

CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND EQUITY RESEARCH

ESW Open Seminar Series

Monday 30 April 2018, 5-6.30pm
Room 104, Fulton Building

Dr Emily F. Henderson

Assistant Professor, Centre for Education Studies,
University of Warwick

In Two Places at Once:

Time, Subjectivity and the Academic Profession -
Caring Responsibilities and Conference Participation

Traditional constructions of academic subjectivity were (and still are) dominated by an individualistic conception of care-free academics. Although higher education institutions have in some ways adapted to counter this limited notion of what it is to be an academic, certain defining practices of the academic profession are resistant to change.

Conferences are an example of one of these practices, because the expectation of sporadic, short-term travel to different locations implicitly suggests a lack of ongoing responsibilities. While it is commonly asserted that attending conferences is not essential to progressing in an academic career, parallel discourses exist about the benefits that conferences bring, such as accessing developments in the discipline, making international contacts and disseminating research. Conferences are an under-researched area in which inequalities of access remain largely unaddressed.

The 'In Two Places at Once' research project explored issues of access to and participation in national and international conferences; in addition to exploring obstacles and facilitating factors affecting access to conferences, the project investigated academics' practices of managing the often conflicting roles of carer and conference delegate while at conferences. This seminar focuses on the theorisation of time, subjectivity and academia that underpins the project, and presents findings and analysis.

You can join this event remotely by using the following url:

<https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/henderson>

The logo of the University of Sussex, featuring the letters 'US' in a stylized, white, serif font.

UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX