

## OPEN SEMINAR SERIES

**WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008**  
**12:00 – 13:30**

**SEERC Seminar Room**  
**SEERC Bldg**

## **Presentation on the Virtual Graduate School Project**

### **University of Sheffield**

By

**Ms. Sheena Banks**  
**VGS Coordinator**  
**The University of Sheffield**

### **ABSTRACT**

The Virtual Graduate School project at Sheffield is enhancing research training through the development of a research portal (via WebCT) with online research training modules, a wrap-around with resources, tools and Web 2.0 technologies and online support for research supervisors.

The aim of the Virtual Graduate School is to acknowledge the diversity of researchers through the provision of flexible learning and online support for the research task, particularly for researchers working in remote location and international settings.

In its first year, the VGS is developing 6 online exemplars in the Social Sciences and will extend to another faculty in Year 2. An innovative feature of the VGS is the development of multimedia instantiations of research through case studies of video narratives involving academics, students and experts, with a capacity for personalization to the research interests of individuals. The presentation will demo some content from our online Research Writing module and will highlight the organizational, pedagogic and technological challenges we have experienced so far.

*Sheena Banks is an experienced Technology Enhanced Learning practitioner and researcher from the School of Education at the University of Sheffield and is Coordinator of the Virtual Graduate School Project.*

**The seminar series is open to all members of staff and students of CITY and to any externals that wish to attend.**