The third conference organised by the Centre for Excellence in Preparing for Academic Practice will be held at St Anne’s College, University of Oxford, from 13 to 15 December 2009. The event will be focused on the development of holistic depictions of academic careers - ones conceptualized as more than teaching and/or research. We seek a wide range of creative responses to this idea, but initial suggestions include academic practice as career development, mentoring, academic climate, relationships between academic work and wider life, academic writing and discourse, and emotions or affect in academic work.

There will be two strands to which submissions can be directed: a) Research, and b) Evaluation of Practice(s).

In addition to keynotes, there will also be semi-formal discussion sessions, addressing subjects of particular shared interest; a private reception for early career academics (doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, research staff and new lecturers); and hopefully a third strand – narrative histories – in which those imagining or beginning academic careers reflect on their own experiences and offer their distinct perspectives on Academic Practice; this will probably be run on an invitation basis.

Papers for the conference will be invited from 1 December 2008. The deadline for proposal submissions will be June 1 2009 with decisions reported back by August 1 2009.

We are also inviting individual narratives and reflections on Academic Practice, which we hope to build into a less formalised section of the conference.

Numbers will be limited to around 120 as the feedback from the two previous conferences has emphasized how much this intimacy is valued. It is intended that there will be 25-30 presentations over the three day period.

We also intend offering at least one free ‘alternative’ tour of Oxford (City and University), with architectural highlights, insights into student and academic life, sneak peaks, and insider information on hideaway venues etc.

Questions about the event should be addressed in the first instance to Richard Arnold, +44 1865 286828, or Richard.Arnold@learning.ox.ac.uk.

Further details of the conference, including proposal forms, are available at http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/academicpractice.