



CALL FOR PAPERS

Useful Knowledge:

Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Part-Time and Mature Higher Education

23 - 24 February 2022 | TBA Bloomsbury, London

In 2023, Birkbeck will be celebrating its 200th anniversary. This is a call for papers for a conference entitled “Useful Knowledge: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Part-Time and Mature Higher Education”, which is part of the events leading up to Birkbeck’s bicentenary. It will explore ideas about “useful knowledge” in historical and contemporary perspectives.

Although particular attention will be paid to topics directly relating to the London Mechanics’ Institution and Birkbeck College, we encourage speakers to reflect on part-time and mature higher education more broadly and even globally. We also welcome proposals from diverse groups of researchers, scholars, and other interested publics.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- What have been the major influences on the history of Birkbeck?
- What constituted “useful knowledge” between the 1820s and the 2020s?
- What have been the major influences on part-time and/or mature higher education?
- What makes Birkbeck and similar institutions different in the current educational context?
- How has part-time and/or mature higher education been experienced by women and minoritised communities (ethnic, sexual, or religious)?
- What was the impact of the pandemics of 1918-20 and 2020-21 on the lives of academics, students and/or Birkbeck and similar institutions?
- How have higher educational institutions/communities responded to world wars and other crises, such as pandemics?
- What is the future of part-time and/or mature higher education - and Birkbeck - in the next 200 years?

The conference will include academic talks of 15-20mins and 35-40mins. Please indicate in your proposal the preferred format of your contribution.

Please send an abstract (up to 300 words) with a short biography via email to **both** organisers (details below) **by 17.00 on Thursday, 30 September 2021**.

Organisers: Jonny Matfin at jmatf01@mail.bbk.ac.uk and Ciarán O’Donohue at codono03@mail.bbk.ac.uk (please use ‘UK2022[Your surname]’ as the email subject/file title).