

The Worldwide Universities Network Globalisation of Higher Education and Research (GHEAR) Global Challenge is a collaborative research programme that brings together interdisciplinary expertise from across the social sciences, arts and humanities, and business studies.

It builds on four well-established clusters of activity:

*Ideas and Universities* - **Ian Wei, Adam Nelson**  
*Global Regionalisms, Governance and HE* - **Susan Robertson, Kris Olds**  
*Globalising Geographies of Research* - **Wendy Larner, Richard Le Heron, Nick Lewis, Sue Parnell, Kris Olds, Steffen Wetzstein**  
*Global Studies in HE* - **Gilles Bousquet, Amy Stambach**

Extant projects range from historical examinations of ideas and educational institutions, to the pressing political and policy questions posed by more recent technological and economic developments.

Participants in this Global Challenge are uniquely positioned to investigate the events, processes and imaginaries that underpin changing patterns of higher education and research, and to foster creative thinking about the organisational challenges associated with differentiated, multi-scalar, and multi-polar institutional futures.

## WUN GHEAR Steering Group

**Chair:** **Gilles Bousquet**, Wisconsin-Madison  
**Rebecca Hughes**, Sheffield  
**Robin Owens**, Western Australia  
**John Hearn**, Sydney  
**Michael Adewumi**, Penn State  
**Amy Stambach**, Wisconsin-Madison  
**Ian Wei**, Bristol  
**Judy Berman**, Western Australia  
**Susan Jim**, Bristol  
**David Joiner**, Wisconsin-Madison  
**Eric Thomas**, Bristol  
**Wei Yang**, Zhejiang

For more information on this Global Challenge, please contact the Chair, Gilles Bousquet: [Bousquet@wisc.edu](mailto:Bousquet@wisc.edu)  
 Or visit [www.wun.ac.uk/challenges/globalisationHE](http://www.wun.ac.uk/challenges/globalisationHE)

## At a glance

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Wed 1	1800	Drinks reception & registration	Royal Fort House
	1930	Steering Group Dinner	Goldbrick House
Thu 2	0900	Coffee	Wills Memorial Building
	0930	Conference Opening - <b>Eric Thomas, Wendy Larner</b>	
	1000	Workshop A: <i>Globalising Academics part 1</i>	
	1100	Coffee	
	1130	Workshop A: <i>Globalising Academics part 2</i>	
	1230	Lunch	
	1400	Workshop B: <i>Globalising Infrastructure</i>	
	1600	Coffee	
	1630	Pre-dinner Keynote Speaker: <b>Thomas Docherty</b>	
	1900	Dinner drinks reception	Marriott Royal Hotel
	2000	Conference dinner	
Fri 3	0900	Coffee	Wills Memorial Building
	0930	Workshop C: <i>Globalising Learning</i>	
	1130	Lunch	
	1300	Workshop D: <i>Globalising Institutions</i>	
	1500	Coffee	
	1530	Conference Closing - <b>John Hearn</b>	
	1700	Global Challenge Steering Group Meeting	Royal Fort House



Author of 'For the University' (Bloomsbury 2011)  
 Sponsored by Bristol's Institute for Advanced Studies

## Conference Committee



**Wendy Larner**, Professor of Human Geography and Sociology  
**Susan Robertson**, Professor of Education  
**Ian Wei**, Senior Lecturer in Medieval European History  
**David Langley**, Director of Research and Enterprise  
**Susan Jim**, WUN Development Manager

## How to register

Attendance is by invitation only.  
 Please register at: <https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/ias-wun/ggher/>  
 For more information, please contact [Susan.Jim@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Susan.Jim@bristol.ac.uk)

