SYMPOSIUM ON “UNIVERSITIES AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

CATALYSING CHANGE ON RESEARCH AND TEACHING PRACTICES

Manchester Metropolitan University
10th-11th April 2018
Higher education institutions are well placed to play a key role in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations. The 17 global goals (known as the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs) and their 169 targets are focused on protecting our planet and its lifeforms, and ensuring prosperity for the present and future generations.

Realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offers universities a unique opportunity to meet their social obligations as education institutions on the one hand, and to realise their social mission as agents for change on the other, and to provide a sound basis upon which the SDGs may be met. The implementation of the SDGs does not only require knowledge creation. Rather, it requires an integrated thinking, in the context of which research and teaching on, for and about sustainable development, may lead to changes and to improvements in the way students see, perceive and treat their environment.

But despite the fact that the SDGs were agreed in 2015 and the implementation period ends in 2013, there is at present a paucity of initiatives from higher education institutions in this key area. It is against this background that the “Symposium on Universities and the Sustainable Development Goals” is being organised by Manchester Metropolitan University, the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme, and the World Sustainable Development Research and Training Centre, in cooperation with a number of institutions of higher education active in this field. It will involve researchers in the field of sustainable development in the widest sense, from business and economics, to arts and fashion, administration, environment, languages and media studies.

The Symposium will focus on the means to integrate, promote or otherwise catalyse the engagement of higher education institutions in the global efforts to implement the SDGs, and will contribute to the further development of this central topic.
/// AIMS

The aims of the “Symposium on Universities and the Sustainable Development Goals” are as follows:

i. to provide teaching staff at universities active and/or interested on the SDGs with an opportunity to display and present their works (i.e. curriculum innovation, empirical work, activities, case studies practical projects);
ii. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the implementation of the SDGs, especially successful initiatives and good practice;
iii. to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to offer a better understanding of how the SDGs can be considered in university teaching and research;
iv. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for further cooperation.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences on implementing the SDGs available today. To this purpose, accepted papers will be published in the peer-reviewed “Encyclopedia of the Sustainable Development Goals”. With 17 volumes and 1,700 authors, this is the largest editorial project on this field. This will be part of the award-winning “World Sustainability Series”, published by Springer, one of the world’s top five scientific publishers.

/// PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the Symposium “Universities and the Sustainable Development Goals” will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

i. teaching staff
ii. student groups;
iii. members of university administrations;
iv. project officers and consultants;
v. other people interested in the field.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for integrated approaches towards teaching on sustainable development and, hence contribute towards advancing this field of work even further.
/// STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The Symposium will be organised around two main strands:

**Strand 1: the posters**
Participating universities will be able to put-up posters describing their works and teaching projects, and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The posters will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

**Strand 2: the presentations**
A set of presentations, divided into two main sections will be organised, dealing with issues of strategic value in reviewing the state of the art of sustainability teaching today. These are:

**Session 1:** SDGs in formal teaching and education  
**Session 2:** SDGs in research and in non-formal teaching and education programmes

The papers will be classified in one of two of the above sessions.

/// SCHEDULE

The Symposium “**Universities and the Sustainable Development Goals**” will be held on 10th-11th April 2018. A schedule is now being prepared.

10th April 2018

13:00-14:00- Registration  
14:00-14:20- Welcome  
14:20-15:30- Presentations  
15:30-16:00- Break  
16:00-17:00- Presentations  
18:00-19:00- Reception

11th April 2018

09:00-09:10- Welcome  
09:10-11:00- Presentations and discussion  
11:00-11:30 – Break  
11:30-13:00- Presentations and discussion  
1300- 14:00- Lunch  
14:00-15:15- Presentations and discussion  
15:15-15:30- Break  
15:30-15:45- Hand over of the Best Papers Awards  
16:00- Close of the event

In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise
their travel in a way that allows them to travel back on or after 16:00 on 11th April, so they do not miss hand-over of the best papers awards.

/// DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th November 2017  
Deadline for submission of papers: 30th January 2018  
Deadline for full, revised papers: 20th February 2018  
Deadline for registrations: 20th February 2018

Since the book will be launched soon after the Symposium, the deadlines need to be followed.

/// THE VENUE

The event will be held at Manchester Metropolitan University’s Business School. There is a wide selection of hotels in Manchester to choose from. The ones closest to the University (about 10 min walk) are Holiday Inn (Oxford Road) and Ibis Hotel (Princess Street).

/// FEES AND CHARGES

A fee of £150 will be charged to delegates to offset the preparation costs. Registrations fees may be refunded (with a 50% processing charge) in case of cancellations until 27th February 2018. After that date, no refunds are possible.

/// REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until 20th February 2018. Regrettably, registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for displays and the time for presentations is limited, delegates are advised to submit their abstracts and register as soon as possible. The organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation in case there are any limitations with time for presentations, or in respect of space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the Chairperson, following consultation with the organising committee.

/// ORGANISERS

- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme
- World Sustainable Development Research and Transfer Centre
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany
Chairperson

- Prof. Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DL, DLitt), Chair of Environment and Technology, Manchester Metropolitan University
Organising Committee at Manchester Metropolitan University

Mr Richard Hammersley, School of Science and the Environment
Ms Emily Gilhooley, Conference Office
Ms Valeria Vargas, Education for Sustainable Development Coordinator

/// CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON PUBLICATION

All questions related to scientific inputs (e.g. abstracts, papers) and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
Professor of Environment and Technology
Manchester Metropolitan University
School of Science and the Environment
E-mail: w.leal@mmu.ac.uk

/// CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to registrations should be sent to:

Emily Gilhooley
Manchester Metropolitan University
Conference Centre
E-mail: E.Gilhooley@mmu.ac.uk

/// HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see page 8 for a sample abstract. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information.
**SYMPOSIUM ON “UNIVERSITIES AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”**
Manchester Metropolitan University
10th-11th April 2018

PLEASE COMPLETE, SCAN AND E-MAIL THIS FORM TO:
E.Gilhooley@mmu.ac.uk

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### REGISTRATION FORM

1. Surname: 

2. First Name: 

3. Title (Prof., Dr. Mr, Ms, etc): 

4. Institution: 

5. Address: 

6. Telephone (please include local code): 

7. Fax (please include local code): 

8. E-mail: 

9. You intend to participate by means of:  
   ( ) Presentation  ( ) Display  ( ) both 

10. Title of presentation: 

11. Session chosen (please tick): 

   **Session 1:** SDGs in formal teaching and education  
   **Session 2:** SDGs in research and in non-formal teaching and education programmes  

11. Title of display: 

13. Do you have any dietary requirements?  
   ( ) Yes  ( ) No 
   If so, please specify: 

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A fee of £150 will be charged to you via invoice, upon receiving your application. The fees includes the lunch and coffee breaks. Registrations fees may be refunded (with a 50% processing charge) in case of cancellations until 20th February 2018. After that date, no refunds are possible.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR REGISTRATION.
Campus Greening: Using Living Labs to Foster Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education Institutions

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Abstract

The use of university campuses as learning and research areas is not as widely made as it should. Part of the problem lies on the fact that facilities are often not well structured or organized, which makes it difficult to use them for teaching, learning, or for research purposes. This paper presents the results of a study aimed at identifying the extent to which higher education institutions are using their campuses for teaching, learning and for research, and at describing the various modalities of use. A special attention is paid to the role that campuses can play as “living labs, where the integration of sustainability issues in higher education can be demonstrated. Finally, some concrete steps which may be undertaken in order to allow universities to better take advantage of university campuses as learning and research areas, are outlined. This paper will be useful to anyone interested on using university campuses as bridges between the theory and practice of sustainability in higher education institutions, across the world.