

Key note Speaker:



Etienne Wenger

Etienne Wenger is a thought leader and consultant in the field of learning systems. He is the author and co-author of seminal books on communities of practice, including *Situated Learning*, where the term was coined, *Communities of Practice: learning, meaning, and identity*, where he lays out a theory of learning based on the concept, and *Cultivating Communities of Practice*, addressed to practitioners in organizations who want to base their knowledge strategy on communities of practice.



Barriers and enablers to communities of practice in Higher Education

A one-day conference
with Etienne Wenger
10 May 2010 - 9.30-3.30



Communities of Practice

Communities of practice are increasingly seen as effective ways for organisations to address the knowledge challenges they face. The focus of this day will be on how communities of practice can enable research collaboration and promote interdisciplinary work, can inform pedagogy and enhance the student learning experience and can facilitate the development of teaching networks in Higher Education.

“Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.”

Etienne Wenger:

<http://www.ewenger.com/theory/index.htm>



Programme

Time	Session	Presenter
9.30	Arrival – tea/coffee	
10.00	Welcome	Professor Gary Thomas, Head of School of Education
10.15	Communities of Practice Keynote Presentation	Etienne Wenger
11.30	Launch of Birmingham University Teaching Fellowship Online Resource	Karen Guldberg Jenny Mackness Paul Edwards
12.15	Lunch	
1.30	Group Presentations, Case Studies and Discussion	
	Interdisciplinary work within the Centre for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Mental Health	Tarsem Singh Cooner
	The Masters in Photojournalism	Paul Lowe
	The international ELESIG community of researchers and practitioners	Malcolm Ryan and Jenny Mackness
	The models of best practice for elearning community	Helen Walmsley
3.00	Plenary Discussion and closing comments	Etienne Wenger Karen Guldberg

Workshop Presenters

Dr Karen Guldberg is Director of the Autism Centre for Education and Research (ACER). She won a Birmingham University Teaching Fellowship for 2009-2010 and led the development of the online resource being launched at this conference. She is programme coordinator for the WebAutism programme and has used community of practice theory to inform the pedagogy of this programme.

Paul Edwards is an e-learning developer at the School of Education, University of Birmingham. He has been responsible for the technological development of the online Birmingham University Communities of Practice resource.

Malcolm Ryan and Jenny Mackness are founding members of ELESIG, an international community of researchers and practitioners from higher and further education who are involved in investigations of learners' experiences and uses of technology in learning; <http://elesig.ning.com>

Tarsem Singh Cooner is Associate Director of Centre for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Mental Health. Its overall aim is to promote excellence, innovation and creativity in the delivery of interdisciplinary mental health teaching and learning; <http://www.ceimh.bham.ac.uk>

Paul Lowe has used community of practice theory to inform the pedagogy and design of his international Masters in photojournalism and documentary photography, at the London College of Communication.

Helen Walmsley has developed a successful international community with over 700 members, for those interested in the models of best practice for e-learning <http://bestpracticeforelearning.ning.com>

You can book now through the online shop: <https://www.bhamonlineshop.co.uk/events/eventdetails.asp?eventid=142>

For further information contact Jacqui Wootton, on j.wootton@bham.ac.uk

This conference has been sponsored by Dr Karen Guldberg's University of Birmingham Teaching Fellowship and the Advanced Social Science Collaborative so it only costs £20. Places are limited