

Innovative Learning Week - Postgraduate Programme Schedule

MSc in Environmental Sustainability (Natasa.Honeybone@ed.ac.uk)

Thursday, 23rd February 2012
Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road

This event will give students the opportunity to examine and debate representations of climate change. Film is widely recognised as a powerful medium capable of raising public awareness and influencing debates surrounding important societal questions. Filmmakers are beginning to use the medium to explore climate change. In this event two films will be screened, showing contrasting approaches to depicting the complexities surrounding climate change. The films will inform discussion of the merits of different approaches: presentation of facts by expert commentators, graphic imagery of climate impacts; documentary narratives following the lives of real people caught up in the causes and consequences of climate change, and images of pristine nature at risk, amongst others.

10.00 - 12.00: Film 1 (Cinema 3)
12.00 - 13.00: Lunch in the Guild Room
13:00 - 14.30: Film 2 (Cinema 3)
14.30 - 15.30: Tea, coffee and biscuits in the Guild Room

Friday, 24th February 2012
Room 3 and 4 Crew Annex

Workshop on Social Research Methods

This workshop is designed for students who are considering using social research methods as part of their dissertation. It provides a simple guide to social research so that students can choose the method or combination of methods most appropriate to their research problem.

The workshop will be held in two sessions on 24 February from 09.30 to 16.30 and will allow time for all students attending to be able to work on their own dissertation topic.

Part 1 from 9.30 to 12.30 starts with a 40 minute presentation covering:

- An overview of the research process and problem definition
- Aspects of the problem which influence the choice of method, including qualitative and quantitative approaches
- Evaluation techniques

Students will then work in groups to consider their research problem and an appropriate approach to use in developing their dissertation topics.

Part 2 from 13.30 to 16.30 starts with a second presentation covering:

- The value of devising an analytical framework early in the research process
- Sampling
- Interviewing
- Questionnaire design

During a series of further exercises, students will then consider question wording, data collection and analysis to be used in their dissertation before a concluding review and discussion rounds off the day.

Students should attend both sessions.