Poster

Title: **Scholarship beyond the main campus – Supporting the pursuit of scholarship in a distributed institution**

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Session Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the challenges of undertaking scholarship away from main campus
2. Appreciate the needs of distributed academics in pursuing scholarship
3. Appreciate the value of this scholarship within the institution and wider community
4. Understand how this scholarship may inform your own scholarship practices and collaborative work

Session Outline

An increasing number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) institutions are operating across several geographical locations, due to mergers, partnerships or expansion into new markets. The seminal work by Boyer (1996) on 'scholarship of engagement' could not have greater resonance with such distributed HEIs, like the Open University. Its presence both nationally and regionally has a distinct advantage of harnessing local community knowledge that can inform scholarship projects (Chatteron & Goddard, 2000), as well as providing an opportunity for participatory research (Barker, 2004). However, the disadvantage is that academics working in nations and regions away from main campus may pursue scholarship in a disparate and singular way. As a consequence, there may be an unawareness of other work relating to their own scholarship projects taking place in different areas of their institution, and, missed opportunities to engage with cross disciplinary collaborative scholarship. The SHARE project was set up by the Open University to address these issues by providing a cross faculty hub for networking and knowledge transfer across disciplines for academics based in nations and regions away from the main campus. This poster will report on the impact of SHARE in enhancing scholarship activity, promoting cross faculty collaboration resulting in enhanced knowledge production to the benefit of the individual, the institution and community as a whole.

References

Barker, D (2004) The scholarship of engagement: A taxonomy of five emerging practices. Journal of higher education outreach and engagement 9 (2): 123-137

Boyer, E (1996) The scholarship of engagement. Journal of public service and outreach 1(1): 11-20

Chatterton, P. and Goddard, G. (2000) Response of higher education institutions to regional needs. European Journal of Education 35 (4): 475-496