

INVITATION

Monday 21 November 2011 The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP

By 2025 Scotland will be a world-leading learning nation: Learning in context of the systems that characterise our society

How should Scotland align its education system and approach to learning and skills with the rapidly changing demands of the labour market in an era when our society and all its interconnected systems are being buffeted by effects of globalization that are creating uncertainty, insecurity and massive social change?

On all fronts there is increasing evidence of the inadequacy of our current aims, values and societal arrangements. Too many people are excluded from meaningful work, too many are failed by the education system, too much energy and investment goes to waste.

Today's societal systems have evolved from myriad social and economic forces. No leader or group of individuals designed them nor can remodel them for the 21st century. We, as a learning nation, need to take this responsibility, drawing on Adam Smith's vision of a society continually learning and acting through the agency of all its citizens.

The main aim of this conference is to bring together and exchange knowledge among a wide range of individuals and organizations currently active in promoting values, thinking and practice fit for the future. Scotland needs to develop a **shared vision** of an 'aspirational future'.

To stimulate our discussions we are delighted to welcome and benefit from the erudition of:

Guy Standing, Professor of Economic Security, Bath University, whose latest book, *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class*, powerfully argues that to address the growing numbers of people facing lives of insecurity we need to reconstruct the concept of work.

Dr John Raven, who has published widely on the values, aspirations and knowledge of what makes for an effective educational system and the major limitations of our making it a reality.

Jim Mather, Professor at Strathclyde University, whose business and political acumen will help facilitate our discussions.

Programme of the Day

- 10.30 – 10.35 **Sir Andrew Cubie**, The Goodison Group/Scotland's Futures Forum Project: *The Vision of Scotland becoming a World-Leading Learning Nation by 2025*
- 10.35 – 10.40 **Jim Mather**, Professor, Strathclyde University: *Welcome and introduction to the day*
- 10.40 – 10.50 **Gordon Hall & Mike McCarron**, *Unreasonable Learners: The absolute need to think differently*
- 10.50 – 11.40 **Guy Standing**, Professor of Economic Security, Bath University: *From The Precariat to Occupational Citizenship*
- 11.40 – 12.40 Delegate led discussions – *Towards Scotland 2025: Ideas in Practice*
- 12.40 – 1.00 Plenary Discussion
- 1.00 – 1.45 Lunch and informal networking
- 1.45 – 2.15 **John Raven**: *Our Education System as a System*
- 2.15 – 3.15 Delegate led discussions – *Towards world-leading learning, education and skills over the next 15 years: Ideas in Practice*
- 3.15 – 3.45 **Jim Mather**: Plenary Discussion & Summing-up

If you wish to attend this event, please register at events@ggis.org.uk. Places are limited and will be given on a first come basis.

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Biographies

Professor Guy Standing

Guy Standing is currently Professor of Economic Security at the University of Bath. He was previously Director of the Socio-Economic Security Programme of the International Labour Organisation, where he worked for 30 years. He has been involved in numerous research and advisory projects, in developed and developing countries and, in the early 1990s, in the “transition” countries of Eastern Europe. He has written and edited books on labour economics, labour market policy, unemployment, labour market flexibility, structural adjustment policies and social protection policy.

Recent books include: *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class* (London and New York, Bloomsbury Academic, 2011); *Social Income and Insecurity: A Study in Gujarat*, with Jeemol Unni, Renana Jhabvala and Uma Rani (New Delhi, Routledge, 2010); *Work after Globalization: Building Occupational Citizenship* (Cheltenham, Edward Elgar, 2009); and *Promoting Income Security as a Right: Europe and North America* (London, Anthem Press, 2005). Dr. Standing was also coordinating editor and main writer of the ILO's *Economic Security for a Better World*, a global report issued in 2004.

Dr. Standing is a founder member and co-president of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), an international non-governmental organisation that promotes a citizenship income for all. He is currently involved in several unconditional cash transfer pilot schemes in India.

Dr John Raven

John Raven has, for just over 50 years, been involved in policy evaluation and the development of the tools and arrangements required for running society effectively.

Much of his work has been in the educational area, the evaluation of socio-economic policy (especially in relation to sustainability) and the evaluation and improvement of the politico-bureaucratic structures and arrangements required for giving teeth to information.

The outcomes of his work in the educational area are summarised in *Managing Education for Effective Schooling: The Most Important Problem is to Come to Terms with Values*. (Royal Fireworks Press, Unionville, New York [but also available from the author].) His more general work is in: *The New Wealth of Nations: The Societal Learning Arrangements Needed for a Sustainable Society*. (Bloomfield Books, Sudbury, Suffolk, but also available from the author.)

A complete list of his publications can be found at www.JohnRaven.co.uk. Another website, www.eyeonsoctey.co.uk, is devoted to exploring ways of taking the work forward.

Dr. Raven has been a consultant to the World Bank and the governments of Scotland, England and Wales, the Republic of Ireland, Pakistan, and China. With colleagues, he has conducted research in the USA, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, India, Malaysia, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary.

Professor Jim Mather

Jim Mather is a Chartered Accountant, who worked for IBM before founding the ComputerLand franchise in Scotland.

From 1999-2003, he was the SNP's National Treasurer and in 2003 he was elected to the Scottish Parliament: re-elected in 2007 as MSP for Argyll & Bute & appointed Minister for Enterprise Energy & Tourism in the SNP Administration of 2007 – a portfolio he held until he stepped down from front-line politics in 2011.

Having promoted and applied Systems Thinking, Mediation, Scenario Planning and Business Transformation techniques with his Party & in Government – he is now applying those skills in this next phase as chairman and non-executive director of software companies, consultant, speaker, facilitator and visiting professor at Strathclyde University.