



Oxford Learning Institute

Preparing for Academic Practice Conference

St Anne's College, Oxford

19th December 2006

Purpose

To provide a forum to share good practice in the USA and in the UK; to prepare doctoral students and postdocs for academic careers; and to discuss research concerning academic practice and its development.

The Conference is organised by the University of Oxford's Centre for Excellence in Preparing for Academic Practice, in collaboration with the Standing Conference on Academic Practice.

Speakers

Dr Daniel Denecke is Director, Best Practices, at the Council of Graduate Schools, in Washington DC. He is closely involved with the national 'Preparing Future Faculty' initiative in the USA, and is a consultant to the Centre for Excellence in Preparing for Academic Practice. He has an overview of the many programmes and initiatives across US higher education and of evaluation evidence. He is also currently Director of the PhD Completion programme in the USA.

Dr Suzanne Ortega is the Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Washington. She led the development of a comprehensive 'Preparing Future Faculty' programme within her University and has had a national role in disseminating good 'preparing future faculty' practices.

Professor Lynn McAlpine is currently Director of the Centre for Excellence in Preparing for Academic Practice, at the University of Oxford, on secondment from McGill University in Canada. Her research has examined aspects of academic practice and its development.

Invitation to submit proposals for seminars

Proposals for seminars are invited from staff from institutions and/or departments which have initiatives designed to develop doctoral students and/or postdocs for academic careers, or who have been researching relevant aspects of the preparation of early stage researchers for academic practice. Some of these seminars will be led by staff from universities in the UK Preparing for Academic Practice Network (Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, King's, Imperial, Edinburgh, LSE and Warwick) who have been collaborating on a series of funded research and development projects, but proposals by staff from other institutions are also welcomed.

Seminars should involve a maximum of 20 minutes of presentation, supported by handouts or illustrative material, followed by at least 25 minutes discussion. It is envisaged that there will be four parallel seminar sessions of no more than 20 participants, to allow interaction. Seminars may be grouped within the programme by theme (see below) or into practice-focused or research-focused groups. Seminars will not be published but abstracts will be posted on a web site hosted by the University of Oxford, to facilitate contact between practitioners and researchers.

Seminar proposals should have a self-explanatory title, with the presenter(s) and their role(s) and title(s) listed, and be accompanied by an abstract of 200-250 words, identifying the theme addressed, whether the seminar is practice-based or research-based, and identifying the key literature that forms the scholarly context for the work. Proposals should be submitted to: Richard Arnold, Manager, Centre for Excellence in Preparing for Academic Practice: richard.arnold@learning.ox.ac.uk, by 30 September 2006. Proposals will be reviewed jointly by the Oxford Learning Institute and SCAP, and decisions will be communicated by 31 October.

Proposed themes

Linking 'Roberts' and 'HEA' agendas in the development of academic practice.

Linking the development of doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers.

Discipline-based approaches to developing academic practice.

Developing supervision and conceptions of the PhD as a route to developing academic practice.

Conference fee

The conference is free for both presenters and participants, with participation limited to 80.

Draft Programme

- 9.30 Registration, coffee
- 9.45 Introduction. Professor Lynn McAlpine, Director of the Centre for Excellence in Preparing for Academic Practice, University of Oxford.
- 10.00 Preparing Future Faculty in the USA
Dr Daniel Denecke, Council of Graduate Colleges, Washington DC.
- 10.45 Seminar sessions 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 11.30 Coffee
- 12.00 Seminar sessions 5, 6, 7 and 8
- 12.45 Lunch
- 1.30 Preparing Future Faculty at the University of Washington
Dr Suzanne Ortega, Dean of the Graduate School, University of Washington
- 2.30 Seminar sessions 9, 10, 11, 12
- 3.15 Tea
- 3.45 Plenary: emerging ideas and emerging practices
Professor Lynn McAlpine, University of Oxford. Discussion
- 4.30 Close
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