

# understanding interdisciplinarity theory and practice an international conference

June 12th - June 14th 2012  
Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, UK.

The aim of the meeting is to bring together researchers that have engaged in interdisciplinary projects and those researchers seeking to understand the processes that lead to successful cross-disciplinary collaborations.

The meeting will both showcase high quality research that has emerged from interdisciplinary collaborations and contributions from leading researchers on the theory and practice of interdisciplinary research. Active dialogue will be promoted between the two communities to create increased awareness and understanding of the processes in which they are mutually engaged.

From this understanding, it is hoped to elucidate more clearly the difficulties that are often experienced and the ways in which these can be overcome. Interdisciplinary research can potentially open up important and exciting new fields of research; the meeting aims to identify the approaches that will yield the greatest chance of success in such projects.

The conference seeks papers or posters that address:

- case studies of actual practices and outcomes from projects
- the theory and methods that underpin interdisciplinary working

Closing date for abstracts for the conference is 23rd February 2012. Abstracts should be a maximum of 500 words.

An abstract and participant registration service is available from the conference home page <http://research.shu.ac.uk/engineering-for-life/Conference.html>. If you have any questions or queries regarding the conference please contact our conference coordinator at: [engineeringforlife@shu.ac.uk](mailto:engineeringforlife@shu.ac.uk)

## **Key Note Speakers**

### **Prof. Lizbeth Goodman**

Lizbeth Goodman is the Professor of Education and Chair of Creative Technology Innovation at University College Dublin, where she directs the Irish studios for the SMARTlab's main European base. She also leads the Creative DNA strand of the new Innovation Academy and Alliance between the University College Dublin and Trinity College, Dublin.

### **Prof. Robert Frodeman**

Robert Frodeman is Director of the Center for the Study of Interdisciplinarity and Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies at the University of North Texas. He specializes in environmental philosophy, science policy, and questions concerning interdisciplinarity.

### **Prof. Ann Light**

Ann Light is Professor of Design at Northumbria University her research interests focus on the social implications of networking everything, phenomenological approaches to understanding the use of technology and the sense that people make of it, interactive system design practices, and community/international "development" and the politics of participation in the design of ICT.

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