

## CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES AND IDEAS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Universities and civic engagement- social purpose revisited for the  
21st century?

**Professor Maria Slowey, Dublin City University, Ireland**

**Monday 20 April**  
12.30 - 2.00pm

Barbara Falk Room  
1st Floor  
CSHE  
715 Swanston St  
**All welcome**

To register please email  
Adeline Sze , CSHE  
[asze@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:asze@unimelb.edu.au)



*Maria Slowey is Vice-President for Learning Innovation at Dublin City University, and currently a visitor at the CSHE. From 1992 to 2004 she was Professor and Director of Adult and Continuing Education at Glasgow University.*

*She has acted as consultant to a range of international bodies on adult and lifelong learning, including OECD, the EC, UNESCO, Council of Europe and the European Training Foundation. Policy engagements include membership of the Independent Committee of Inquiry on Student Finance established by the Scottish Parliament, academic adviser to the Scottish Parliament Committee on Lifelong Learning, the UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) Sub-Panels on Continuing Education (1996 and 2001) and the Research Priorities Board of the Economic and Social Research Council. She is a Governing Council member of the Society for Research into Higher Education.*

This presentation explores a number of the key factors which lie behind the current (re)surgence of consideration given to the role of universities in relation to regional and civic engagement. Sometimes characterised as the 'third mission' of higher education, the ways in which this mission

become manifest are not only varied, but may pull in rather contradictory directions depending on which aspect of community is being prioritised. Specifically, this presentation will examine the nature of engagement with the broader adult population, highlighting some of the strategic and

organisational challenges which this poses for institutions of higher education. The example of a particular initiative of an Irish university DCU in the Community will be drawn upon for illustrative purposes.