

SPRU D.Phil Day 2014 – Call for Papers

Theme - Slippery Subjects: the challenges of researching science, technology, innovation and policy-making

Wednesday 7th – Thursday 8th May 2014

Jubilee Building, University of Sussex

@SPRU_DPhilDay

On the twentieth anniversary of SPRU's annual postgraduate conference, this year's theme challenges both expert and novice researchers to shine a light on the darker side of their research experiences. What is it actually like conducting research and trying to influence policy debates on science, technology and innovation? We want the story behind the story; the challenges, grit, and messiness of research and policy-influencing as it really is.

7th May: D.Skills Day – the experts tell it like it is

D.Skills day will showcase the many ways in which expert researchers have worked around or otherwise faced up to the realities of researching difficult, complex and otherwise intractable subjects. There will be anecdotes and case studies, examples of creative work-arounds, and frank admissions of problems and frictions that simply could not be overcome. Whatever the research problem, be it conceptual, methodological, political, economic, social, technical, financial, logistical, legal or environmental, our presenters will provide an insight into their professional world and how they have learned to cope and thrive.

D.Skills Day speakers from SPRU and elsewhere will be sharing their experiences from recent and ongoing research projects, but won't assume prior familiarity with complex topic areas or more esoteric methods.

Confirmed Speakers from SPRU include: Paul Nightingale and Alex Coad; Ben Martin, in conversation with Johan Schot; Florian Kern; Mariana Mazzucato; Andy Stirling; James Wilsdon ; Adrian Smith ; Sam Geall and Adrian Ely.

Plus Guests: William Lazonick (UMass Lowell); Simon Burall (Involve/Sciencewise-ERC) and Bernhard Truffer (Bern/Eawag).

8th May: D.Phil Day: novice and early career researcher presentations

The second day is intended to provide a platform for all postgrad and early-career researchers, and not just those who are near completion. The aim is to provide a safe, comfortable and open environment for presenters to discuss their research in progress, the challenges and obstacles they are currently facing, and to receive feedback and support from peers.

Subject areas

We invite PhD students and emerging scholars to present their works in progress. As with day one, the theme is intended to be broad and accommodating and we are keen to hear your story. Whatever the research problem, the focus is more on the messy reality of research and policy making in action, rather than on final polished outputs.

Indicative topics might include challenges encountered while addressing:

- ◆ Emerging science and technology
- ◆ Cross-cultural science, technology and innovation policy research
- ◆ Scientific controversies
- ◆ The challenges of dissemination, engagement, and policy impact
- ◆ Public dialogue on science, technology and innovation
- ◆ Industrial policy and the role of the state
- ◆ The science of science policy
- ◆ Energy systems and transitions
- ◆ Sustainability and environmental policy
- ◆ Grassroots, user and 'frugal' innovation
- ◆ Innovation management

Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts should outline your proposed topic in **no more than 250 words**, and be sent to Andrew Hunter (ah460@sussex.ac.uk) and Justin Pickard (j.f.pickard@sussex.ac.uk) **by Thursday 27th February 2014**.

Those invited to present their work will be informed by email by the 2nd April; with full versions of papers and slides due for submission by the 1st May.

Please email Andrew and Justin with any questions or get in touch via twitter: @SPRU_DPhilDay