

Dr Abigail Powell

Research Associate – Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), UNSW

Abigail joined the Social Policy Research Centre in February 2009, having previously worked as a researcher at Loughborough University in the UK. Since joining SPRC, Abigail has worked on the NSW Health Carers Action Plan Evaluation Framework, the Independent evaluation of headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, and the State of Australia's Young People Report for the Office for Youth, DEEWR. Abigail is currently working on an ARC Linkage project: Trends in Time, investigating empirical trends in work and family time.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social policy, equal opportunities, gender, higher education, work/life balance, identity.

EDUCATION

PhD (part-time), 2004-2009, Loughborough University

The (Un) Balancing Act: The impact of culture on women engineering students' gendered and professional identities. The thesis is available to download at: <http://handle.unsw.edu.au/1959.4/40097>

MA Research Methods (Social Policy), 2001-2002, The University of Nottingham

BA (Hons) Social and Political Studies; 2:1, 1998-2001, The University of Sheffield

EMPLOYMENT

2009-onwards University of New South Wales

Research Associate, Social Policy Research Centre

Abigail has worked on a number of projects at SPRC including: the NSW Health Carers Action Plan Evaluation Framework, the Independent evaluation of headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, the State of Australia's Young People Report for the Office for Youth, DEEWR and Trends in Time, an ARC funded research project.

2004-2008 Loughborough University

2006-2008 Research Associate, Department of Civil & Building Engineering

This post was funded by the European Commission to explore Women in Construction Scientific Research ([WOMEN-CORE](#) project) and was a collaboration between six partner organisations in five European countries. Abigail's role involved managing one of the main components of the project and collaborating with project partners on research design and analysis, including at several overseas project meetings. Abigail also had responsibility for data collection and dissemination within the UK.

2004-2006 Research Associate, Department of Social Sciences

This position was funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council to investigate women engineering students' workplace experiences and the impact of these on their career intentions. Abigail managed the research on a day-to-day basis, was responsible for data collection and analysis, and have disseminated the findings widely.

2002-2004 Research Officer, Lincolnshire County Council

This post involved analysing and disseminating the 2001 UK Census results and other demographic statistics within the local authority and externally to partner organisations.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Research Skills: Abigail is experienced in the use of quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis, having undertaken paper-based and online questionnaires, semi-structured interviews and focus groups. She is also experienced in using SPSS and NVivo to aid analysis.

Consultancy: In 2006/2007 Abigail worked with colleagues on a contract for the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology to undertake a critical analysis of current and existing literature addressing the impact of organisational cultures on women professionals employed in science, engineering and technology.

Review Work: Abigail is a journal reviewer for *Social Policy and Society*, *Construction Management and Economics*, *Engineering, Construction and Architectural Management* and the *International Journal of Gender, Science and Technology*. She has also written book reviews for the *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* and the *Journal of Gender Studies*.

Teaching: For four years (2005-2008) Abigail co-taught the 'Crime and Social Welfare: Policy in Practice' first year undergraduate module in the Department of Social Sciences at Loughborough University.

Research Seminars: Abigail is currently part of the seminar coordination team at SPRC. Previously, Abigail organised the Women and Gender studies group research seminars at Loughborough University.

Secondment: In 2006 Abigail worked with the EngCETL (Engineering Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning) at Loughborough University for four months exploring the industrial placement experience of engineering students.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Papers

Powell, A., Hassan, T., Dainty, A. and Carter, C. (2009) Note: Exploring Gender Differences in Construction Research: A European perspective. *Construction Management and Economics*, 27 (9): 803-807. [\(A\)](#)

Powell, A., Bagilhole, B. and Dainty, A. (2009) How Women Engineers Do and Undo Gender: Consequences for gender equality. *Gender, Work and Organization*, 16 (4): 411-428. [\(A\)](#)

Sang, K.J.C., Ison, S., Dainty, A. and **Powell, A.** (2009) Anticipatory Socialisation Amongst Architects: A qualitative exploration. *Education + Training*, 51 (4): 309-321. [\(A*\)](#)

Powell, A., Bagilhole, B.M. and Dainty, A. (2006) The Problem of Women's Assimilation into UK Engineering Cultures: Can critical mass work? *Equal Opportunities International*, 25 (8): 688-699. **Highly Commended Winner at the Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2007.** [\(C\)](#)

Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.,** Dainty, A. and Neale, R. (2005) The UK Engineering Professions: Women Students' Perspectives. *International Journal of Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations*, 5 (1): 109-116. [\(C\)](#)

Powell, A., Bagilhole, B., Dainty, A. and Neale, R. (2004) Does the Engineering Culture in UK Higher Education Advance Women's Careers. *Equal Opportunities International*, 23 (7/8): 21-38. (C)

Book chapters

Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.** and Dainty, A.R.J. (2008) What is it about UK Engineering Higher Education (HE) that Deters Women from an Engineering Career? In: E. Oleksy, A. Peto and B. Waaldijk (Eds.) *Gender and Citizenship in a Multicultural Context*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang. ISBN: 3631561966.

Powell, A., Bagilhole, B. and Dainty, A. (2007) The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Women Engineering Students' Experiences of UK Higher Education. In: M. Mattis and R. Burke (Eds.) *Women and minorities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics: Upping the numbers*, pp. 47-70. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. ISBN: 1845428889.

Reports

Muir, K., **Powell, A.,** Patulny, R., Flaxman, S., McDermott, S., Oprea, I., Gendera, S., Vespignani, J., Sitek, T., Abello, D. and Katz, I. (2009) *headspace evaluation report. Independent evaluation of headspace: the National Youth Mental Health Foundation*. SPRC Report 19/09. ISBN: 978-0-7334-2831-9.

