Call for abstracts

**11th Annual Conference on Educational Research**

**Edge Hill University**

**16-17th July, 2019**

**Ormskirk, Liverpool**

*Beyond the Neoliberal University:*

*Re-Thinking Higher Education*

**Deadline for abstracts: 15th April 2019**

<https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/education/research/acre-2019/>

**The conference rationale**

Not since the Robbins Report of 1963 (*Higher Education*) has Britain stood back from the pressures of the day to reflect historically on the role of higher education. Robbins looked at all aspects of higher education, from funding to curriculum; from governance to teaching methods; from institutional status to the university’s impact on schooling. Since then his vision for tertiary education has been bent and reshaped under the economic and political pressures of the day, but still survives. *‘All those qualified by ability and attainment – ‘*.

Uniquely in the public sector, higher education has resisted the ideology of privatisation, but the political cost has been high, paid in the currency of commercialisation, corporatisation and competition - and a tightening grip of centralised accountability. Not so much ‘liquefaction’ as ‘calcification’. All of these impact on our intellectual practices, sometimes helpfully, often less so - but too often in arbitrary and under-theorised ways. Meanwhile, our country faces challenges that demand a concerted review of the nature and role of higher education: the status of knowledge, the collapse of the post-war consensus on professionalism and public values, the quality of the nation’s workforce and shifting norms for equity and rights. Robbins was published more than half a century ago and no longer provides a philosophy or a practical political guide to match higher education to contemporary social change. We practice in a context where there is a need for more political and philosophical engagement around HE, accordingly The Faculty of Education’s 11th *Annual Conference on Research in Education* seeks to provides a forum for exploring principal themes.

The conference is hosted by Edge Hill University’s *Higher Education Research Unit* and its *Social Justice Research Group*. Our aim is to publish, in some format, a position statement on the state of higher education in its many aspects along with proposals for the future.

**The Invitation**

We invite you to submit proposals for a contribution you would like to make to this conference. This may take the form of a formal presentation of a paper, a symposium theme, a ‘provocation’, which we define as a challenging set of issues or questions or a poster presentation. We intend to structure the event as much as a sustained conversation and critique, as a platform for authored presentations. You are encouraged to be flexible and creative, though precise, in how you frame your contribution. Proposals should contain between 250-300 words. Symposia sessions should be a group of shorter papers on a chosen theme, maximum five participants. We anticipate that individual papers in the formal panel sessions will be not more than 20 minutes. Posters are also welcome.

* Curriculum and knowledge management
* Community and university engagement
* The life of the intellectual practitioner
* Internationalism
* Access and widening/narrowing participation
* Governance, accountability and control
* Clientism, consumerism and ethics in pedagogical relationships
* Evaluation, accountability and the search for educational quality
* Competing approaches to social justice in the configuring of higher education
* Changing definitions of scholarship

**Accommodation and travel**

For those attending the conference from across Britain and from overseas we are able to provide accommodation on campus at reasonable rates. We have a beautiful rural campus next to the attractive market town of Ormskirk.

Close by Liverpool is well served in terms of public transport and infrastructure, including an international airport. The city lies a little more than two hours by train from London. Liverpool places a high value on its cultural life and resources and its theatre, gallery and music life thrive. It is an international city brimming with high quality international cuisine. More information is available via the EHU website: www.edgehill.ac.uk/location/.

The deadline for the first call for proposals: **15th April 2019**

Notification for applicants following peer review: **14th May 2019**

Please submit your abstract here: <https://edgehill.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/acre-2019>

If you have any queries, please contact the conference team via [educationresearch@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:educationresearch@edgehill.ac.uk)

Booking details to follow.

<https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/education/research/acre-2019/>