

ARPCE

ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN
POST-COMPULSORY EDUCATION

ARPCE 6th International Conference

Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford



July 10th to 12th 2026

Welcome



Dear Colleagues,

This is the sixth biennial international research conference hosted by the Association for Research in Post Compulsory Education (ARPCE) to promote and disseminate scholarly work in and on post-compulsory education. ARPCE aims to promote and disseminate research in all forms of education available to those who are above the school leaving age.

ARPCE believes that socially responsible, independent critical research into post-compulsory education is a powerful force to influence students, teachers, employers, administrators and policymakers in order to:

- raise awareness of the intellectual, social, economic and political value of research in post-compulsory education;
- improve the quality of research particularly by supporting capacity building of practitioners to undertake research in their given sector;
- provide examples of good practice which support national and international knowledge transfer;
- critique current government policy in post compulsory education to help inform the development of future policy;
- support the development of the global citizen with local and global responsibilities.

This conference therefore plays a key part in our work to help to achieve these objectives. As we find our feet in renewed social and professional spaces, conferences such as this offer a friendly and supportive environment in which to enter into discussion and extend the reach of all our work. The conference is deliberately designed to afford space not only for presenting academic works but also for conversation and having space to think.

I hope that in the beautiful and historic environment of Harris Manchester College, Oxford, you will have plenty of opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones, and that you will feel enthused and inspired by our presenters and participants.

On behalf of ARPCE, a very warm welcome to all our delegates from overseas and the UK, and I hope you enjoy your stay with us.

Professor Gary Husband Chair, ARPCE.

Saturday Keynote

Do research, or read research?

Some reflections on the work of teaching and the work of research.

Professor Jonathan Tummons



We are very excited to welcome Jonathan to the conference and are very grateful to him for contributing what will undoubtedly be a thought provoking and insightful keynote.

In Jonathan's profile from the University of Durham where he is a Professor of Education, Jonathan introduces himself with these words:

I am an ethnographer of education. I am interested in several different aspects of educational practice, including vocational and workplace learning, professional learning, and higher education. I use ethnography to describe and make sense of these: that is to say, I do research that sets out to describe and then explore the everyday lives of people and things who are involved in learning and education within these different contexts.

I am interested in the people who are involved in learning in the broadest sense, and I have written about learners/students, teachers/instructors, and technicians/support workers, amongst others. I am equally interested in the material objects and resources involved in learning, and I have written about lecture halls, technicians' workshops, and online courses, amongst other things.

Useful Information

Registration

Registration for the conference is between 13:00 and 14:00 on Friday 10th July. If you arrive after this time or are visiting on another day, someone from the ARPCE committee will be available to welcome you and provide you with your conference pack.

Check in and check out for full board delegates

If you have booked accommodation at Harris Manchester College (all full board full weekend delegates) please check in at the university reception (on right as you enter the main entrance), they will have all your accommodation details and requirements.

Check out needs to be completed by 9am on Sunday morning as the rooms need to be prepared for an incoming conference. When you go for breakfast please leave your bags in the Arlosh Hall where they can be collected at conference close.

Meals

The food at Harris Manchester College is excellent and served in the magnificent surroundings of the Arlosh Hall. All meals are seated and as such there is a need to ensure that meal times are adhered too. All dietary requirements that we have been notified of will be catered for at each meal.

Breakfast: Served between 8 and 9 am (for full board delegates)

Lunch: Served at the times indicated in the conference schedule (all delegates)

Evening meal: Served at 7pm in the Arlosh Hall for all full board delegates and those that have booked each meal separately.

Social Media

In previous years we have used X (Twitter) hashtags to share content, however, due to the controversial space that X has become, ARPCE will not be using any hashtags during the conference.

We ask all delegates to please share photos and content respectfully and ask permission from presenters before sharing work or images of presentations online. Please also be mindful that whilst presenting, it can be distracting for speakers if colleagues are taking photographs.