Muir, K., Mullan, K., **Powell, A.,** Flaxman, S., Thompson, D. and Griffiths, M. (2009) *State of Australia's Young People: A report on the social, economic, health and family lives of young people*. Report for Office for Youth, DEEWR. Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW.

Powell, A., Muir, K., Gendera, S., Hamilton, M., and Sitek, T. (2009) *NSW Carers Action Plan Evaluation Framework*. SPRC Report. Report prepared for NSW Health. Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW.

Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.,** Barnard, S. and Dainty, A. (2007) *Researching Cultures in Science, Engineering and Technology: An analysis of current and past literature*. Research Report Series for UKRC No.7. ISBN: 978-1-905831-24-1. Also available at: <http://www.ukrc4setwomen.org/>

Powell, A., Bagilhole, B., Dainty, A. and Neale, R. (2006) *Research Briefing - Encounters with Engineering: First experiences of women students*. Bradford: UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology. Also available at: <http://www.ukrc4setwomen.org/>

Refereed Conference Papers

Powell, A., Hassan, T., Dainty, A. and Carter, C. (2008) *The Under-representation of Women in European Construction Research*. In: A. Dainty (Ed.) Proceedings of the ARCOM 24th Annual Conference, 1-3 Sept 2008, Cardiff, UK. ISBN: 978-0-9552390-1-4.

Powell, A., Hassan, T., Dainty, A. and Carter, C. (2007) *Strengthening Women's Participation in Construction Research in Europe*. In: D. Boyd (Ed.) Proceedings of the ARCOM 23rd Annual Conference, 3-5 Sept 2007, Belfast, UK. ISBN: 978-0-9552390-0-7.

Powell, A., Bagilhole, B., Dainty, A. and Neale, R. (2005) *Does Higher Education in the UK prepare women engineering students for the transition to paid work?* In: Z.J. Pudlowski (Ed.) Proceedings of the 8th UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education, Bringing Engineering Educators Together, 7-11 Feb 2005, Kingston, Jamaica. ISBN: 0732622751.

- Dainty, A., **Powell, A.**, Bagilhole, B. and Neale, R. (2005) *Coping in Construction: Female Student's Perspectives*. In: F. Khosrowshahi (Ed.) Proceedings of the ARCOM 21st Annual Conference, 7-9 Sept 2008, London, UK. ISBN: 0-902896-93-8.
- Powell, A.**, Bagilhole, B., Dainty, A. and Neale, R. (2004) *An Investigation of Women's Career Choice in Construction*. In: F. Khosrowshahi (Ed.) Proceedings of the ARCOM 20th Annual Conference, 1-3 Sept 2004, Edinburgh, UK. ISBN: 0-9534161-9-4.

Other Recent Conference Papers

- Powell, A.** and Craig, L. (2010) *The gendered division of labour in households where parents work nonstandard hours*. 24th AIRAANZ (Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand) Conference, 3-5 Feb 2009, Sydney, Australia.
- Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.**, Dainty, A. and Barnard, S. (2009) *Gendered behaviour: Cultures in UK engineering and construction organisations*. 5th International Structural Engineering and Construction Conference (ISEC-5), 21-27 Sept 2009, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.**, Dainty, A. and Barnard, S. (2009) *Engineering Women: Gendered cultures in science, engineering and technology institutions*. 7th European Feminist Research Conference, 4-7 June 2009, Utrecht, Netherlands.
- Powell, A.**, Hassan, T., Dainty, A. and Carter, C. (2008) *Assessing Gender Inequality in European Construction Research*. CIB Transformation through Construction Conference, 15-17 Nov 2008, Dubai.
- Powell, A.**, Hassan, T., Dainty, A. and Carter, C. (2008) *Assessing Gender (In)equality in European Construction Research*. Women's Worlds Conference, 3-9 Jul 2008, Madrid, Spain.
- Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.**, Dainty, A. and Barnard, S. (2007) *Gendered Cultures in Science, Engineering and Technology*. Prometea International Conference: Women in Engineering and Technology Research, 26-27 Oct 2007, Paris, France.
- Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.** and Dainty, A. (2007) *'I'm an Engineer Not a Woman': Students' experiences of engineering academic culture*. 5th European Conference on Gender Equality in HE, 28-31 Aug 2007, Berlin, Germany.
- Móron-García, S. and **Powell, A.** (2007) *Working to Learn: Valuing placements*. The 15th Improving Student Learning Symposium, 3-5 Sept 2007, Dublin, Ireland.
- Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.** and Dainty, A. (2006) *What is it about UK Engineering Higher Education that Deters Women from an Engineering Career?* 6th European Gender Research Conference: Gender and Citizenship in a Multicultural Context, 31 Aug-3 Sept 2006, Lodz, Poland.
- Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.** and Dainty, A. (2006) *"I wouldn't say they treat you differently on purpose" - Women Students' Experiences of Engineering Education in UK Academia*. XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology: The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World, 23-29 July 2006, Durban, South Africa.
- Bagilhole, B., **Powell, A.**, Dainty, A. and Neale, R. (2005) *Women's Career Choices in Engineering in the UK*. Women's Worlds 2005, 19-24 June 2005, Seoul, Korea.
- Powell, A.**, Bagilhole, B., Dainty, A. and Neale, R. (2005) *The Impact of Engineering Culture in UK Higher Education on Women Engineering Students' Career Intentions*. Gender, Work and Organisation Conference, 4th International Interdisciplinary Conference, 22-24 June 2005, Keele UK.