarhus University are working together on a collaborative project to discuss, develop, pilot, evaluate and share practice around a series of interrelated work packages. These work packages address a number of key themes surrounding excellence in European doctoral education including support, supervision, employer engagement, employability and mobility. (See project webpages: [ExEDE](#))

This conference, jointly hosted by Edinburgh and Aarhus, will offer an invaluable opportunity for greater exploration of these themes, through key note speeches, discussion and interactive workshops based around some of the initial challenges and findings of the collaborative project. One key objective of this approach is to facilitate engagement with the issues and to help identify practical solutions. Networking, sharing of practice and collaboration are important aims of the conference and opportunities for these are built into the programme. The conference will be of particular interest to individuals with strategic roles, particularly in internationalisation, European policy, quality assurance and researcher development, Graduate School and research programme directors, academic staff who direct and supervise PhD programmes and support staff with responsibility for PhD training and employability.

Main Themes of the Conference

- International dimensions to examination, supervision and the doctoral experience
- Encouraging and recording personal and professional development activities undertaken within and alongside a doctorate
- Employer engagement, including employers not traditionally associated with the recruitment of doctoral graduates
- Approaches to training and support for doctoral candidates and supervisors

References

Excellence in European Doctoral Education (ExEDE) webpages. Available at: [ExEDE](#)

European Commission DG Research and Innovation. COM (2012) 392: *A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth.* Available at [COM \(2012\) 392](#)

Research Councils UK (RCUK) (2013) Statement on Expectations of Doctoral Training. Available at: [RCUK 2013 Statement on Expectations](#)

Research Councils UK (RCUK) (2013) Statement on Joint vision for Collaborative Training. Available at: [RCUK 2013 Statement on Joint Vision](#)

Excellence in European Doctoral Education: Innovation and Enhancement

28th and 29th November, John McIntyre Conference Centre, University of Edinburgh

Programme

DAY ONE - Thursday 28th November

12.00 - 13.00	Arrival, registration and light lunch
13.00 – 13.20	Welcome and Introduction <i>Professor Johnny Laursen</i> , Head of Graduate School, Arts, Aarhus University <i>Dr Jon Turner</i> , Director of the Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh
13.20 – 13.45	Key Note address – ‘The PhD in Europe or a European PhD’ <i>Dr Conor O’Carroll</i> , Irish Universities Association, Chair, EC Steering Group for Human Resources and Mobility
13.45 - 15.15	Parallel Workshop Session 1 Workshop 1: <i>Developing and Managing in-depth joint doctoral programmes: Opportunities and Challenges</i> Workshop 2: <i>International doctoral supervision: Understandings, misunderstandings and monkeys</i> Workshop 3: <i>Unpicking Principles of Innovative Doctoral Training</i>
15.15 - 15.45	Coffee
15.45 - 17.15	Parallel Workshop Session 2 Workshop 4: <i>Joint doctoral programmes: Assessing the impact</i> Workshop 5: <i>Supervising at a Distance: some approaches</i>
17.15 - 18.15	Speed Networking Facilitated by Dr Jon Turner, Director of the Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh
19.00 – 19.30	Drinks reception at St Leonard’s Hall, Pollock halls, University of Edinburgh
19.30	Dinner at St Leonard’s Hall, Pollock halls, University of Edinburgh

Please be advised that this programme could be subject to last minute changes on the day.

DAY TWO - Friday 29th November

09.00 - 09.15	Welcome - Day Two
09.15 - 10.45	<p>Parallel Workshop Session 3</p> <p>Workshop 6: <i>Supporting personal and professional development throughout the PhD</i></p> <p>Workshop 7: <i>Perspectives on employer engagement in doctoral programmes</i></p> <p>Workshop 8: <i>Interdisciplinarity and doctoral programmes</i></p>
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee
11.15 - 13.00	<p>Interactive Plenary Session : Reflections and Future Thinking</p> <p><i>Description:</i> This interactive final plenary session will give delegates an opportunity to reflect on some of the issues raised and examples shared over the preceding day and a half. The plenary session will be divided into two sections. The first will involve future focused group discussions on the themes of the conference. Each group will be asked to identify key comments/ questions. In the second section the panel will be asked to respond to these key comments/ questions.</p> <p>Panel:</p> <p>Chair: <i>Dr Jon Turner</i>, Director of Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Professor Johnny Laursen, Head of Graduate School, Arts, Aarhus University</p> <p>Professor Annamaria Silvana de Rosa, Program Director European/International Joint Ph.D in Social Representations and Communication and of the So.Re.Com. THEmatic NETwork</p>
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 15.00	Opportunity to continue collaborations/ meetings
15.00	Close

Please be advised that this programme could be subject to last minute changes on the day.

Workshop Descriptions

Parallel Workshops: Thursday 13.45-15.15

Workshop One: Developing and Managing in-depth joint doctoral programmes: Opportunities and Challenges

Background: Collaboration between institutions in terms of joint PhD programmes often forms a key part of institutional strategy for greater internationalisation. The potential benefits of this approach for institutions, individuals and research excellence seem clear, yet are not always fully realised. In addition, such collaborations are frequently challenging to initiate, set up and develop.

Workshop Overview: This interactive and participatory workshop will revisit some of the fundamental questions surrounding the opportunities, benefits and importance of joint PhD programmes. It will examine the steps for initiating, setting up and developing in-depth joint PhDs.

