

# Open Trends in Higher Education: Imperatives and Challenges

## FINAL Call for Papers

13. European Conference of the Society for Media in Science  
September 16–18, 2008 / Krems an der Donau/AT, Pre-Conference September 16, 2008

**Under the motto 'Open Trends in Higher Education: Imperatives and Challenges' the Annual Conference 2008 of the Society for Media in Science will explore contradictions that arise from current technological, sociopolitical and academic requirements upon didactical concepts in teaching and research in the context higher education.**

In particular, recent developments such as Social Software, Web 2.0, mobile learning, and other currents of 'open' initiatives, i.e., open educational resources, open content, open access, and open innovation will be discussed in terms of their relevancy for learning, teaching and research.

What are the opportunities that arise from open access to knowledge resources with respect to the educational mandate of academic institutions? What is the relevancy of mobile learning technologies for the learning space university? What are feasible models for the integration of informal learning channels into formal, established structures of higher education? What are the challenges with regard to the internationalization,

mobility, and the cooperation among institutions of higher learning? What is the significance of employing Web 2.0 for scientifically substantiated didactical concepts and expectations? How can connectivity be established between existing closed systems and innovative open tools? What is the relationship between the Open Access initiative and existing publication channels and the careers of scientists?

A debate of these and related questions will be at the center of discussion. The exploration of opportunities and concepts for the integration of current developments into existing and proven eLearning implementations within higher education constitutes the frame of the conference.

We invite you to participate in the discussion with scientific contributions and practical, solution-oriented concepts and approaches.

The Conference of the Society for Media in Science 2008 emphasizes interactive formats. The pre-conference focuses on the emphases of the conference by means of

'round tables'. Apart from key-notes, traditional presentations, a panel, poster sessions and a market place, participants will directly interact with experts in a "breakfast with key note speakers". Live streaming of key-note presentations and the concluding panel will provide the opportunity for an active participation in the discussion by way of blogs.

This conference is directed towards researchers, lecturers, and persons in decision making positions who are involved in technologically supported learning and are interested in recent developments in theory and practice.

**We invite you to participate with presentations, posters, round tables or with a market stalls. All contributions received will be assessed. Please submit contributions in all formats digitally, using the conference management software ConfTool at [www.gmw08.at](http://www.gmw08.at).**

## Lectures and posters

The media supported lectures last 15 minutes with a subsequent discussion of another 15 minutes. Recent scientific insights, practical experiences, results of empirical research, and theoretical and conceptual deliberations will be presented to an expert audience. One track will be offered especially for up-and-coming researchers who will be supported in the development of their own current research projects. Benefit from the expertise of known experts who will provide valuable feedback to your research projects in an environment of respect and mutual appreciation.

Lectures can only be submitted as full papers. Accepted contributions will be included in full text in the conference proceedings. Submissions that are not accepted as lectures might receive an invitation for a poster contribution. Accepted posters will be included in the conference proceedings and will receive a space in the poster exhibition.

Lectures and posters will be evaluated in regard to their relevancy and timeliness in addressing the conference emphases as well as their innovative value. Criteria to be employed for the selection are the following:

- Quality of the contribution based on scientific, topical and content value
- Conclusiveness and comprehensibility of the contribution

- Conception and originality of the contribution

Full papers and poster contributions will be assessed by three independent evaluators.

**Deadline for submissions:**  
**April 14, 2008**

**Notification of acceptance:**  
**May 12, 2008**

## Pre-Conference Round-Table Discussions

Round tables enable the participants a moderated exploration and discussion of a specific problem or a specific topic. The moderators accompany and structure the discussion process and provide a brief introduction of topic and goal of the round table. It is the primary goal to develop a topic based on the perspective of the participants and to develop creative methods for resolution of selected problems in an open ambiance. Subsequently the results of the round table are documented and presented to the plenum for discussion.

The round-table discussions each last 4.5 hours in total (2 x 1.5 hours round table, 1 x 1.5 hours presentation of the results and discussion by the plenum).

Round tables are offered when at least six participants register. Information to accepted round tables will be made available on the website

prior to the conference. The selection will be based upon the following criteria:

- Relevancy of the contribution in respect of the conference theme
- Suitability for reflecting and exploring current issues and questions in-depth
- The format of the contributions follows the specified requirements and the course of the activities will foster a creative and collaborative development of a given theme.

Round tables will be selected by the steering committee.

**Deadline for submissions:**  
**April 14, 2008**  
**Notification of acceptance:**  
**May 12, 2008**

## Marketplace

On the marketplace, original developments and open source eLearning tools can be presented. Presenters for the marketplace are selected by the conference administration.

**Deadline for application:**  
**May 5, 2008**  
**Notification of acceptance:**  
**June 2, 2008**

### **Steering Committee**

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Theo Bastiaens  
Univ.Prof. Dr. Peter Baumgartner  
Dr.<sup>in</sup> Marianne Merkt  
Dr.<sup>in</sup> Felicitas Pflichter  
Prof.<sup>in</sup> Dr.in Gabi Reinmann  
Dr.<sup>in</sup> Eva Seiler Schiedt  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rolf Schulmeister  
Dipl. Päd.<sup>in</sup> Angela Sommer

### **Scientific Administration**

Mag.<sup>a</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Sabine Zauchner, MSc

### **Organizing team**

Helmut Geppel  
Dr. Michael Kopp  
Mag.<sup>a</sup> Ingrid Ladner  
Dr. Andreas Weissenbaeck

Distance University "FernUniversität" Hagen  
Danube University Krems  
University of Hamburg  
Federal Ministry for Education and Culture / Austria  
University of Augsburg  
University of Zurich  
University of Hamburg  
University of Hamburg

Danube University Krems/AT

Danube University Krems  
Media Agency Kopp und Penz  
Danube University Krems/At  
IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems/AT



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### **Contact**

Web: <http://www.gmw08.at>  
E-Mail: [info@gmw08.at](mailto:info@gmw08.at)