



Student  
Experience  
Network

## 24/7: The Life of University 24-hour Libraries



Thursday  
September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Information Commons  
University of Sheffield

This one day SRHE Student Experience network event is hosted by CILASS at the University of Sheffield and convened in collaboration with NATCECT. It aims to act as a forum for discussing 24 hour library/study facilities and their growing prevalence in Higher Education Institutions across the United Kingdom. The day is orientated towards lived experience within such places, the discussion of which will be research-led, with contributions examining educational, operational and ludic aspects, all from a number of theoretical perspectives.

The day will take place in the Information Commons at the University of Sheffield, which will be used as the exemplar of such '24-hour libraries'. That the IC prefers to term itself an 'integrated study-space' betrays its ambition; aiming to incorporate library and IT services with social, informal and collaborative spaces. Since its opening in 2007 it has become a key element of the marketing strategy of the University of Sheffield. Its impact on the student experience at Sheffield, real and imagined, is significant.

Does the IC deserve its iconic status? Should such 24-hour spaces be interpreted as examples of the temporal 'squeezing' of learning and be better placed in discourse on the 24 hour society and the commodification of time? Does the IC not legitimise the competitive context of the commercialisation of HE? Above all, is it worth it? How is this 'integrated study-space' used to study? What is its impact on the student experience, does its pedagogic impact justify its costs?

- 10.30 Gather in Collaboratory 2, Information Commons
- 11.00 Introductions
- 11.10 Planning and implementing a 24-hour library (Kath O'Donovan)
- 11.50 Designing the student experience: comparing staff aims and student use of the IC (Katie Fraser and Philippa Levy)
- 12.30 'It's central to my university life!': The IC through students' eyes (a guided tour by Katie Fraser)
- 13.00 Break for lunch
- 14.00 'I.C. Girls' - film presentation and discussion (Krishan Mistry)
- 14.30 All-nighters - immersion in play and study (Matthew Cheeseman)
- 15.10 'Yes, we're even open at Christmas...' What it really means to 'go 24/7' (Alexandra Hunt)
- 15.50 Discussion to close

The day will end with a drink in the nearby University Arms, once used as the Student's Union in Sheffield, right at the other end of the twentieth century student experience.

**Kath O'Donovan** is the Associate Director of Library Services at the University of Sheffield, and was involved in the planning and development of the IC.

**Katie Fraser** is a librarian with a PhD in Learning Sciences. Her MA in Librarianship used the Theory of Change to evaluate the IC as a learning space.

**Philippa Levy** is Professor of Inquiry-based Learning and Teaching (Department of Information Studies) and Academic Director of the Centre for Inquiry-based Learning in the Arts and Social Sciences (CILASS).

**Krishan Mistry** is a student with the The School of Clinical Dentistry at the University of Sheffield. In 2008 he produced a short film about the I.C. which has received over 20,000 views on YouTube.

**Matthew Cheeseman** is a Folklorist specialising in Higher Education. He is writing an ethnography of undergraduate students for his PhD.

**Alex Hunt** has been the Manager of the IC since its opening in 2007.

**There is no fee for attendance though registration is essential as places are limited.**

For more information and registration please contact Matthew Cheeseman: [m.cheeseman@shef.ac.uk](mailto:m.cheeseman@shef.ac.uk)

The Information Commons

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/infocommons/>

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/cilass/learning-spaces/collaboratory2.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD8XykTvDlo>

**CILASS**, Centre for Inquiry-based Learning in the Arts and Social Sciences, is a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, committed to supporting further development and innovation in Inquiry-based learning, with the aim of embedding inquiry at the heart of the student learning experience. CILASS promotes IBL that involves students in discipline-based and inter-disciplinary collaborative inquiries, develops students' information literacy capabilities, and uses information and communications technologies imaginatively to enhance the learning experience.

[www.shef.ac.uk/cilass](http://www.shef.ac.uk/cilass)

**NATCECT**, the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition, is the national repository for material on all aspects of language and cultural tradition in England.

[www.shef.ac.uk/natcect](http://www.shef.ac.uk/natcect)



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

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Next Day Event:

Nottingham University  
24th September  
10.30 – 3.30

**Teaching sociology through students' biographies: new pedagogies for the 'oppressed' or oppressive technologies of the self?**

A day to consult with potential users of the ESRC-funded 'Pedagogic Quality and Inequality in Undergraduate Degrees' Research Project, offered in collaboration with the Centre for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics (C-SAP) and SRHE's Student Experience Network.

Details and booking: [Monica.Mclean@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Monica.Mclean@nottingham.ac.uk)

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University of Greenwich  
October 27<sup>th</sup>

**The Student Experience of Business Studies**

Hosted by the Business School of the University of Greenwich  
Further details to follow.

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ALL THESE EVENTS ARE FREE!

BUT BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT AS THEY MAY BE  
OVERSUBSCRIBED

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