Format: short presentations, discussion, interactive activities

Dr Dorothy Watson, Head of International Strategy and Partnerships, University of Edinburgh

Dr Nathalie Mather L'Huillier, Postgraduate Student Recruitment and Admissions Manager, University of Edinburgh

Workshop Two: International doctoral supervision: Understandings, misunderstandings and monkeys

Background: Supervising doctorates can sometimes pose challenges when supervisors are in the same institution. However, these challenges are magnified when the PhD student is completing an international joint degree and the supervisors are in different institutions and countries. In a world of increasingly internationalised universities, this can mean a range of different approaches to cultural understanding and written and spoken communication in any one supervisory group.

Overview: This interactive and participatory workshop will explore some of the unique challenges of supervising an international joint doctorate. It will illustrate the complexities of international supervision in contemporary institutions and consider the specific needs of researchers and supervisors involved in a joint PhD programme. By focusing on examples of current practice it will evaluate possible approaches to offering greater support.

Format: short presentations, discussion, interactive activities

Professor Tony Lynch, Professor of Student Learning (English for Academic Purposes), English Language Teaching Centre, University of Edinburgh

Workshop Three: Unpicking the Principles of Innovative Doctoral Training

Background: The Principles of Innovative Doctoral Training (PIDT) were developed as part of the European Research Area and provide a framework for mapping practice in doctoral programmes within Europe and beyond.

Overview: This interactive and participatory workshop will use the Principles of Innovative Doctoral Training as a framework to share examples of good practice and for participants to assess their own practice.

Format: short presentations, discussion, interactive activities

TBC

Parallel Workshops: Thursday 15.45 – 17.15

Workshop Four: Joint doctoral programmes: Assessing the impact

Background: As the number of joint PhD programmes rises, the need to assess the impact of these on institutions, individuals and society at large also increases. A number of different evaluation methods could be utilised to do this but the benefits and limitations of each remain largely unknown.

Overview: This interactive and participatory workshop will consider the impact of joint doctoral programmes on researchers and institutions. It will also explore some of the approaches to evaluating these programmes and discuss the benefits and limitations of each of these methods as a vehicle to assess impact.

Format: presentation, discussion activities

Presentation: "The European/International Joint Doctorate in Social Representations and Communication: an innovative doctoral programme in a networked international research training environment"

Professor Anna Silvana De Rosa, Program Director European/International Joint Ph.D in Social Representations and Communication and of the So.Re.Com. THEmaticNETwork, Sapienza University Rome.

Dr Jon Turner, Director of the Institute for Academic development, University of Edinburgh

Workshop Five: Supervising at a Distance: some approaches

Background: Supervisors involved in joint doctoral programmes will frequently have to supervise their students at a distance. However, this issue is not unique to this scenario and can also occur when a student or supervisor is away from the institution for a variety of different reasons. A number of approaches can be used to address this situation.

Workshop Overview: This interactive and participatory workshop will explore some of the challenges of supervising at a distance and some possible approaches to overcome these issues. It will also explore ways of ensuring the student remains embedded in the research environment of an institution while at a distance.

Format: short presentations, discussion, interactive activities

Dr Siân Bayne, Senior Lecturer, Education, Community and Society, University of Edinburgh

Dr Christine Sinclair, Lecturer in E-Learning, University of Edinburgh

Parallel Workshops: Friday 09.15 – 10.45

Workshop Six: Supporting personal and professional development throughout the PhD

Background: Institutions are increasingly focused on how they can best support the broader personal and professional development of PhD researchers throughout their doctorate. This recognises that the researcher rather than the thesis/research is the primary output from the PhD. There are various approaches to address this question.

Workshop Overview: This interactive and participatory workshop will present some of the possible methods used to support the broader personal and professional development of PhD researchers, and use these as a springboard to promote discussion around the opportunities and challenges in this area.

Format: short presentations, discussion, interactive activities

Professor Alison Rodger, Director MOAC Doctoral Training Centre and Warwick Centre for Analytical Science, University of Warwick

Claire Nimmo, Researcher Development Manager, University of Strathclyde

Dr Bianca Lindorfer, Research Service and Career Development, Center for Doctoral studies, University of Vienna

Workshop Seven: Perspectives on employer engagement in doctoral programmes

Background: Over recent years employer engagement in doctoral programmes has become more prevalent. This is particularly through work placements and internships, but also through joint programmes with industry and public bodies. Despite this, there is still limited information on the longer term benefits of this for employer, institution and individual.

Workshop Overview: This interactive and participatory workshop will use examples of current practice to examine the some of the fundamental questions surrounding employer engagement in doctoral education.

Format: short presentations, discussion, interactive activities

Ruth Donnelly, Assistant Director, Careers Service, University of Edinburgh

Professor Stana Nenadic, Professor of Social and Cultural History, University of Edinburgh

Professor David Ingram, Institute for Energy Systems, University of Edinburgh

Workshop Eight: Interdisciplinarity and Doctoral Programmes

Background: Interdisciplinary research has a unique set of opportunities and challenges for institutions and researchers. This is perhaps most evident in the case of interdisciplinary PhDs. On the one hand, an interdisciplinary PhD allows the researcher a broader view of research and opens up opportunities for the future. On the other, it risks the researcher falling between disciplines and losing focus.

Workshop Overview: This interactive and participative workshop will explore some of the opportunities and challenges in interdisciplinary doctoral programmes. It will look at questions of support and supervision and how to ensure depth and quality in interdisciplinary doctoral research.

Format: short presentations, discussion, interactive activities

Professor Lise Wogensen Bach, Vice-Dean of Talent Development at Aarhus Faculty of Health Sciences, Aarhus University

Mara Götz, PhD Student, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, University of Edinburgh

Jonas Kristoffer Lindeløv, PhD Student, Cognitive Neuroscience Research Unit, Aarhus University and Aalborg University