

Call for Papers

Modern Apprenticeships: Widening Their Scope, Sustaining Their Quality

7th Research Conference of the International Network for Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP)

October 2nd-3rd 2017, Washington, DC

Co-sponsors include

American Institute for Innovative Apprenticeship, Urban Institute, Research Network in Vocational Education and Training (VETNET), TVET Research Group (I:BB), University of Bremen, Germany, and University of Zurich, Switzerland.

The International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP) invites contributions to its 7th international research conference. It will address several topics on apprenticeship, including:

- Engaging employers in apprenticeships
- What explains trends and patterns in apprenticeship across countries?
- Apprenticeships and universities: Substitutes or Complements?
- Occupational standards and assessing competence
- Occupational and organisational identity / commitment research
- Costs and benefits of apprenticeships
- Governance, including stakeholders' roles and responsibilities
- Innovative teaching and learning in VET

General guidelines

The conference organizers welcome contributions based on original research that facilitate knowledge transfer to regional, national and international policy-makers and actors in accordance with best international standards. Contributors can propose a single paper or a panel of papers consisting of a 3-4 papers. Papers and panels will be selected for presentation on the basis of the recommendation of an academic review panel. Contributors are asked to submit a two-page outline of their paper that includes:

- the conference topic to which the paper most closely relates, or specify 'open topic';
- the research question, a brief overview of the research methodology, and a brief summary of the findings (around 700 words for single papers and 1,500 words for a paper panel);
- a provisional table of contents; and
- a brief bibliography.

The paper proposal should describe the issues addressed in the paper and their relationship to the conference topics. Outlines should be sent to the [organizers by March 20, 2017](#). In order to permit a blind review process, contact information for the authors should be provided on a separate sheet. Once the paper is approved for presentation, authors must submit a 2,000 word summary of their paper by May 15th 2017 in order for the paper to be included in the conference volume.

Each session will address a variety of topics. The following questions are illustrative.

Topic 1: Engaging firms in apprenticeships

How do apprenticeship systems in various countries attract employers to offer apprenticeships? What are the impacts of alternative marketing approaches, of financial incentives to employers, and of regulations?

Topic 2: What explains recent trends and patterns in apprenticeship levels across countries?

The role of apprenticeship varies widely across countries. Are recent trends narrowing the gap in apprenticeship penetration? Who is eligible to undertake apprenticeships? What is the role of OECD, ILO, European Commission, and other national and international organizations in promoting apprenticeship?

Topic 3: Apprenticeships and Universities: Substitutes or Complements?

Is the attraction of and support for university education displacing apprenticeship among young people? Are colleges and universities expanding the occupational content of their curricula? How do post-secondary institutions collaborating with employers to build and expand work-based components of skill development?

Topic 4: Occupational Standards and/or Assessing Competence

What are the strengths and weaknesses of systems for creating occupational standards and assessing competence? What level of occupational specificity work well in apprenticeship systems? Are there trade-offs between speed and flexibility vs. comprehensiveness and quality?

Topic 5: Occupational and organizational identity / commitment research

In what ways do apprenticeships promote occupational and/or organizational identity? Do apprentices see themselves as part of a “community of practice”? What are the effects on retention in the occupations and in the organizations providing training?

Topic 6: Costs and benefits of apprenticeships

What are the financial returns to apprenticeship for workers, employers, and governments? What new studies shed light on these returns? How do accounting systems capture apprenticeship investments and returns?

Topic 7: Governance, including stakeholders' roles and responsibilities

How does the varying roles of government agencies, schools, employers, and intermediary organizations (such as chambers of commerce) influence the scale and quality of apprenticeships?

Topic 8: Innovative teaching and learning in VET

The heart of an apprenticeship is the purposeful learning that takes place; without it, an apprenticeship is just a job. What strategies for formal and informal learning, both on and off the job, are effective in apprenticeships? How do these differ among countries and industries?

Conference location, organisation and fees

INAP 2017 will take place in Washington, DC, USA at the US Bureau of Labor Statistics adjacent to Union Station. Detailed travel information will be provided by the organisers in due course, and initial enquiries can be made to inap2017@gmail.com. The working language is English. The registration fee for the conference is \$250. Each participant will receive a volume of conference proceedings that includes summaries of the papers.

The International conference committee includes: Prof. Robert I. Lerman, American University (Head of Committee); Prof. Thomas Deissinger, Universität Konstanz; Dr. Ludger Deitmer, ITB; Dr. Silke Fischer, Zurich University of Teacher Education; Prof Philipp Gonon, University of Zurich; Jo Hargreaves, National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Adelaide, Australia; Ursel Hauschildt, Bremen University; Prof. Felix Rauner, Bremen University; Prof. Erica Smith, Federation University Australia, Prof. Bonnie Watt, University of Alberta; and Prof. Zhiqun Zhao, Beijing Normal University.

Paper proposals should be handed in at: inap2017@gmail.com