CGHE Annual Conference 22-23 May 2023
Session Details

PARALLEL SESSION 1 - Graduates, Knowledge and Research

22 May 2023, 2:15pm - 3:15pm (UK)
Chair: Ellen Hazelkorn

CGHE Project 1: How do graduates see the benefits of their degrees a few years after graduation?
Facilitator: Paul Ashwin
The Graduate Experiences of Employability and Knowledge (GEEK) Project examines the experiences of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering graduates from six universities in England, South Africa and the United States of America. In the 'Understanding Student Knowledge and Agency' project, we initially tracked these participants through their undergraduate degrees. In the GEEK project, we are examining how these participants' engagement with their degrees appears to impact on their worldviews and agency, employability and career, and wider social and cultural embeddedness in society once they have graduated. In this paper, we report on how the participants reflect on the benefits of their undergraduate degrees a few years after graduation. It is striking the extent to which these benefits are rooted in the disciplinary knowledge practices of their degrees rather than simply being focused on generic capabilities and the exchange value of holding a degree as is often suggested in public discussions of the value of higher education.

CGHE Project 3: Being a researcher in uncertain times: challenges, opportunities, futures
Facilitator: Alis Oancea
Contributors: James Robson, Gemma Derrick, Xin Xu, Hoonhui Cho
Global research landscapes are undergoing dynamic changes, facing challenges caused by geopolitics, economic tensions and transitions, and new models of research governance and funding. This raises critical questions about the nature of researchers' work and what it means to be a researcher in febrile research contexts. This session, therefore, builds on the CGHE Research on Research project's comparative examination of six research systems and focuses on the meanings, experiences, and future of being a researcher in uncertain times. It brings together expertise from across different sectors and countries to reflect on the current and emerging challenges facing researchers, focusing on identity, careers, practice, and professional development, and the possible ways to build equitable and just research ecosystems in the UK and globally