



[www.open.ac.uk/discourses-of-inclusion](http://www.open.ac.uk/discourses-of-inclusion)

# Widening Participation Conference 2012

## Discourses of Inclusion in Higher Education

24-25 April 2012

Whittlebury Hall, Northamptonshire, UK

### Keynote Speakers

#### **Trevor Gale**

Deakin University, Australia

#### **Louise Morley**

University of Sussex

#### **Sir David Watson**

Green Templeton College Oxford and  
Institute of Education, University of  
London

This conference offers:

- A full and varied programme of international peer-reviewed papers addressing key themes of Inclusive policy and practice and Student experiences and circumstances;
- Keynote addresses from internationally renowned and influential speakers.
- A range of opportunities facilitating the increased impact of research in inclusion, equity and widening participation.
- An inclusive approach which supports and facilitates the presence of quality postgraduate and international research.

At a time when prevailing neo-liberal policy aims to position higher education as an economic venture and students as customers, discourses of inclusion are vital. Terms such as access, widening participation, equity, equality and diversity, and lifelong learning commonly feature in discourses of inclusion related to higher education. The shifting meanings and fluid uses of these terms serve as an indication of the increasing tensions between neo-liberal economic forces and the role of higher education in modern society.

Researchers and theorists, policy-makers and practitioners all have a voice in the diverse range of discourses of inclusion and much is still to be learned and understood from a sharing of their perspectives and experiences. As higher education systems across the world adapt to accommodate the needs of modern neoliberal society this international conference brings together these voices to consider the nature of inclusion.

The conference will examine and debate scholarly issues associated with inclusion and widening participation in higher education. It will map international perspectives on educational inclusion, report on important research findings, and develop new collaboration and joint working for the future.

Booking forms are available from [www.open.ac.uk/discourses-of-inclusion](http://www.open.ac.uk/discourses-of-inclusion) and two delegate packages as follows:

Two days residential (£250). Includes attendance at both days of the conference, one night accommodation on 24th April, a place at the conference dinner, drinks reception and access to the Whittlebury Hall facilities (please note that Spa treatments are at an extra cost).

Two days non-residential (£150). Includes attendance at both days of the conference, drinks reception and a place at the conference dinner.

The venue for the conference is the glorious Whittlebury Hall in Northamptonshire. This luxurious venue is easily accessible by rail, car and is close to major international airports (a taxi transfer will be required from rail and airports).