

“Permit us to question — to doubt, that’s all — to not be sure.” Richard Feynman (1955)

This flyer provides details of the second Research and Practice seminar for 2018-19.

All staff are welcome, and are encouraged to attend.

To [book a place](#) please email TlAcademy@ljmu.ac.uk

4.15pm – 5.30pm, Wednesday 12th December
Location to be confirmed

Spaces, Places, Power, People. Rethinking Student Belonging

Speaker: Dr Kate Carruthers Thomas, Senior Research Fellow and Athena Swan Project Manager, Birmingham City University

In this seminar presentation, I argue for an understanding of the university as a space of power and knowledge in which narratives are articulated and identities constructed, resulting in different experiences of space and belonging within them. I will discuss how 'practices of belonging' within a place mark the claims of particular groups to particular territory but in doing so, identify and exclude those identified as 'other'. I will draw on data collected for a recent study in which mature and part-time students mapped their 'sense of belonging' on a campus map. The findings suggest that student belonging is relational, complex and negotiated.

Carruthers Thomas, K., *Rethinking Student Belonging in Higher Education: From Bourdieu to Borderlands* will be published by Routledge in December 2018

Biography

Dr Kate Carruthers Thomas is Senior Research Fellow and Athena SWAN Project Manager at Birmingham City University. Kate specialises interdisciplinary enquiry into contemporary higher education, inequalities and gender. Building on a decade of professional experience in widening participation project management, her doctoral research into dimensions of belonging for mature part-time undergraduates in English HE will be published as part of Routledge's Focus series in 2018. Kate is currently a co-convenor of the SRHE Access and Widening Participation Network and between 2007-2014, was the national convenor of the UALL (Universities Association for Lifelong Learning) Women in Lifelong Learning network.

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