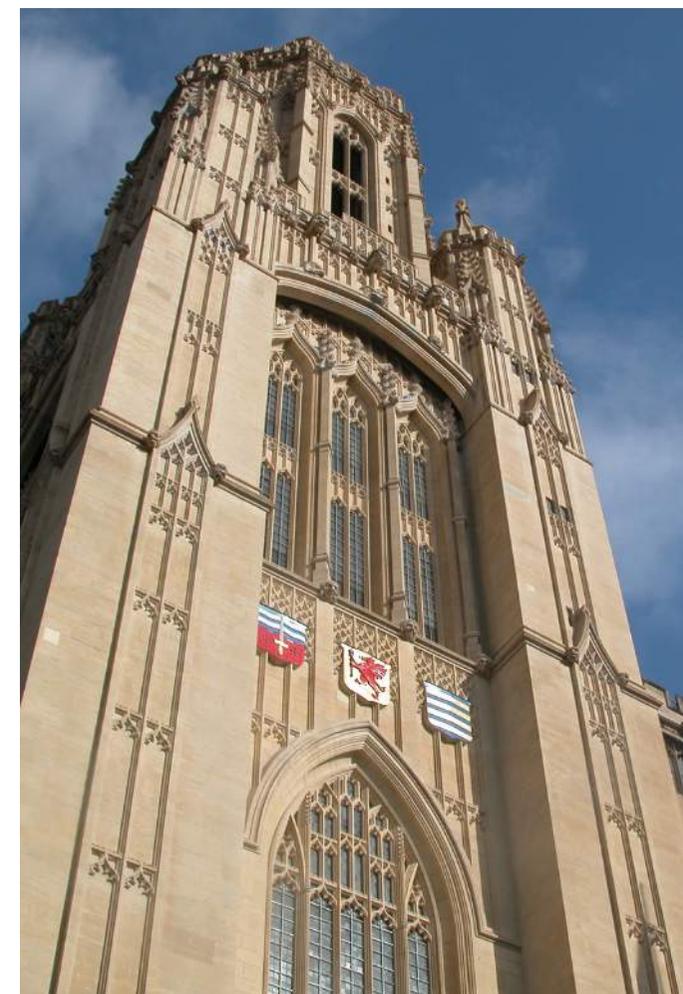
## University of Bristol/WUN GHEAR Conference

# Globalising Geographies of Higher Education and Research

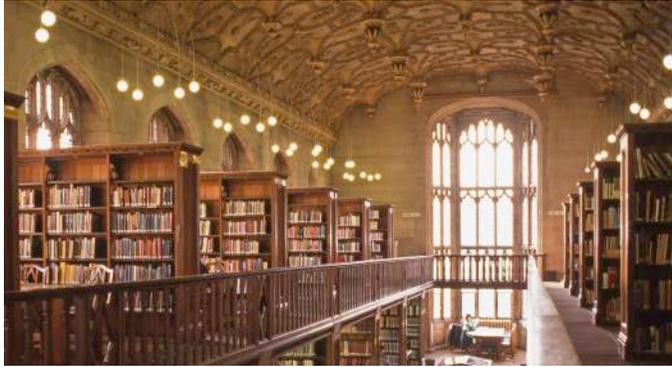
Wednesday 1st - Friday 3rd February 2012

Reception Room  
 Wills Memorial Building  
 University of Bristol

[www.bris.ac.uk/wun/events/2012/ggher.html](http://www.bris.ac.uk/wun/events/2012/ggher.html)



## Welcome



This University of Bristol/WUN event will examine the new challenges associated with the globalisation of higher education and research.

New global higher education and research collaborations are being fostered by multiple constituencies: international and national funding bodies who are increasingly focused on research 'grand challenges'; universities who are seeking to expand their impact in increasingly resource constrained environments; industry and third sector organisations who are seeking new collaborations, and individual academics for whom global networks are increasingly important to successful careers.

Often, however, it proves more difficult than expected to realise these globalising ambitions and to work successfully across institutions, disciplines and continents.

This event aims to draw together international experts on the globalisation of higher education and research from across developed/developing, global North/South and transatlantic divides. The event will also actively engage research development and higher education professionals and funders in order to ensure that policy and practitioner recommendations ensue.

The programme will be based on four interconnected thematic workshops on the following topics: *Globalising Academics*; *Globalising Infrastructure*; *Globalising Learning*; *Globalising Institutions*.

'Provocations' by international experts will be accompanied by a series of interactive exercises designed to allow all conference participants to reflect critically and collectively on their experiences of globalising higher education and research, and identify new ways forward.

We will be operating under 'informal and off the record' rules in order to ensure these discussions are both open and frank.

Outcomes will inform both academic and practitioner publications, and will also be shared via the highly respected blog: **GlobalHigherEd** - <http://globalhighered.wordpress.com/>.

They will also be presented at the next WUN GHEAR meeting at the WUN AGM in London May 2012.

