Exploring Difference & Diversity in Irish Higher Education 2013

1 Day Conference June 12th, 2013
School of Education, Trinity College Dublin
Hosted by REAMS\(^1\) in association with the CAVE Research Group\(^2\),

Against the backdrop of an increasingly differentiated and diversified system of higher education in the Republic of Ireland (Byrne 2009) and a policy commitment to widening participation for underrepresented groups (Hunt 2010), a key question facing policymakers, practitioners, researchers, support staff and students remains:

“How do we develop a more equitable and democratic system of higher education in twenty-first century Ireland that embraces, values, and supports difference and diversity?”

**Purpose**

This one-day conference will bring together recent and current research efforts examining difference and diversity in Irish Higher Education in 2013. Specifically, this event aims to explore discourses and debates surrounding widening participation and equality of access, participation and outcomes for those groups who have traditionally been excluded and continue to remain underrepresented in higher education in Ireland. This includes research that deals with what is commonly referred to as the ‘non-traditional’ student body in Higher Education, and concomitant issues of class, age, gender, sexuality, (dis)ability, health and race….

**Calling for Input from Researchers and Non-Researchers…..**

Expressions of interest (papers/presentations) are sought from current, new or emergent researchers in this field who wish to share their efforts with an informed and interested audience. In addition, we are seeking input from those working in the areas of access or support for non-traditional students or students of difference in higher education who may wish to present or discuss current or recently completed work in which they have been involved. This can take the form of an individual /group presentation or discussion or any format to suit.

To register a discussion or poster/paper presentation please contact Michelle Giblin at mgiblin@tcd.ie or Mark Kearns at kearnsma@tcd.ie. The current deadline for submissions is Friday, May 10\(^{th}\), 2013, but we will try to accommodate as late entries up to the end of this month, subject to programme availability.

**Thank You**

*Please note that conference participation is open to all those who have an interest in the areas of access and participation for underrepresented groups or minority to Higher Education in ROI (Rep. Ireland). Higher education students with an interest in this area are also encouraged to attend. Please register your interest by contacting Michele Giblin mgiblin@tcd.ie or Mark Kearns kearnsma@tcd.ie*

---

1. REAMS is a cross-institutional study group of PhD researchers which facilitate networking and discussion on research pertinent to the development of adult, and higher, education, within the Irish domain.
2. CAVE (Cultures, Academic Values and Education) Research Group, TCD.