



Leading education
and social research
Institute of Education
University of London

5th Psychosocial Studies Network Conference

Knowing and Not Knowing:

Thinking psychosocially about learning and resistance to learning

The Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL

Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th December 2012

Psychosocial Studies is a burgeoning, interdisciplinary area of research, teaching and professional practice, exploring the relation between individualised subjectivities and social and political formations. The field encompasses work from a wide range of academic disciplines including: *anthropology, art and design, creative writing, cultural studies, economics, education, gender studies, history, legal studies, management, media studies, medical studies, politics, post colonial studies, psychology, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, social policy, social work and sociology.*

The social world is saturated with powerful formations of knowledge that colonise individual and institutional identities. Some knowledge emerges as legitimised and authoritative; other knowledge is resisted or repressed.

Psychosocial approaches highlight the unstable basis of knowledge, learning and research; of knowing and not knowing. How do we come to formulate knowledge in the ways that we do? Are there other possible ways of knowing that are too difficult or unsettling for us to begin to explore? Do we need the authority of legitimised institutions and regularized methods to build secure knowledge? What might it mean to build *insecure* edifices of knowledge? How can/should we trouble notions of knowledge in processes of teaching, learning and research? How does knowledge circulate and how is it implicated in exclusionary social processes?

The conference will generate discussions to help us to explore and develop psychosocial conceptualisations of knowing and not knowing, learning and resistance: the flows and blockages positioned within individuals and institutions, and within the discursive and material processes that constitute these social identities. We aim to encompass the various and contrasting ways these ideas are interpreted in psychosocial approaches to research and practice.

We hope to create an innovative space for productive discussion and exploration of these ideas. In a move away from conventional conference formats that is consistent with an attempt to put into question traditional formations of knowledge, we are inviting submissions for 3 different types of contribution (further details below):

- 5 minute presentation + 25 minute discussion of a work in progress
- 90 minute panel/workshop
- 90 minute video/performance/exhibition + discussion

We welcome submissions from interested academics, researchers, research students and practitioners working in any relevant disciplinary or professional field (see above).

Conference organisers: Tamara Bibby (t.bibby@ioe.ac.uk) and Claudia Lapping (c.lapping@ioe.ac.uk). Please get in touch with any queries.

Further details of types of contributions invited for the conference

Presentation and discussion: Draft papers/discussion papers/works in progress of 1500-3000 words are invited for the morning sessions of the conference. Within the sessions each presenter will be allocated thirty minutes, with a maximum of 5 minutes for presentation and the rest of the time for discussion. Accepted pieces will be grouped by theme for the morning sessions and circulated prior to the conference. There will be an expectation that attendees at each session will have read the papers for that session in advance.

It is anticipated that participants allocated to a session will stay with their group for the morning of their presentation and probably for both mornings, to enable continuity in the discussion of themes within and across the different contributions.

90 minute panel/workshop: Individual or group proposals of up to 1500 words are invited for 90 minute sessions comprising e.g. panel presentations or workshop activities, for the afternoon programme of the conference. We welcome both proposals for more traditional research presentations and more innovative suggestions for engagements with concepts, methodologies, data or issues in professional practice. Please be clear in your submission about the nature of the session you are offering and any media you will need.

90 minute video/performance/exhibition + discussion: Proposals of up to 1500 words are invited for 90 minute sessions that include a video/performance/exhibition as a stimulus for analysis/discussion. Please ensure that your submission includes a clear account both of the way the suggested piece might provoke discussion relevant to conference participants and of the way you plan to facilitate the session.

Submissions should be sent to: Richard Bull (R.Bull@ioe.ac.uk)

Deadline for submissions: Monday 2nd July 2012

Please submit under the following headings:

- **Name**
- **Affiliation**
- **Paper/session title**

- **Contact email address**
- **Submission - please indicate clearly which type of session you are offering:**
 - **5 minute presentation + 25 minutes discussion (1500 – 3000 words)**
 - **90 minute panel/workshop (up to 1500 words)**
 - **90 minute video/performance/exhibition + discussion (up to 1500 words)**

Initial conference schedule:

We will be working towards something like the following schedule for the conference. The final programme will, of course, depend on the submissions received. Times of sessions will also be confirmed when the programme is finalised.

	9.30 – 11.00	11.30 – 1pm	2.00 – 3.30	4.00 – 5.30 / 6.30	
Monday 17 th December	Parallel Groups 3 x 5 min presentations + 3 x 25 min discussion	Parallel Groups 3 x 5 min presentations + 3 x 25 min discussion	Experiential large group	Additional groups / panels / video discussions	PSN Meeting
			Panels		
			Video and discussion		
Tuesday 18 th December	Parallel Groups 3 x 5 min presentations + 3 x 25 min discussion	Parallel Groups 3 x 5 min presentations + 3 x 25 min discussion	Experiential large group	Reflection on conference in parallel groups + feedback to final plenary	
			Panels		
			Video and discussion		

Experiential large groups: Both afternoons will include an experiential large group as one of the parallel sessions. This will provide a forum in which to further explore the experience of being in and learning from the morning sessions, and from the large group itself. Being in groups can be unsettling: from the staff, teaching or project group to social gatherings or family celebrations, groups can leave us in a state of paralysis or gabbling to fill uncomfortable silences; yet we rarely take that experience as an object of thought. The large experiential groups will provide opportunities in which to explore the interwoven experiences of being in a group, being at the conference, and the ideas about knowing and not knowing that are the focus of the conference.

Conference fee:

Credit/debit card online payment

One day - £80

Two days - £140

Other forms of payment

One day - £90

Two days - £160