4th European Conference on Research Methodology
for Business and Management Studies
Université Paris-Dauphine,
Paris, France
21-22 April 2005

Conference Chair: **Professor Witold Litwin, Université Paris Dauphine, Paris**
Programme Chair: **Dan Remenyi, Trinity College Dublin**
Mini-Track in Critical Research - Chair: Carole Brooke, University of Lincoln, UK
Mini-Track in Gender Research in Management – Chair: Ronald Crawford, HRODC, UK
Mini-Track on Grounded Research - Chair: George Allan, University of Portsmouth, UK

CALL FOR PAPERS

The European Conference on Research Methodology for Business and Management Studies (ECRM 2005) is an opportunity for academics to share the latest thinking on research strategies, tactics and paradigms. The issue of how to conduct high quality academic research in business and management studies continues to exercise the minds of many of us in this community. There seems to be little convergence of views as to how research should be conducted with new ideas and new approaches being continually added. And although this offers us some challenges as teachers and supervisors it makes the whole task of working in this area a very rich experience. Of course it is hard to keep abreast with all the new ideas entering this arena and this conference offers an opportunity to keep in touch with some of these issues.

The conference committee this year are specifically interested in obtaining both theoretical and practical papers concerning research models, as well as considering case studies that demonstrate how these research strategies; tactics and paradigms are applied in practice. Topics may include, but are not limited to, theoretical and empirical research, action research, the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods, as well as developing research proposals, getting academic papers accepted by journals, research design, research protocols, research ethics. Papers will be welcome on a wide range of research paradigms, including critical analysis, discourse analysis, ethnography, ontology, epistemology, naturalistic enquiry, case studies, hermeneutic methods, etc. In addition the conference welcomes papers for inclusion in four mini tracks on the subjects of **Critical Research Methods**; **Gender Research, Teaching Research Methods** and **Grounded Theory**.

Mini-Track on Grounded Theory Research
Chair: Dr. George Allan, University of Portsmouth, UK

Grounded Theory has had a bad press as the result of poor quality qualitative research claiming to be Grounded Theory. True Grounded Theory research is a systematic sequence of processes within a scheduled framework of research events. This is a call for papers that demonstrate the systematic approach within Grounded Theory, in particular, to the data analysis techniques of constant comparison and memoing. Contributions should exemplify the rigour in the Grounded Theory as a research method for reaching research conclusions. Preference will be given to papers that use Grounded Theory and report justified results.

Mini-Track on Gender Research
Chair: Dr. Ronald Crawford, University of Wolverhampton, UK

Diversity in organisations is becoming increasingly popular for a number of reasons, not least among which is the value that its effective management adds to organisational effectiveness. Chief among the areas of research into this

area is gender. In recognition of its importance, ECRM has dedicated a track to gender research. Papers are invited from researchers in any gender related areas, including but not exclusively: Gender Diversity in organisations; Gender and work-life balance; Gender and family life; Gender and family responsibility; Gender and flexible working; Gender and online learning; Gender and e-commerce; Gender and work relationships; Gender and promotion in organisations; Gender and work commitment; Gender and the psychological contract; Gender and the glass ceiling; Gender and technological advancement; Gender and the media; Women in management; Gender and leadership styles; Gender and emotional labour; Gender and the protective legislation; Gender and cultural competence; Gender and spirituality; Gender and conversation; Gender and kinesics; Gender and kinesiology; Gender in post-modernist era.

Mini-Track on 'Critical' Approaches to Research
Chair: Dr. Carole Brooke, University of Lincoln, UK

This year we are again running a mini-track on critical approaches to research. This seems to be a growing area of interest that attracts a wide range of research topics tackled from a variety of perspectives. It has been suggested that there are three major tasks for critical research: to investigate the nature of phenomena at local levels (a call for in-depth qualitative empirical focus); to critique taken-for-granted assumptions underpinning organisational and managerial practices; and to develop relevant knowledge and practical understanding that enables change and indicates new ways of working (Alvesson and Deetz, 2000).

Two questions present themselves here: 'what is critical research?' and 'why is it of such importance that we should dedicate a mini-track to it?' The intention is that the research presentations themselves will begin to address these questions, as well as a number of other related issues. The mini-track will provide a broad context within which the contributing authors can compare, contrast and debate their ideas and differing experiences. The major aim of this mini-track is to open up constructive critical debate rather than to produce some sort of paradigmatic closure.

We expect the contributions to represent a range of approaches. Alvesson and Willmott (1992) draw attention to the fact that critical theory has always encouraged the creative borrowing of ideas from different schools of theory and practice. The common thread is usually the emancipatory interest rather than the detailed following of any one particular theorist. We will be looking to select a mix of papers that contribute to advancing the theoretical and/or methodological debates within research.

