

# **Conflict Resolution Research: A Collaborative Workshop for Academics and Practitioners**

**University of Strathclyde, James Weir Building, Room M415  
10am-3pm, 20 November 2009 (Lunch included)**

*A joint project of the Scottish Mediation Network's Forum on the Academic Study of Mediation and University of Strathclyde Law School*

## **Introduction**

Conflict resolution, particularly mediation, is undergoing a period of development in Scotland. The Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council in 2006, the European Directive on Cross-Border Mediation in 2008 and the ACAS Code of Practice in 2009 all endorsed the importance of alternative or proportionate dispute resolution. The forthcoming Gill Review of Civil Justice is expected to make similar recommendations. On a practical level mediation's use embraces the criminal law, neighbourhood and housing issues, families and children, education and environmental disputes. However, much of the writing and research underpinning the discipline emanates from other jurisdictions, most notably the USA and England & Wales.

This day workshop will provide a unique opportunity to address the lack of Scottish research and writing on mediation. By bringing together academics and practitioners in a collaborative event, the workshop will address content, access and methodology, with the intention of inspiring research that is practical, achievable and academically rigorous.

## **AIM**

**To act as a catalyst for new research by enabling collaborative conversations between mediation practitioners and academics**

## **OUTPUTS**

- 1. Improved links between researchers and mediation providers**
- 2. Support knowledge transfer between both groups leading to**
  - a. The generation of innovative research and theoretical work**
  - b. The broadening of the research agenda into new areas**
- 3. Contribute a distinctively Scottish perspective to national and international debates about mediation**

## **Who is it for?**

**From the mediation community:** experienced practitioners and managers in a variety of fields, including family, community, commercial, restorative justice, Additional Support for Learning and environmental.

**From the academic community:** researchers from a variety of backgrounds including law, psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics and business.

This is the first such event in Scotland. In order to ensure a productive day, numbers will be limited to forty participants.

*The day will be facilitated by Charlie Irvine, Chair of the Scottish Mediation Network's Forum on the Academic Study of Mediation and a Visiting Lecturer at University of Strathclyde Law School. It will be an interactive event and will create opportunities for those with an interest in specific mediation areas to make links with researchers from a range of disciplines.*