

## **ESRC Festival of Social Science University of Sheffield**

### **School of Education**

#### **Event 2. 'Responsible' Learners: Stories of Adults' Learning Careers**

Speakers: Professor Sue Webb and Dr Simon Warren

**Monday 9th March 2009 – 5.00pm to 6.30pm**

**University of Sheffield, School of Education, 388 Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2JA**

This paper presents and discusses some research designed to explore the nature of the 'responsible learner' of policy discourse. Through analysis of recent European Union and English lifelong learning policies we identify a discourse of the individualised 'responsible learner' and we examine how the policy effects are played out by learners, teachers/lecturers, educational institutions and employers in the sector of post compulsory education and training. The focus is on understanding what the 'responsible learner' looks like in the context of a study of adults choosing to return to formal education. The presentation will focus specifically on the decision-making process and what is called the 'learning career' of one adult learner.