Useful Numbers:

Gary Husband: 07872 056550

Harris Manchester College: 01865 271006

Sponsors/Thanks



Events such as these would not be possible without the kind support of partners and the dedicated work of volunteers. I would like to thank the Research College Group, Education Training Foundation, Edge Foundation and The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 for their continued support for this conference, without whom we would not have been able to offer financial assistance to students and early career researchers. A warm welcome and our gratitude for the support shown.

I would also like to thank our long standing partners Taylor Francis who publish the ARPCE Journal of Research in Post Compulsory Education. Their longstanding support for ARPCE ensures the ongoing publication of this highly regarded journal which is an invaluable resource to all working in this field. ARPCE is run by volunteers who dedicate their time to supporting the organisation and managing events such as this conference.

This conference is dedicated to everyone who has come together to present, attend, volunteer, give keynotes, sponsor and run workshops and additional events, without whom we would not be able to participate in these spaces and benefit from the discussions, and collaborations, that will undoubtedly support us all in our ongoing work. Have a great conference.

Thank you to you all.

Everyone at ARPCE



Early Career Researchers Network



We are delighted to announce that colleagues from Edge Foundation are organising an early career researcher network and lunch. The event is due to be held at an Oxford city centre venue (TBC and close to Harris Manchester College) and begin at 11am on Friday 10th July 2026.

Colleagues from Edge Foundation will host the inaugural event which will bring together researchers from across the country and multiple sectors who are embarking on their research careers.

To sign up please scan the below QR code or navigate to: <https://forms.gle/PZZrCSfQ2i3txKX99>



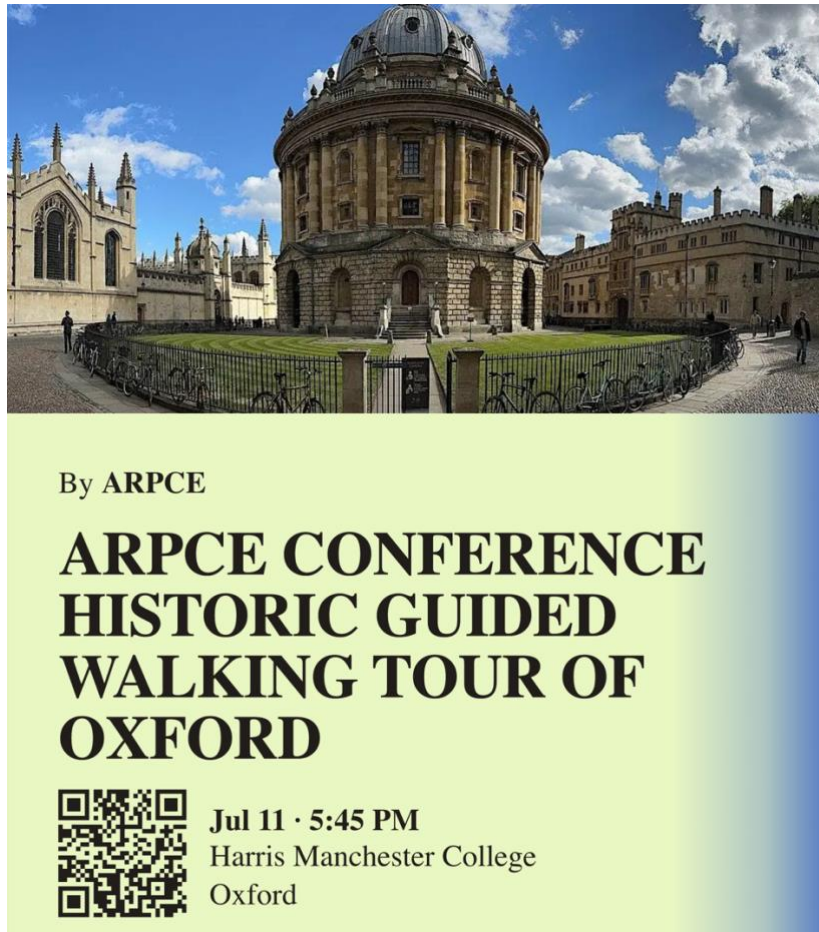
Please ensure you have registered by no later than 5PM on June 24th 2026.

