

**Title:**                   **Standard Life or Life Standards: inspiring student learning in higher education?**

**Presenters:**       **Maggi Savin-Baden and Becca Khanna**  
Coventry University

**Abstract:**

**Overview**

Our interest in 'knowledge' and 'inspiration' began some years ago when undertaking diplomas in teaching in higher education. Like many people we had always thought that knowledge was out there, was there to be found and read about, rather than something that was inside us, something that could possibly be constructed by us. Although we are still fascinated by this idea that knowledge is a concept, and something that has been written about by many in complex and intractable tomes we began to realize that not only the way knowledge was viewed was changing but also the way it was created was also on the move. Yet although this seemed to be the case little seemed to be done to help students, to let student know that this was happening or to engage staff in debate about how such changes might or should challenge their teaching practices. Further our views and worries that professional standards within and across higher education might be closing down opportunities for students to be co-creators of knowledge were becoming increasingly evident across the sector.

**This workshop will:**

- Explore the impact of professional standards on curricula
- Examine how to develop the kinds of curricula that inspire student learning despite professional standards
- Consider the impact of the inter-relationship of the professional context and professional standards on the student learning environment
- Discuss the nature and purpose of knowledge in higher education in the early 2000s

**Learning intentions**

It is our intention that people who attend will:

- learn something of and /or develop their stance towards curriculum development and professional stands
- re-consider their dialogue with students about the contextual issues impacting on professional practice

**Activities**

This workshop will present our view through 3 power point slides and use a series of questions to promote small group discussion. Flipcharts may also be used.