

Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain  
Annual Conference, 3-5 April 2009, New College Oxford

Symposium proposal - title sheet

**1. Proposed symposium title**

The value of higher education: is there a philosophy of higher education?

**2. Proposed by**

Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies (contact: Dr Clare Saunders)

**3. Affiliation**

Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies  
Higher Education Academy / University of Leeds

**4. Contact details**

Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies  
School of Humanities, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT

(To contact Clare Saunders directly:)

Email: [clare@prs.heacademy.ac.uk](mailto:clare@prs.heacademy.ac.uk); tel: 0113 343 1166

Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain  
Annual Conference, 3-5 April 2009, New College Oxford

Symposium proposal - abstract

**The value of higher education: is there a philosophy of higher education?**

There has been much debate recently about the aims of higher education (for example, in response to the Leitch (2006) review of skills); but it is less clear whether the views propounded are underpinned by a robust and coherent philosophy of higher education. This symposium will seek to explore what this philosophy is, and what it should be.

Suggested symposium panellists include:

- Professor Michael Luntley (Philosophy, Warwick) (has expressed an interest in participating) on concepts of expertise and the role of HE as knowledge creation
- Professor Richard Smith (Education, Durham) (tbc), perhaps based on his (2003) 'Thinking with each other: the peculiar practice of the university'
- Professor Gordon Graham (Philosophy, Aberdeen) (tba), perhaps based on his (2005) *The Institution of Intellectual Virtues*

(Professor John Haldane (Philosophy, St Andrews) is interested but unavailable.)

*This symposium would be supported by the Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies (<http://prs.heacademy.ac.uk>); if appropriate, with a view to developing this theme further - in collaboration with the PESGB - via a free-standing conference in 2009/10.*

References

- Graham, G (2005). *The Institution of Intellectual Virtues: Realism and Idealism in Higher Education*. Exeter: Imprint Academic.
- Leitch, A (2006). *Prosperity for All in the Global Economy - World Class Skills*. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
- Smith, R (2003). Thinking with each other: the peculiar practice of the university. *Journal of Philosophy of Education*, 37(2), 309-323.