If you have any questions regarding the early carer researcher network meeting, please contact Josh Patel using: jpatel@edge.co.uk

Historic City of Oxford Walking Tour

Saturday 11th July 2026, 17:30 to 19:00

We are pleased to announce that once again we are being joined by Trevor Husband who leads the historic walking tour of Oxford designed especially for our conference.



Trevor will lead you on a fascinating walking tour of Oxford where he will guide you between sites of special historical importance and interest.

The tour covers about 2 miles and will last circa 90 minutes.

The tour is free to conference delegates but numbers are limited! (22)

To sign up, please scan the QR code above or navigate to: <https://shorturl.at/Dbldm>

Click on 'Reserve a spot' and please enter the promo code: ARPCEHistoric to access tickets

Programme

Friday 10th July

13:00—14:00	Registration and welcome (room check in for residential delegates)
14:00—14:20	Welcome and conference opening
14:30—15:30	Parallel session 1
15:30—16:00	Tea and Coffee
16:00—17:30	Parallel Session 2
19.30—21.00	Evening meal for residents

Saturday 11th July

08:00 to 09:00	Breakfast (full board only)
9:30 to 11:00	Parallel Session 3
11:00 to 11:30	Coffee
11:30 to 13:00	Parallel Session 4
13:00 to 14:00	Lunch
14:00 to 15:00	Keynote
15:00 to 15:30	Coffee
15:30—17:00	Parallel Session 5
17:30—19:00	Oxford historical walk (book on Eventbrite)
19.30—21.00	Evening meal for residents (and booked conference dinner)

Sunday 12th July

08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast (full board only)
09:00 –09:30	Check out by 9 am for full board delegates (luggage stored in Arlosh Hall)
09:15—11:00	Parallel session 6
11:00—11:30	coffee/tea/refreshments
11:30 to 13:00	Parallel Session 7 then conference close.

Please note that all sessions are self-chaired. Please ensure that all presenters are given equal opportunity and time to share their work.

Parallel session 1: Friday 14:30 to 15:30

Room: Warrington Theme: Student Voice and Engagement Jasmine Course – Hear My Voice: The challenges and joys of raising hidden voices in further education Francine Warren – Was It All Talk? Exploring the Enactment of Pedagogical Intentions Following Non-Evaluative Observations	Room: Charles Wellbeloved Theme: FE Identity and Practitioner Research Abbie Cairns – Boundary-Crossing Identities and Tiny Acts of Research in Post-Compulsory Education Sam Jones – By FE for FE: repositioning FE-based practitioner research
Room: Maevadi Hall Theme: Coaching, Mentoring and Retention Joe Withey – A critical exploration whether coaching and mentoring can be used as a dialogical professional learning framework to support the retention of Early Careers Teachers (ECTs) in the English FE sector. Martin Scott - The Good, The Bad & The Ugly of Teaching Maths in Further Education.	

