



**Standing Conference on University Teaching and Research in the Education of Adults Conference 2016**

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

### **‘Adult Education in Austere Times’**

**University of Leicester, UK**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 5.00pm (GMT) on **15 January 2016**. All proposals should be submitted as a Word document and emailed to [scutrea@le.ac.uk](mailto:scutrea@le.ac.uk)

We are pleased to invite papers for presentation at the SCUTREA Conference to be held from 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The event brings together the SCUTREA Annual Conference delivered in collaboration with the Vaughan Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Leicester, to provide a forum for those engaged in adult education and lifelong learning to debate and discuss the theme ‘Adult Education in Austere Times.’ The conference will take place at the University’s award-winning conference centre, College Court, Leicester, UK.

#### **Conference Theme and Call for Abstracts**

The SCUTREA Conference provides a platform for researchers and professionals who engage with the education of adults and lifelong learning to address key areas of national and international concern. As for last year the conference theme – ‘Adult Education in Austere Times’ will also reach out to those researchers and practitioners whose work may not be primarily focused on adults and lifelong learning but who have developed a keen interest in this area.

Adult education matters. It matters at home, in work, and in the community. It matters to families, to the economy and to our health and wellbeing. Austerity policies are marginalising adult education. Its decline is indicative of the huge price this and future generations are set to pay for the politics of austerity. Yet it could be argued that we are living through times that demand more adult education and learning, not less.

Paper, roundtable, symposium and poster sessions at this conference are invited to explore the education of adults within the contemporary context of austerity, neoliberal economic policies, increasing inequalities and also in an era of declining trust in political elites and policy-making and the positive impacts and benefits of adult education. We are seeking to be attentive to the wide range of contexts and spaces where the research and practice of adult education and lifelong learning is located by addressing themes that could include:

- Active citizenship
- Adult education, character and the cultivation of virtues
- Career enhancement and development
- Creativity and innovation
- Families and communities
- Formal and Informal learning
- Learning in multiple communities
- Lifelong learning and mobility
- Skills and employment
- Second chance education
- Social inclusion
- Teaching and learning environments/spaces
- Wellbeing and ageing
- Widening participation

It is far too easy to cut adult education. So what can be learned from ongoing initiatives and projects in these areas? What messages can be sent back to government politicians. We would invite papers that focus on theory, research, practice and policy in these and other areas.

### **Keynote Speaker**

We are also pleased to invite **Dr Jim Crowther**, Senior Lecturer in Community Education in the School of Education, University of Edinburgh as the keynote speaker at the conference.

**The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 5.00pm (GMT) on 15 January 2016.** All proposals should be submitted as a Word document and emailed to [scutrea@le.ac.uk](mailto:scutrea@le.ac.uk) N.B. Papers should locate the research they discuss within the adult education literature and explain its significance for adult education.

### **Author Submissions**

Proposals are now invited for papers, symposia, posters and roundtable presentations on questions related to the conference theme and one of its strands. These should in the first instance take the form of an abstract for a presentation in one of the following formats:

**1. Individual papers:**

Abstract of between 500 and 600 words

**2. Symposia:**

Overview (200 words) and abstract for each paper (maximum of 500 words each)

**3. Roundtable:**

Overview (200 words) and abstract for each participant (maximum of 500 words each)

**4. Poster:**

Abstract of 500 words

### **Submitting an abstract for a paper, symposium, roundtable or poster**

Selection of papers for inclusion in the conference programme will be based on quality of abstracts assessed through a process of peer review. Abstracts should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Abstracts must identify whether it is a paper, symposium, roundtable or poster
2. Abstracts should include a title (author/s and institutional affiliation/s on a separate sheet)
3. Each abstract should include a summary of the topic, a clear link to one of the key themes, should be well-grounded in the literature and should identify whether it is a conceptual or empirical piece. Full references need not be included in the abstracts.

**Papers:**

Papers should be 3,500 words maximum. This word limit includes references etc. The editors reserve the right to edit any paper which exceeds this limit and if it significantly exceeds this limit to return the paper to the author within a strict timescale. The time allowed for presentation of individual papers at the conference will be 45 minutes. Presenters are expected to allow at least 20 minutes for discussion.

**Symposia:**

Papers should be 7,000 words maximum. This includes any references etc. The editors reserve the right to edit any paper which exceeds this limit and if it significantly exceeds this limit to return the paper to the author(s) within a strict timescale. Symposia should be linked to one of the key themes or conceptualise the links between themes and this should be clearly identified in the proposal. A chair and discussant should be identified. The time allowed for presentation of symposia is 90 minutes. Presenters are expected to allow at least 30 minutes for discussion.

**Roundtables:**

The roundtable is a more informal context for the discussion of research or theoretical issues. It is useful for roundtable presenters to indicate the questions the 3 author(s) would like to discuss. An outline paper of approximately 1,000 words is required for the conference proceedings. The time allowed for roundtables is one hour.

**Posters:**

An outline abstract of 500 words is required for the conference proceedings. All proof-reading is the contributing author's responsibility and must be done prior to submission. The editors reserve the right not to include any paper which, in their opinion, will reduce the quality of the conference or the proceedings.

N.B. Papers and other contributions accepted for publication in the conference proceedings will be made available to delegates in digital format and on the conference website.

**Submission timetable**

Deadlines:

- **Abstracts** should be submitted by **5.00pm (GMT) on 15 January 2016**. Proposers will be notified of the outcome of their proposal in mid-February 2016.
- Papers to be included in the **conference proceedings** should be submitted by **5.00pm (GMT) on 1 May 2016**.
- It is a SCUTREA Conference practice for abstracts and not papers to be peer reviewed. However, occasionally we agree to papers being peer review on request. The deadline for submission of these is **5.00pm (GMT) on 11 April 2016**.

**Please note:**

SCUTREA has a tradition of including in the conference proceedings only those papers that are presented at the conference. All abstracts should be submitted as a Word document and emailed to [scutrea@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:scutrea@leicester.ac.uk)

**SCUTREA Conference Bursaries**

For the 2016 SCUTREA conference, four bursaries are available to doctoral students studying in the UK who are on low incomes, not employed full time in HE and/or who do not have institutional support. Bursaries will also be given to students outside the UK if they or their institutions are members of SCUTREA. Applications from Masters' students who do not have institutional support, and adult education

practitioners/activists/researchers will also be considered. *Applicants must address the themes of the conference and demonstrably contribute to the field of adult education research. For further information please see [www.le.ac.uk/scutrea](http://www.le.ac.uk/scutrea)*

### **Conference Paper Awards**

**SCUTREA is also offering three conference paper awards for the 2016 conference. These are as follows:**

**Tilda Gaskell Award** for the Best Student Paper. The prize is a certificate and the return of the conference fees (but not travel costs). It is named after [Tilda Gaskell](#) who was an adult educator who was a regular attendee and won a SCUTREA award as a student.

**Ian Martin Award** for the paper that makes the most significant contribution to social justice. The prize is a certificate and £100 cheque. It is named after, and judged by, [Ian Martin](#) (Honorary Research Fellow of the University of Edinburgh)

**David Jones Award** is for the best paper with a creative arts and/or international/comparative perspective. This reflects the research interests of the late David Jones, a former secretary and chair of SCUTREA.

**When submitting your paper please indicate if you wish to be considered for this award.** The SCUTREA officers have the discretion to make the award to a paper that has been included in the conference without the author(s) indicating that they wish their paper to be considered.