## Workshop details

### Workshop A: Globalising Academics

Academics are being asked to respond new demands as research questions become more complex and multi-faceted, institutions develop globalising research strategies, and funders seek solutions to 'grand challenge' problems. In the context of these new research ambitions there are growing imperatives for academics to be internationally networked, work on interdisciplinary issues, and undertake research that has identifiable impacts.

These imperatives are manifest in a variety of ways; from the 'big science' team based models that dominate in the physical and natural sciences, through to the informal networked models more common in the social sciences and humanities. This session will examine these new ways of working, identifying the challenges globalising research ambitions pose for academic practice and career development, and seeking ways in which these new academic activities might be better supported.

*Chair:* **Wendy Larner**, University of Bristol, UK  
*Provocateurs:* **Richard Le Heron/Nick Lewis**, Uni. of Auckland, NZ  
**Sue Parnell**, University of Cape Town, SA  
**Matt Sparke**, University of Washington, Seattle, USA  
**Paul Valdes**, University of Bristol, UK  
*Rapporteur:* **Nan Yeld**, University of Cape Town, SA

### Workshop B: Globalising Infrastructure

New research ambitions make increasing demands of research professionals. In recent years universities have become much more deliberate in their efforts to support, develop and manage academic research and enterprise. In turn, this has had implications for the evolving identities of research managers, many of whom are from an academic or corporate research background.

To date, however, these support efforts have largely been nationally focused, with Research Councils, industry and national charities as the primary focus of attention. How will research management infrastructure and strategy change as it becomes more attuned to global projects spanning institutions, including those in the developing world, multinational corporations and transnational civil society organisations? What new skills will be needed and what are the implications for the 'profession'? Embodied in whom?

*Chair:* **David Langley**, University of Bristol, UK  
*Provocateurs:* **Rowan Douglas**, Willis Research Network, UK  
**John Kirkland**, Assoc. of Commonwealth Uni., UK  
**Glenn Swafford**, University of Oxford, UK  
**Frans Swanepoel**, University of the Free State, SA  
*Rapporteur:* **John Rogers**, Stirling University, UK

### Workshop C: Globalising Learning

Over the past two decades, there have been major changes in who learns what, how, and where, in the university sector. These changes, widely associated with globalisation, are the outcome of geopolitical, economic and cultural shifts which shape, and are shaped by individuals, institutional, national and regionalising projects, policies and practices.

In this panel we consider the challenges, complexities, and realities of this shifting agenda for universities, for academics, administrators and learners. For example, how might the cultural differences associated with a large international body of students be used in creative and productive ways within universities? Do universities make full use of the range of competencies of their faculty and administrators to promote global learning? What are the challenges of being sensitive to the demands of both local responsibilities and global challenges, and how might the two be brought together into a productive set of outcomes? How might universities learn themselves from each other regarding best practices, and how might they ensure that the 'idea of the university' as John Henry Newman expressed it, is truly open to the 'universe' of ideas?

*Chair:* **Ian Wei**, University of Bristol, UK  
*Provocateurs:* **Hugh Lauder**, University of Bath, UK  
**Simon Marginson**, University of Melbourne, AU  
**Kris Olds**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA  
**Amy Stambach**, Uni. of Wisconsin-Madison, USA  
*Rapporteur:* **Ka Ho Mok**, Hong Kong Institute of Education, CN

### Workshop D: Globalising Institutions

It is often assumed that universities will continue to dominate the research terrain as research and higher education globalise. This session will interrogate this proposition, examining the research ambitions of universities alongside those of alternative research providers such as multinational corporations, think-tanks and consultants.

While universities are now actively creating global networks, transnational alliances, and branch campuses, these alternative providers also have global ambitions and may be more agile and better able to produce research that is international, interdisciplinary and has identifiable impacts. How are the different research institutions transforming? Are there more or less preferred versions of this new research terrain? What novel relations might be forged between universities and other research institutions?

*Chair:* **Guy Orpen**, University of Bristol, UK  
*Provocateurs:* **Martin Bean**, VC, Open University, UK  
**Gilles Bousquet**, Uni. of Wisconsin-Madison, USA  
**Peter Gist**, Director, Arup, UK  
**Joanna Newman**, Director, Internat. & EU Unit, UK  
*Rapporteur:* **Nigel Thrift**, VC, Warwick University, UK