

ResNet Lunchtime Networking Event

'What can ResNet do for you?'

Tuesday 9th February 2010

Collation of ideas and answers to questions posed at the meeting



QUESTIONS

1. Which of the ResNet aims are most important to you?

- Bringing women together
- Inspiration, support and information
- Promoting career development
- Info and support
- Networking
- Inspiration, information and support
- Providing inspiration, information and support
- Providing a place where women with gender-related problems or discrimination can come to discuss them and for support
- "Togetherness" Inspiration, information and support.

2) Which of the ResNet aims is least important to you?

- Career development
- Bringing together women researchers with common interests
- Raising awareness – we don't need our awareness raising

3) Are there additional aims we should add to the list?

- Raise profile of ResNet i.e. Broadview (life story), social element, promoting broad nature of ResNet
- Promoting different opportunities

4) What factors influence your attendance at ResNet events?

- Being near to work area – nature of speakers, relevance to me
- Being available when the events happen
- Friends and relationships
- Availability of time
- Career development
- Free lunch
- Meeting like-minded women
- Lunch

- Location – closer to my desk
- Topic – whether relevant to me personally
- Time availability, day of event (part-time work)
- How busy we are. Who is speaking. Location of meeting

5) How can we increase participation in ResNet?

- Ongoing online connections between meetings – blogs, facebook, twitter, forums
- School based ResNet 'Reps' i.e for point of contact
- Get members to 'sponsor' a new member
- Have an info session at faculty PhD induction for ResNet
- Prior notice of events
- Perhaps each school could have a specific ResNet contact
- Poor attendance due to poor advertising
- Evening social events e.g. payday drinks, cinema

6) How can we increase participation of specific groups of women or is this unimportant?

- Participation of younger women e.g. 3rd years undergrads PhD students – online communications
- Specific groups: younger women, facebook, 3rd year undergrads
- Find out which groups are under-represented and find out why!
- Very important, but very hard. We think personal invitation is the best way encourage people to attend – IFR JIC speakers

7) Should we invite men to all, some or none of the ResNet events?

- Males? Not generally but certain events/speakers
- At least some. It raises awareness of gender issues and career workshops are not always gender-specific (no need to actually recruit).
- None
- No
- ResNet should be a safe place for women. Only feminist males would come anyway?

8) ResNet meetings have usually been at lunchtime – is this a good time for you? What would work better?

- Lunch is the best time
- Works ok, there isn't an obvious better time.
- Lunchtime is good.
- Yes, lunchtime is good

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR IDEAS FOR:

9) Networking meetings.

- Share what we are doing in research – life stories mapping route to research
- "Speed dating" events – moving tables every 10 minutes or so.
- Workshops can also have an element of networking
- Linking into larger networks
- Lets define and discuss gender discrimination
- We would like to see a meeting on women only funding opportunities
- Networking with similar groups at other institutions e.g. Cambridge

10) Inspiring local and national speakers.

- Inspiration from within the group not 'superstars'.
- Celebrating our own successes (UEA women).
- Inspiring or interesting? Do speakers need to inspire or could they challenge?
- Any women who have forged careers in defiance of discrimination
- Barbara Young
- Tracey Emin
- Talks from recent PhD graduates – role models in current economic climate
- Women who have 'made it' or those not actively searching for support

11) Career development sessions.

- Pool the expertise within the group – top tips, post-its.
- Themed lunches to exchange career tips
- Post-its with top tips from the group
- It's hard not to overlap with CSED
- How we can help each other i.e. do I know someone who could help you?

12) Equal opportunities events.

- Specific outside speaker with key knowledge
- Outside speakers with specific knowledge
- Provide specific advice/sign-posting re discrimination

A list of ResNet events is shown below.

2/11/09 Dr. Anne Tiburtius (Notre Dame High School, Norwich) "Back to School!"

4/6/09 Dr. Susan Aldridge (Aldridge Associates, Freelance science writing and editing) "Write away: How to become a science journalist"

19/1/09 ResNet New Year event with Ruth Goodall (former Head of UEA's Centre for Staff Education and Development) who was responsible for getting ResNET started in Feb 2000.

Oct-Dec 2008. Personal and Professional Development Programme for Women Researchers. 3 x 3 h workshops sessions with trainer, facilitator and coach Stephanie Spink who helps people develop the confidence and skills to find their true potential and the communication skills to achieve it.

8/10/08 On being myself. 5/11/08 Gaining control of my life. 4/12/08 Presenting with confidence

7/7/08 Prof Jacquie Burgess (Head of School of Environmental Sciences, UEA) "Breaking through:

15/5/08 Dr Sara Connolly (Senior Lecturer in Economics, UEA) "Moving down: women's part-time employment and occupational downgrading in Britain"

30/10/08 Women Researchers' Networking Event ~ Discovery Café. Developing conversations with other women researchers about.....work-life balance, inspirational work and issues that affect women in the research workplace.

Please let us know:

13) Which of these meetings you enjoyed the most and why.

No responses

14) Which of these meetings you enjoyed the least and why.

No responses

15) Should we repeat any of these events/courses.

- PPD 3x3hr workshop
- Jacquie Burgess
- Discovery Cafe

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO JOIN THE ResNet COMMITTEE?

Committee numbers are at an all time low. If you would be willing please leave you name and contact details or better still talk to one of the current committee members here today.

- There were 3 volunteers who were all attendees at this meeting. They are:

Tori Cann

School of Humanities, University of East Anglia.

Linda Birt

School of Allied Health Professions, University of East Anglia.

Sarah Field

School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia

We look forward to your input to ResNet!!

More committee members would still be very welcome!!

Please contact:

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