SRHE Networks-Guidelines for proposals for new SRHE Networks

A The role of the SRHE Networks and appointment of convenors.

A1. SRHE Networks are established under the auspices of the SRHE Research & Development Committee and are seen as one of the most important areas of SRHE activity. It is through the Networks that the Society connects most directly with researchers and their work.
They provide the primary means of bringing together researchers (whether SRHE members or not) in special interest groups, to meet with fellow researchers with related interests and experiences to share research issues, exchange ideas and review current thinking and new developments.

A2. Through their convenors the Networks are represented in all areas of the Society's work and their expertise is relied on in many areas, particularly in relation to planning and conceptualising the SRHE conference, advising on the subject areas for the Annual SRHE Research Awards, as peer reviewers in a variety of roles and in contributing to consultations and other policy influencing opportunities. The capacity of our Network Convenors to be seen as leaders in their field with a broad knowledge of the relevant research is therefore of considerable importance.

A3. Proposals for new Networks and the appointments of all convenors are overseen by the R&D Committee on a formal basis and decisions taken have to be recommended to SRHE Governing Council for formal approval and acceptance. The Society support for each Network is substantial. It includes significant direct financial support as well as substantial input from SRHE staff and other SRHE resources, including event management, publicity and marketing and web presence. From time to time funding is also made available to support some network events at the SRHE Annual Conference. Reputationally and financially it is very important to the Society that each Network is well run and that the quality of events and all Network outputs is high.

B Proposals for new Networks/new Network convenors

B1. The Society currently has 10 very active networks (listed below).
In considering proposals for new networks a primary consideration will be the extent to which the proposal relates to a research area not already covered within the remit of an existing Network or capable of being taken up by an existing Network. Early discussions with the Society Director will help identify the likely level of support for a proposal.

B2. Where the Society is seeking new Convenors for an existing Network the same criteria and the submission of a formal proposal is sought as applies to applications to establish a new Network. The Society's preference is to have a minimum of two convenors for each Network. In our experience this partnership approach works best. It provides for a sharing of perspectives and ideas, shares the workload and provides a basis for succession planning so that, ideally, there is no wholesale turnover of convenors at any one time.

B3. A formal written proposal is required for consideration by the SRHE Research and Development Committee for any new Network or for a new team member to join an existing network.

C Proposal for a new Network or for a new team of convenors to take on an existing SRHE Network

The proposal (maximum 4 sides of A4) should contain the following elements:

C1. Title of proposed network

C2. Give the name(s) of proposed convenor and (as appropriate) co convenors with brief biographic background for each convenor on relevant experience in terms of research work and convening of events. Mention membership of other groups if relevant or plans to coordinate with other SIGS or their equivalent.

C3. Outline of the intended purpose of the network: who will it aim to reach, what will it aim to achieve and who will it aim to draw into membership.

C4. Summary of the issues and research topics the Network would propose to explore in its remit

C5. Outline for a launch event designed to address a particular research topic and also to bring in a constituent group of researchers to the Network. Include suggestions for speakers and topics

C6. Outline of the likely constituent group for the network, nationally and internationally, and the steps planned to form a Network, mentioning other current contacts. How will possible new network members be targeted?

C7. Outline 2/3 possible events for the Network to show a forward plan of activities. What topics might be addressed and which speakers invited?

C8. If it is intended that this Network might have any specific outputs such as publications or contributions to conferences mention these plans.

C9. The SRHE Annual Conference programme includes a series of research based seminars led by network convenors [Research Directions] which aim to address some key issues in the research area for each network and engage researchers in an interactive discussion. If the network has plans to lead one of these sessions then possible research topics and titles should be included.

D Proposal for a new Convenor to join an existing Network Group of Convenors.

The proposal (maximum 2 sides of A4) should contain the following elements:

D1. Title of Network

D2. Give the name(s) of proposed convenor with brief biographic background for each convenor on relevant experience in terms of research work and convening of events. Mention membership of other groups or SIGS or plans to coordinate with other SIGS or their equivalent.

D3. Outline any areas of specific expertise, experience and interest relevant to the network. Include details of research contacts and networks which might become engaged with the the SRHE Network, and international as well national engagement

D4. Outline original ideas for future events for the Network to address. Include suggestions for speakers and research topics.

Next steps
The proposal for a new network should be sent to the SRHE Director Clare Loughlin-Chow (clare.loughlin-chow@srhe.ac.uk) who will advise on the timing of presentation to SRHE R&D Committee and keep you in touch with progress.

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SRHE Current Networks 2025

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