

The Conference Corner: ECRM 2012 (Bolton, England) and GIKA 2012 (Valencia, Spain)

By Irina Purcarea

As a researcher, it is highly important to participate at high-level conferences that would give you the opportunity to improve your „research know-how” as I call it. And this is the feeling I got after participating in two important conferences this year. It made me reflect so much more on the research skills and knowledge I managed to acquire until now and helped me better see those „gaps” in my research approach.

The first conference was the 11th European Conference on Research Methodology for Business and Management Studies, in England, and the second one was the Global Innovation and Knowledge Academy conference (GIKA), in Spain. But let's start with the beginning...

The first conference I attended was the 11th European Conference on Research Methodology for Business and Management Studies which took place at the University of Bolton, 28-29 June 2012. The conference was chaired by Dr. Gill Green and Dr Rachel Mclean from the University of Bolton, UK.

There were three keynote speeches given during the conference. Professor Bob Wood from the University of Manchester, UK, delivered a presentation on the topic *“Mixed, Multi and Muddled: Methods, Paradigms and Research Integrity”*. Professor Peter Kawalek (University of Manchester, UK) gave a speech entitled *“The Struggle to be Engaged and Relevant”*. The third presentation was delivered by Dr Tony Hirst from the Open University, UK.

What I particularly enjoyed about this conference was the quality of the presentations and the participants' enthusiasm. I attended very interesting debates after each presentation and everyone was very eager to share his/her points of view on the topic and gain new perspectives on it.

I participated at this conference with a work-in-progress and presented my work via Poster (please see photo). The title of my work was: „Enhancing students' academic skills. The case of Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies”.

Next conference will take place at the University of Minho (Guimaraes), in Portugal, on July 4th and 5th, 2013. It will be chaired by Isabel Ramos from University of Minho. Hope to see everyone next year, in Portugal!

For more information, please see: <http://academic-conferences.org/ecrm/ecrm2013/ecrm13-home.htm>

The second conference I participated at was GIKA (Global Innovation and Knowledge Academy), in July, in Valencia (Spain). I was very happy to be back to Valencia (in March I participated at INBAM 2012, in Valencia). Valencia is a very nice city, with warm and friendly people and it is always nice to go back to.

The 1st 2012 Global Innovation and Knowledge Academy Bi-Annual Conference (2012 GIKA) was held in the University of Valencia and the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, from July 10th (Tuesday) to July 12th (Thursday), 2012. The Journal of Business Research (JBR) was the sponsorship journal for the Academy. One of the aims of the Conference was to select papers that, depending on the quality of the papers, would constitute a special issue of the JBR on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Knowledge Industries. The Guest Editors for this issue of JBR are David B. Audretsch (University of Indiana) and Domingo Ribeiro (University of Valencia).

The conference was chaired by Arch Woodside from Carroll School of Management in Boston College (Honorary Chair) along with Domingo Ribeiro Soriano (University of Valencia, Spain) and Kun Huang Huarng (Feng Chia University, Taiwan).

The sessions were very interesting, with very good presentations, very good papers (an Awards Ceremony was held on the last day of the conference, at the Gala Dinner, when awards were given for the best papers). For me, attending this event represented a great learning experience. I participated in the conference with a paper entitled “Innovation and knowledge creation. Perspectives on the SMEs sector”, co-authored by Maria del Mar Benavides Espinosa (University of Valencia, Spain) and Andreea Apetrei (University Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Romania). I presented the paper in the first day of the conference (please see photo). I appreciated the fact that, after each presentation, the participants would ask questions and offer recommendations for further research on the topic. I truly believe that this is one of the most important benefits of attending these conferences, the fact that you get to share your insights with other people that can offer you advice or suggestions on how to improve/expand your work.

The 2nd GIKA Annual Conference will be held in the University of Valencia and the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, from July 9th (Tuesday) to July 11th (Thursday), 2013. The Conference Theme is “Developmental Management: Theories, Methods, and Applications in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sense making by Individuals, Firms, Governmental Agencies, NGO, Cities, Regions, and Nations”.

For more information, please see: <http://www.uv.es/gika/>