Integrating Early Career Computer Science Academics into their Research and Subject Communities.

Anonymous

ABSTRACT

A vibrant Computer Science Education (CSE) Community of Practice is emerging in the United Kingdom and Ireland (UK&I), promoted by national and international professional body/learned society specialist interest groups and supported through a number of CSE research and practice conferences [1]. This workshop explores how this community of practice addresses the needs of new computer science academics to UK&I higher education and what opportunities there are to bring together and develop new academics as a part of this community. The complex and contesting demands of teaching, research and managing (courses, modules and their development) in UK&I higher education make the early career of an academic challenging and potentially lonely [2]. Typically, initial mentoring of early career academics is via the host Department providing support for working towards a Fellowship of Higher Education Academy [3].

At this workshop attendees will participate in a qualitative research exercise and develop a proposal to further promote the value of early career academics engaging with CSE research to enhance and develop their own research activities. In particular, addressing:

1. What current and future opportunities are there to establish a national mentorship scheme for early career academics. What format would such a scheme take and how can it be used to facilitate the development of CSE research.

2. How can the subject community establish, develop and support a buddying scheme for early career academics. How can such a network be developed to stimulate the growth of CSE research.

3. How can we continue to raise the profile of early career academics engaging in CSE research.

The workshop will consist of two hours, on-line remote activity. By attending, early career computer science academics will gain a better appreciation for the opportunities to engage and obtain support for UK&I CSE research community. They would have the opportunity to define, shape, engage and contribute to the of a national mentoring and buddying scheme. Experienced academics will gain a greater appreciation of the developmental needs of their early career colleagues and how this augments their research, teaching and managerial roles. All participants will have the opportunity to help shape a proposal for enhanced support for early career academics.

CCS CONCEPTS

Social and Professional Topics - Computing Education

KEYWORDS

computer science education, mentoring, buddying, community inclusion.

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