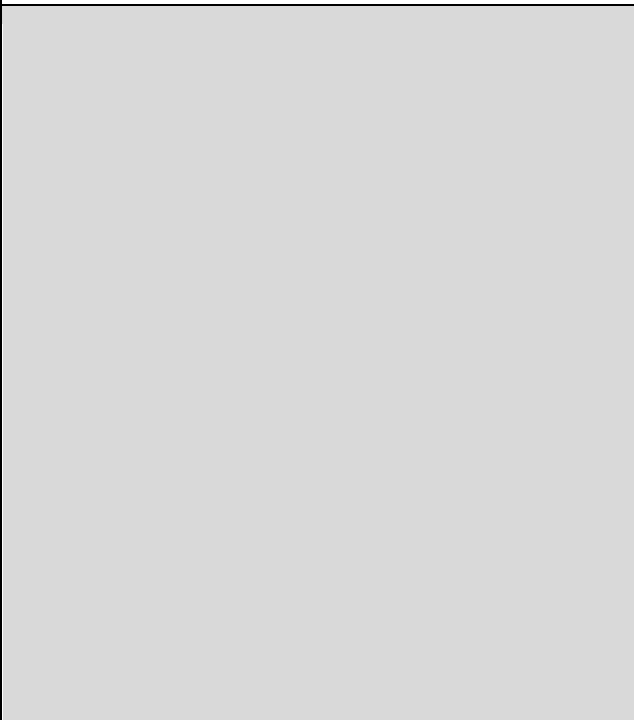
Parallel Session 2: Friday 16:00 to 17:30

Room: Maevadi Hall Theme: Assessment and Judgement Michael Smith – Starting Right: Revisiting Assessment at the Threshold of Post-Compulsory Learning. Alison McMaster – You cannot standardise professional judgement: collaborative calibration in dialogic assessment. Amie Knight – “You can’t expect a groundworker to write a report” – encouraging authentic voice amongst groundworker apprentices	Room: Charles Wellbeloved Theme: AI, Assessment and Digital Futures Jamie Pearson – Artificial Intelligence, Professional Knowledge and Work: Re-examining lesson planning in Further Education Louise Misselke – Leading Through Uncertainty: AI in Vocational Education Jen Deakin – Assessment at a Crossroads: What the GenAI Literature Tells Us About Integrity and Learning
Room: Warrington Theme: Digital Practices and Emerging Skills Jonathan Tummons – Youtube, Online Training, and USB Cables: the digital lives of cycle technicians Daniel Gregson – Skill Tree: Using Video Games and Aesthetic Experiences to Enhance Different Forms of Knowledge in Further Education Mark Hyde – Pretty Vacant or Pretty Smart? Overcoming Educational Disadvantage in Language Education Through The Arts	

Parallel Session 3: Saturday 09:30 to 11:00

Room: Maevadi Hall Theme: ESOL, Language and Pedagogy Rachel Bate – English-Only ideologies in multilingual spaces: ESOL teachers’ and students’ approaches to language use/ Dan Conolly – Pedagogical Decision-Making in College-based Higher Education: Implications for Policy, Practice and Professional Development. Molly Drake – Staying with the Pedagogy of Possibility: To what extent is the ESOL ILP an insular horizon?	Room: Charles Wellbeloved Theme: Equity, Policy and Participation Katie Crompton – Improving Attendance in Further Education: Evidence, Institutional Perspectives and Policy Implications Kayte Haselgrove – A critical feminist exploration of practices, perceptions and pedagogies which advance gender equality in Further Education colleges in England Lliam Dickinson – Nurturing the Next Gen Through Esports: The Evolution of Modern Skills and Modern Learners
Room: Warrington Theme: Futures, Creativity and Work Peter Bennett – Beyond our depths: Imagining and (un)forgetting education in uncertain times. Susan McGrath – They told me ‘It’s just a hobby’: creating career pathways for aspiring Performing Arts practitioners. Louisa William – Exploring the role of coaching in the professional development of teachers in further education Lynne Rogers – An expanded notion of work: transforming the trajectories of non-engaged	

Parallel Session 4: Saturday 11:30 to 13:00

Room: Maevadi Hall Theme: Identity, Philosophy and Professionalism Petra Melville – Posthuman Professional. Alistair Smith – Existential moments, and epiphanies: Art education and the aesthetic experience. Neil Peirson – Lived Experiences of Science Education: a preliminary exploration of students' view of risk in virtual and real science laboratories in Further Education	Room: Charles Wellbeloved Theme: Creativity, Gender and Technology Oliver Cameron-Swan – Seeing as an achievement: opening the shutters on perception and critique in crafts based vocational education. Yasmin Valli – AI use in Schools, and the Formation of Children's Cultural Identity. Fiona Steel – Pedagogical Contingency in Gendered Engagement in Computer Science Education
Room: Warrington Theme: Institutions and Systems Catherine Lloyd – Trimming the fat of the land? Has bigger meant better for land-based colleges. Andrea Laczik – Brokerage, partnership, and place: apprenticeship hubs and SME engagement. Lesley Billingsley – Bridging the Gap: How Organisational Support and Perceived Usefulness Enable Digital Communities of Practice in Further Education.	