A number of writers have drawn attention to epistemological and methodological weaknesses in critical approaches generally. These weaknesses are closely linked but two of the most commonly cited ones are lack of social theory (specifically on the nature of emancipation), and inadequate conceptualisations of power. We particularly encourage contributions, therefore, that tackle aspects of any of these issues. It is in the spirit of looking for connections across the research landscape that this mini-track is taking place rather than in seeking to produce some sort of consensus or definitive description. There is no intention here either to draw conceptual battle lines or to obscure philosophical differences.

Selected papers from the conference will be considered for publication in the Electronic Journal on Business Research Methods, http://www.ejbrm.com

Submission details:
Abstract details: The Abstract should be a minimum of 100 and no more than 500 words including keywords to be received by **26 November 2004**. Abstracts have to include the proposed title for the paper, the full names, addresses and email addresses of all authors and a telephone number for at least one contact author.
File type: Word for Windows.
Submission: By e-mail attachment to Dan Remenyi at: submissions@academic-conferences.org
Full paper: Only required after acceptance of abstract and not to be more than 5,000 words including abstract, keywords and references. Submission date will be no later than **6 January 2005**.

Important information:
The selection panel of the conference committee will consider all abstracts received by the submission deadline to ensure that the proposed paper is relevant to the Conference. The authors of abstracts, which describe a relevant paper, will receive a notification of abstract acceptance. All full papers will be blind reviewed by members of the

conference committee to ensure an adequate standard, that the proposed subject of their abstract has been followed, that the paper is of a suitable length, that the standard of English is adequate and that the paper is appropriately referenced. Papers that are accepted will be published in the conference proceedings providing at least one author registers and presents the work at the Conference (see the registration section of the conference website for more information about registration). Due to the large number of papers expected for this conference, the committee only allows an author to present one paper. Therefore if multiple papers are accepted for presentation different co-authors need to present each paper.

Important dates:

Abstract submission deadline: **26 November 2004**
Notification of abstract acceptance: **3 December 2004**
Full paper due for review: **6 January 2005**
Notification of paper acceptance: **17 February 2005**
Final paper due (with any changes): **10 March 2005**

Conference Executive:

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Mini track Chairs:

Critical Methods: Dr Carole Brooke, University of Lincoln, cbrooke@lincoln.ac.uk
Gender Research: Dr Ronald Crawford, HRODC, UK, Hrodconsultancy@aol.com
Grounded Theory: Professor George Allan, University of Portsmouth, UK, gallan@unitec.ac.nz

Conference Committee:

The conference programme committee consists of key people in the research methods community, both from the UK and overseas. The following people have confirmed their participation:

George Allan University of Portsmouth, UK Gabriela Avram Centre de Recherche Public, Luxembourg Karin Axelsson Department of Computer and Information Science, Linkoping University, Sweden Joan Ballantine Queens University Belfast, UK Lennart Bangens Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden Frank Bannister Trinity College, Ireland Peter Bednar Department of ISCA, Portsmouth University, UK Diane Benjamin NHS, UK Egon Berghout University of Groningen, Netherlands Angela Benson University of Brighton UK Deborah Blackman School of Management, University of Western Sydney, Australia Carole Brooke University of Lincoln, UK Ann Brown CASS Business School, UK Cathal Brugha University College Dublin, Ireland Sven Carlsson School of Economics and Management, Lund University, Sweden Melissa Cole Brunel University, UK Baggy Cox Imperial College London, UK Ronald Crawford University of Greenwich, UK Marguerite Cronk Harding University, USA Dudley Dolan Trinity College Dublin, Ireland David Douglas Staffordshire University, UK Stephen Drew Trinity College, Ireland Eileen Drew Trinity College, Ireland Robert Edwards University of Wolverhampton, UK Jose Esteves Instituto de Empresa, Spain Jean-Noel Ezingeard Henley Management College, UK Roger Gill University of Strathclyde, UK Goran Goldkuhl Linkoping University, Sweden Gillian Green School of Informatics, University of Northumbria, UK Ray Hackney Manchester Metropolitan University, UK Gordon Hunter University of Lethbridge, Canada Bev Jones Management Research Centre, Wolverhampton Business School, UK Patricia Joubert University of Swaziland, Swaziland Reinford Khumalo University of South Africa, South Africa Cyril Kirwan Eircom, Ireland Ela Klecun-Dabrowska LSE, UK Rembrandt Klopper University of Kwa Zulu Natal Karl Knox Nottingham Trent University, UK Denise Leahy Trinity College, Ireland Witold Litwin Université Paris-Dauphine, Paris, France Sam Lubbe University of Kwa-Zulu, South Africa Pete Mann University of Manchester, UK Maggie McPherson, University of Sheffield, UK Arthur Money Henley Management College, UK Teemu Paavola Helsinki University of Technology, Finland Carole Page Massey University, New Zealand Joan Pastor-Collado, International University of Catalunya, Spain, Ganesh Prabhu Indian Institute of Management at Bangalore,

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