

To book a place, contact eaqs@ljmu.ac.uk or call ext. 8679/8101.

4.00pm – 5.30pm, Wednesday 22nd October,
Venue: David Robinson Lecture Room, Art & Design Academy

‘Theorising Student Engagement in Higher Education’

Dr Peter Kahn, Centre of Lifelong Learning, University of Liverpool

Student engagement has become problematic following the rise of mass and universal forms of higher education. Significant attention has been devoted to identifying factors that are associated with higher levels of engagement, but it remains the case that the underlying reasons for student engagement and, indeed, the notion itself of ‘student engagement’ remain weakly theorised. The seminar will draw on research published last year in the *British Educational Research Journal* (doi/10.1002/berj.3121/abstract). It develops the theoretical basis for student engagement in a way that highlights the student’s own contribution, drawing out student reflexivity in both its individual and social dimensions. It offers insights towards new forms of educational practice and relations that have the potential to engage students more fully.

Biography:

Dr Peter Kahn is an Educational Developer at the University of Liverpool, where he is Director of Studies for the online professional doctorate (EdD) in Higher Education. He has helped to establish enquiry-based learning (EBL) as a focus for innovation in student learning, co-authoring the Higher Education Academy’s curriculum guide to EBL. Peter has contributed to the infrastructure for academic development in the UK, through books, research, courses and organisational development. His co-edited *A Guide to Staff and Educational Development* (Kogan Page, 2003) has become a standard text. His contributions to student learning and academic development have been underpinned by research, with publications in such areas as reflective practice, student engagement, collaborative working and online learning. His research interests centre on adapting realist social theory to higher education. He is an Executive Editor for the journal *Teaching in Higher Education*.