



SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

**Manchester Metropolitan University
5th-6th April 2016**



Manchester Metropolitan University's brand new Birley Fields Campus



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/// BACKGROUND

Many universities in the United Kingdom perform high quality research on matters related to sustainable development. Yet, there are relatively few events where a multidisciplinary overview of research efforts and projects has taken place, and where researchers from across the spectrum of the natural and social sciences have had the opportunity to come together to discuss research methods, the results of empirical research or exchange ideas about on-going and future research initiatives focusing on sustainable development.

It is against this background that the “**Symposium on Sustainable Development Research at Universities in the United Kingdom**” is being organised by Manchester Metropolitan University, in cooperation with a number of institutions of higher education active in this field, from across the country. It will involve researchers in the field of sustainable development in the widest sense, from business and economics, to arts and fashion, administration, environment, languages and media studies.

The Symposium will focus on “Sustainable Development Research in the United Kingdom” and will contribute to the further development of this fast-growing field.

/// AIMS

The aims of the “**Symposium on Sustainable Development Research at Universities in the United Kingdom**” are as follows:



- i. to provide researchers at UK universities performing research on issues pertaining sustainable development with an opportunity to display and present their works (i.e. curriculum innovation, empirical work, activities, case studies practical projects);
- ii. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of research projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice;
- iii. to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to offer a better understanding of sustainable development across society and economic sectors and;
- iv. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for further cooperation.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences on sustainable development research in the UK today. To this purpose, a peer-reviewed book titled “**Sustainable Development Research at Universities in the United Kingdom**” will be published, with all accepted papers. This will be part of the **award-winning** “World Sustainability Series”, published by Springer, one of the world’s top five scientific publishers.

A special session will be held with and for doctoral students undertaking research on sustainable development.

/// PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the “**Symposium on Sustainable Development Research at Universities in the United Kingdom**” will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

- i. teaching staff
- ii. research staff;
- iii. postgraduate students
- iv. members of university administrations;
- v. project officers and consultants;
- vi. other people interested in the field.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for integrated approaches towards research on sustainable development and, hence contribute towards advancing this field of work even further.



/// STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The Symposium will be organised around two main strands:

Strand 1: the displays

Participating universities will be able to put-up displays describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The displays will be the backbone of the event and will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

Strand 2: the presentations

A set of presentations, divided into four main sections will be organised, dealing with issues of strategic value in reviewing the state of the art of research on sustainable development today. These are:

Session 1: Research on Curriculum Issues

Session 2: Research on Community and Outreach Programmes

Session 3: Research on Education for Sustainable Development

Session 4: Research on participation and engagement on sustainability issues

A special session will be held with and for doctoral students undertaking research on sustainable development.

A tour of the Birley Fields Campus of Manchester Metropolitan University will be offered, with excellent examples of how to implement campus greening initiatives.

/// TIME-TABLE

The “**Symposium on Sustainable Development Research at Universities in the United Kingdom**” will be held on 5th-6th April 2016. The schedule is as follows:

TUESDAY 5th APRIL 2016	WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL 2016
<p>10:00-12.00- Arrival and set-up of displays</p> <p>13.00-14.00- Lunch and Networking</p> <p>Afternoon: Sessions 1 and 2</p> <p>Evening: Reception</p>	<p>Morning: Sessions 3 and 4</p> <p>Lunch time: a tour of the facilities of MMU ‘s Campus at Birley Fields</p> <p>14:00-14:45- Round-table with key experts</p> <p>14:45-15:00 – Hand over of the best paper Awards</p> <p>15:00- Close of the event</p>



In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise their travel in a way that allows them to arrive in Manchester by lunch time on Tuesday the 5th April 2016 at the latest, and travel back on or after 16:00 on 6th April 2016, since **the best papers awards** will be handed over at 15.00.

/// DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th October 2015

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th January 2016

Deadline for full, revised papers: 20th February 2016 **Deadline**

for registrations: 20th February 2016

Since the book will be launched soon after the Symposium, the deadlines need to be followed.

/// THE VENUE

The event will be held at Manchester Metropolitan University, on the Birley Fields Campus. There is a wide selection of hotels in Manchester to choose from. The ones closest to the University (about 8 min walk) are Holiday Inn (Oxford Road) and Ibis Hotel (Princess Street).

/// FEES AND CHARGES

A fee of £ 160 (plus VAT) will be charged to delegates to offset the preparation costs. The fees includes **free lunches and coffee breaks on 5th-6th April 2016**. Registrations fees may be refunded (with a 50% processing charge) in case of cancellations until 20th February 2016. After that date, no refunds are possible.

/// REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until 20th February 2016. Regrettably, registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for displays and the time for presentations is limited, **delegates are advised to submit their abstracts and register as soon as possible**. The organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation in case there are any limitations with time for presentations, or in respect of space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the Chairperson, following consultation with the organising committee.



/// ORGANISERS

- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany

/// SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Chairperson

- Prof. Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DL, DLitt), Chair of Environment and Technology, Manchester Metropolitan University

Members

Prof. Simon Kemp, University of Southampton
Dr Richard Kotter, Northumbria University
Dr Petra Molthan-Hill, Nottingham Trent University
Dr Iain Patton, Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC)
Prof. Chris Shiel, University of Bournemouth
Ms Chris Willmore, University of Bristol

Organising Committee at Manchester Metropolitan University

Mr Richard Hammersley, School of Science and the Environment
Dr John Hindley, Head of Environmental Strategy
Ms Elisabeth Shorthouse, School of Science and the Environment
Ms Helena Tinker, Environment and Energy Manager
Ms Valeria Vargas, Education for Sustainable Development Coordinator

/// CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON PUBLICATION

All questions related to scientific inputs (e.g abstracts, papers) and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
Professor of Environment and Technology
Manchester Metropolitan University
School of Science and the Environment
E-mail: w.leal@mmu.ac.uk



/// CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to registrations should be sent to:

Richard Hammersley
Manchester Metropolitan University
School of Science and the Environment
E-mail: R.Hammersley@mmu.ac.uk

/// HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information.