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**Changes in Doctoral Education Worldwide - Past Differences, Current Commonalities, and Future Trends**

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**Abstract**

Professor Maresi Nerad, director of the Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education (CIRGE) at the University of Washington, will present a synthesis of the published, *Toward a Global PhD? Forces and Forms in Doctoral Education Worldwide*, University of Washington Press, (April 2008) and in-process research and writings stemming from two innovative international working conferences held in 2005 (Seattle, US) and 2007 (Melbourne, Australia) organized by CIRGE with sponsorship by US National Science Foundation.

By comparing the trends in doctoral education from the 14 countries involved we can say that for the first time a truly global system of doctoral education is emerging. This presentation will highlight past differences, current commonalities and present future trends of doctoral education in countries representing all 6 continents. This common model of doctoral education retains the centrality of contribution to knowledge as defining the doctorate and seeks in a variety of ways to link doctoral education more closely to contemporary societal and economic needs. The commonalities emerging show that doctoral education in most countries is responsive to market demands, commoditization of doctoral degrees, and that there is a global need to confront new problems with new ways of doing research. This presentation will end with the development of a conceptual framework for understanding doctoral education within globalization.