Parallel Session 5: Saturday 15:30 to 17:00

Room: Warrington Theme: Curriculum and Pedagogical Design Sarabjit Borrill – Video/audio and speech as a catalyst for professional learning that builds the exercising of judgement. Mariana Makar – Exploring the relationship between teacher strategies for intrinsic motivation within mathematics curriculum frameworks in construction studies. Sheraz Ahmad – It’s time we did something innovative to retain FE teachers: Can mentoring through co-teaching help?	Room: Charles Wellbeloved Research College Group (RCG) – symposium Panel Chair: Anne Haig Smith (RCG) TITLE: “2025 was ‘annus mirabilis’ for FE research: what this may mean for the development of research in the sector as a whole?”
Room: Maevadi Hall Theme: Emotion, Labour and Learning Danielle Vipond – The Hidden Work of Further Education Teaching: Emotional Labour in Changing Times. Jason Boucher – Emotion: Does the intensity of feeling it interfere with a person’s ability to learn? Christina Donovan – From sense-making to meaning-making: revisiting the research circle as a site for purposeful action in FE professional development	

Parallel Session 6: Sunday 09:30 to 11:00

Room: Warrington Theme: Belonging and Professional Identity Lucy Howell – The Power of Belonging: Building Collegial Communities. Maggie Gregson – Designing a Curriculum for Hope and Inclusion in an Age of Ambiguity. Mark Leary - Seeing is understanding? Visual narrative and the problem of knowledge representation in education	Room: Charles Wellbeloved Theme: Professional and adult learning Masha Apostolidu – Maths Attitudes, Performance, and Engagement in Further Education: Exploring the Complexity of Adult Learners’ Experiences Kerry Scattergood & Naomi Hennah – Academic development in further education: exploring doctoral study purpose and motivation. Sarah Boodt – From self-doubt to professional belonging in Further Education. Emma Fielding – Building a Professional Learning Community through Joint Practice Development. Lisa Sheridan – Enhancing Teaching and Learning through Joint Practice Development and Professional Development Coaching
Room: Maevadi Hall Symposium Claire Wood – Future-Ready Learners Need Future-Facing Teachers	

Parallel Session 7: Sunday 11:30 to 13:00

Room: Warrington Theme: Teacher Development and Professional Formation Asiya Andrews: Making Learning Matter: Fun, Practical applications That Inspire Students to Excel Across all Subjects David Powell – Taking a close look at England’s further education teacher educators shaping ‘the souls’ of the sector’s new teachers Kate Lavender & David Powell – A study of England’s university-based teacher educators teaching on initial teacher education courses for the further education sector’s new teachers	Room: Charles Wellbeloved Workshop by Sam Jones How can we develop a research methodology to shift the positionality of teachers?
Close	Close

Journal of Research in Post Compulsory Education

Conference Special Edition



We are pleased to announce that a special edition of the Journal of Research in Post Compulsory Education will be published in conjunction with the 6th ARPCE International Conference. Editors: Professor Gary Husband & Dr Craig Hammond.

All delegates presenting papers at the conference are invited to submit their presented papers for consideration in the special edition.

Please send completed articles to Professor Gary Husband by 15th November 2026, send to gary.husband@sunderland.ac.uk

Please note the following:

- Papers must have been presented at the conference
- Standard length articles between 5000 to 8000 words
- Journal information can be found here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rpce20/current>

Special issue to be published Summer 2027