

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND INQUIRY: A SCHOLARLY DISCUSSION

Guidance for plenary commentators

Expanding on the format of the day

The seminar will emphasise enquiry / investigation / discussion in small international groups. Three plenary speakers - Tom Wenzel, Angela Brew, Sue Vajoczki will give short presentations to stimulate small group and plenary discussions on the conference themes.

Participants will be allocated by Alan and Mick to groups of 6-8 and each group will have an international mix of participants. These groups will operate right through the day. There will also be times both formally, e.g. the poster sessions, and informally, e.g. refreshment breaks, for participants to meet outside these groups.

We think such an enquiry format is appropriate to the focus of the seminar. We assume all participants bring to the seminar / discussions particular expertise and questions that can best be explored through guided discussion. To express this differently this seminar will *not* be the, perhaps, usual formal lectures with the odd question!

These small group sessions will be chaired and organised by Alan and Mick. They will probably all conclude with each group being asked to say at the end of the discussion period – something like ‘one thing worth saying to everybody here about our discussion of these issues is ...’. In each session only some groups will be asked to speak, but over the whole day we will ensure all groups contribute to the open ‘discussion’.

The role of the commentator

As you see there will be two sections in the seminar where there are brief commentaries. In each case two speakers (one from the UK and one ‘international’) will give very brief (max 5 minutes each) commentaries on the proceedings so far; one (Ray and Paula) at 12.35 on the morning’s session; and one (Phil and Neil) at 15.25 primarily on the afternoons. Your role is in a way to act as a ‘Greek Chorus’ bringing to the fore themes and issues that you think significant. We hope that you will skilfully somehow co-ordinate your 5 minute with your co-commentator! Expressed differently your role is to help participants reflect and decide on what conclusions and what questions they are taking forward from the session.