

Call for Papers Guidelines

Third Biennial Threshold Symposium

We invite you to submit proposals for the 3rd Biennial Threshold Concepts symposium under the theme of *Exploring transformative dimensions of threshold concepts*. There are a variety of formats for you to consider including scholarly papers, panel discussions, roundtable discussions and workshops. Proposals will be in the form of refereed abstracts, which will be reviewed by two international scholars based on criteria (outlined below).

Please note that while we will not be reviewing full papers, you are invited to bring your paper to the conference. We are in the process of exploring options for publication of selected papers, which include a book and special editions of journals. We will advise of this later in the year.

Conference Theme

Papers are invited which explore the theme of threshold concepts and transformations across one or more of the following dimensions:

1. **Epistemological dimensions** - Transforming knowledge and learning - thinking, learning, understanding, perceptions, frameworks
 - Personal (academics, students, academic developers, professional staff)
 - Communities of practice
2. **Ontological dimensions** - Transforming world views, identities, feelings, values, perspectives
 - Personal (academics, students, academic developers, professional staff)
 - Community (disciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary)
3. **Practice dimensions** - Transforming practice – teaching, learning, curricula, assessment
 - Personal (academics, students, academic developers, professional staff)
 - Community (School and Faculty, academic development)
4. **Reflexive dimensions** - Transforming the very notion of threshold concepts themselves – through critiquing, problematising, evaluating, creating - and moving the notion of, and the research on, thresholds forward.

Format

Proposals are sought for a variety of formats

- Scholarly papers
- Panel discussions
- Round table discussions
- Workshops

Scholarly paper – We invite proposals for single paper presentations that explore one or more dimensions of the conference theme of transformations. The goal of these sessions is to share knowledge and encourage critical dialogue among conference participants. Individual paper presentations will last a maximum of 30 minutes each, and should allow time for questions and discussion (we suggest 20 minutes presentation and 10 minutes for questions).

Proposals for scholarly papers should:

- address the theme of transformations across one or more dimensions
- include a summary (75 words)
- include an abstract (up to 500 words)
- address the criteria for review.

Panel discussions – The aim of these sessions is to allow panel members (two or more) to lead and to exchange perspectives with each other and the audience. They provide the opportunity to examine a particular idea or topic from multiple perspectives, which might include disciplinary, institutional and national perspectives, or you may consider viewing an area across the key transformative dimensions outlined above. Abstracts are sought from those who would like to organize a panel, outlining the topic of the panel and the contribution of each of the panel members. These sessions will be chaired by one of the panel members, and will last 90 minutes.

Panel proposals should:

- address the theme of transformations across one or more dimensions
- include a summary (75 words) of the panel as a whole
- include an abstract (of up to 500 words), of the panel as a whole, plus a summary of the individual contribution by each panel member
- include the name of a designated session chair (one of the presenters or an additional person).

Roundtable discussions – Roundtable discussions provide the opportunity for an in-depth discussion around a particular topic or area of research. They are an ideal opportunity for networking, and for building collaborations. If you wish to propose a roundtable discussion the abstract should include an overview of the topic, and pose some critical questions which the roundtable discussion will explore. These sessions will be chaired by the person who proposed the discussion, and will last 60 minutes.

Proposals for Roundtable discussions:

- should include a summary (75 words) that outlines:
 - the topic of the discussion and why this is likely to be of relevance to others
 - critical questions that will be explored
- may, or may not, address the symposium theme, since they could provide opportunities for people to explore future collaborations and thus could be related to any topic.

Workshop - Workshops are integrated, interactive sessions (not presentations) between the facilitator and the audience that explore and develop an identified topic. Workshops that will allow the audience to explore the key transformative dimensions are encouraged. Workshops will last 90 minutes.

Workshop proposals should:

- explore the theme of transformations across one or more dimensions
- include a summary (75 words)
- include an abstract (up to 500 words) which addresses
 - the learning goals and outcomes for the workshop and
 - plans for participants' engagement.

Reviewing proposals

Each proposal will be reviewed by two international scholars. The proposals will be rated as one of the following: Accept, Accept with minor revisions, Return to author for major revision and resubmission, or Reject. Where only minor revisions are required, you will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit. The reviewers' decision will be final.

The following criteria will be used to review the proposals:

- 1. Relevance of the proposal to the conference theme and to the audience**
- 2. Issue/Topic is well situated in appropriate literature**
- 3. Provision of an important critical or analytical insight**
- 4. Clear and coherent presentation.**

Key dates

Please download and complete the [Call for Papers Submission form](#) and submit [online](#) by: **15 February 2010.**

Proposal notifications will be sent out by: **15 March 2010.**

Please note that any submissions received before the original submission date, the 25 January, will have their proposal notifications by the 1 March as previously stated.

Early submission

We are also offering an early submission timeline for those who need advanced notification of acceptance for funding purposes.

Date for early submission: **6th November 2009.**

Proposal notification: **7th December 2009.**