

Call for Papers:

## **Topography of research on higher education: Promoting deep conversations**

Conference of the **Special Interest Group (SIG) 4 “Higher Education”** of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) at International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER), University of Kassel, Germany.

Conference Date: 29 to 31 August, 2018  
Submission deadline: 31 December, 2017

### **Conference Aims and Theme**

Following the successful SIG 4 conference in 2014 in Leuven and the “Higher Education Conference” in 2016 in Amsterdam, the 2018 conference in Kassel will focus on deepening and extending collaborations among SIG members and other researchers and administrators in the field of higher education learning and teaching. By using an innovative format, the conference aims at enabling in-depth conversations about research projects, triggering well-founded discourse about research methodologies and theoretical concepts, and starting or deepening collaborations among conference participants.

Europe has a strong higher education research tradition. However, along with the changes in teaching and learning in higher education, the "landscape" of the research on higher education is also changing. Some of the current challenges in the research field may be the following; this is, however, not an exhaustive list of topics relevant to the conference:

- Aims of teaching and learning in Higher Education: What skills are expected of higher education graduates? How to align teachers' and institutional aims with students' goals?
- Empirical research: How can we assess the landscape of research on higher education? What aspects of higher education are missed by applying existing research methods?
- Digitization of higher education teaching and learning: How does web-based learning facilitate or impede learning? How will digital teaching change the topography of higher education?
- Teacher characteristics and training: How can teacher training contribute to their development of professional abilities, attitudes and?
- Quality management and development: How can we make use of research on higher education institutions? What can we learn from research on higher education in other national systems?

Researchers of all disciplines and specializations are invited to contribute to the conference.

Through this conference, we strive to map out the topography of research on changing landscape of higher education by building on existing knowledge as well as by identifying unexplored areas and new methodologies.

### **Submission formats**

The conference will include the following conference formats, all of which are designed to trigger deep conversations about participants.

- **Paper presentations:** Paper sessions are oral presentations of three to four papers (which may be included in a symposium), followed by a discussion with the audience. Each presenter is given 15 minutes to present a clear argument, preferably based on empirical data. Paper presentations may be organized in symposia. We encourage the session chairs to follow up on the main discussion issues and open questions on the digital “insights wall”.
- **Symposia:** Symposia present research on one topic or theme, providing a coherent set of papers for discussion. Symposia sessions consist of three to four oral paper presentations and a discussant. Symposia are directed by a chairperson and in each symposium the participants should come from at least two different countries. Please note that every participant must register individually. We encourage the session chairs to follow up on the main discussion issues and open questions on the digital “insights wall”.
- **Collaborative space:** The 1.5-hour “collaborative space” is a room in which a maximum of ten participants discuss their ongoing or future research projects with the goal of establishing or deepening research collaborations. Participants are asked to present their project ideas to (parts of) the audience, and to develop collaborative projects in small-group discussions. We encourage the session chairs to follow up on the main discussion issues and open questions on the digital “insights wall”.
- **Guided Poster presentations:** Poster sessions involve four to six posters, which visually present current research. Each presenter is given five minutes for a short oral presentation to the audience, followed by an in-depth discussion with the audience. We encourage the session chairs to follow up on the main discussion issues and open questions on the digital “insights wall”.

**Conference Date** 29 to 31 August, 2018

**Conference Venue** International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER),  
University of Kassel, Germany

## **Time schedule**

31 December, 2017: Submission deadline  
30 April, 2018: Notification of acceptance  
31 May, 2018: Early bird registration deadline  
10 August, 2018: Final deadline for registration  
29 to 31, August 2018: Conference

## **Submission**

Please submit your summary (200-500 words) via the conference system at <https://conference.earli.org/>

Log in with your existing EARLI credentials, and click the green "new submission" button in your EARLI user dashboard. Select the SIG 04 Conference, and the submission type you wish to submit. All submitters and presenters will need an active EARLI account. Should you not have an EARLI account yet, you can easily create one (free of charge) at <https://conference.earli.org/create-account>

Please note: All submissions should be done completely anonymously, to ensure a fair review process. Please do not include your name in your submission.

## **Conference Fee**

Early bird (registration until 31 May, 2018)

JURE member: 250 Euro  
EARLI member: 300 Euro  
Non-member: 350 Euro

Regular (registration after 31 May, 2018)

JURE member: 300 Euro  
EARLI member: 350 Euro  
Non-member: 400 Euro

## **Steering committee and organizing team**

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Robert Kordts-Freudinger, Paderborn University, Germany  
PD Dr. Edith Braun, INCHER, University of Kassel, Germany

Dr. Helga Dorner, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary  
Rachelle Esterhazy, University of Oslo, Norway  
Dr. Shweta Mishra, University of Kassel, Germany  
Ass. Prof. Dr. Liisa Postareff, Helsinki University, Finland  
Dr. Isabel Steinhardt, University of Kassel, Germany

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [robert.kordts.freudinger@upb.de](mailto:robert.kordts.freudinger@upb.de) for all conference-related questions. We are looking forward to your participation!