

## Education and Citizenship in Modern Scotland A one-day conference, Friday 16 January 2009

Hosted by the School of Law and Social Sciences, Glasgow Caledonian University, and the Department of Economic and Social History, University of Glasgow

### Venue: Glasgow Caledonian University

The election of a new Scottish Government in 2007 has had significant implications for educational policy north of the border, and has highlighted the distinctiveness of the educational system and priorities at all levels in Scotland. The Scottish experience has had a powerful influence on wider debates on education across the UK, as well as highlighting the increasingly anomalous and fragile place of Scotland within the Union. At the same time, 'citizenship education' has been actively promoted, across the UK, often within a rhetorical framework of 'Britishness'.

The history of education for citizenship has been widely explored, but the historical context is often missing from debates on the issue in a Scottish context. Yet it is clear that the history of the education system itself has played a significant role in the determination of *Scottish* national identity. National pride has centred on historically high levels of literacy, the early spread of parochial schooling, the relative openness of Scotland's universities, and so on. Many of these features of Scottish educational history have been interrogated, and often dismissed, by historians, but the persistence of the 'myth' of the superiority of the Scottish system demonstrates the power of education in constructing nationhood. It is also the most important arena for the fostering of citizenship. At this one-day conference, we will examine these issues and others, in historical and contemporary contexts. We invite proposals for 20-minute papers, and welcome contributions covering all periods of Scottish history.



#### Possible themes include:

- education and national identity
- citizenship education in schools
- the curriculum: history, religious education, science
- adult education and citizenship
- education in the voluntary sector
- physical education
- universities and student politics

Of course, this list is by no means exhaustive. We are keen to have papers that provide contemporary and historical perspectives, and would particularly welcome papers that take a comparative approach.

The keynote plenary speaker will be Pamela Munn, Professor of Curriculum Research at Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh. She has been a member of a number of national committees which have aimed to influence policy developments in education. She chaired the committee on Education for Citizenship in Scotland and the Advisory Group on the Implementation Programme. She was a member of the Discipline Task Group, of the Curriculum Review Group, and of the Second Stage Review of Initial Teacher Education.

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If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference, please submit a title and abstract (up to 250 words) by 23 October 2008, to Mark Freeman (M.Freeman@arts.gla.ac.uk).