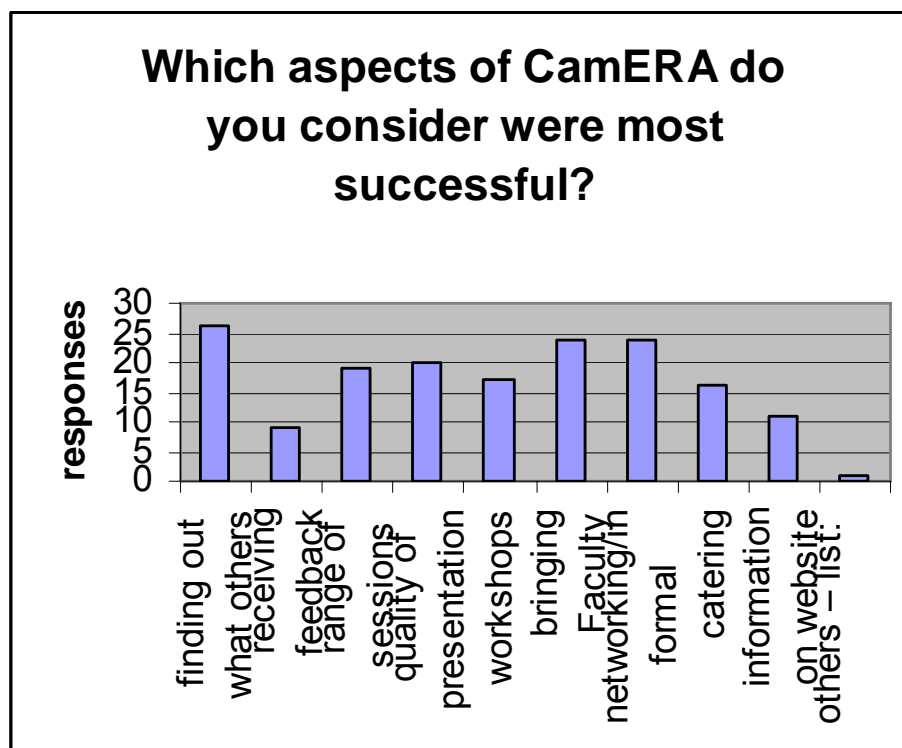


CamERA 2008 feedback and comments

This year's CamERA was attended by 119 people. Numbers have held up well in the 5 years we have organised CamERA – between 95 in 2007 and 125 at the first conference in 2004.

1. Which aspects of CamERA do you consider were most successful?



Comments:

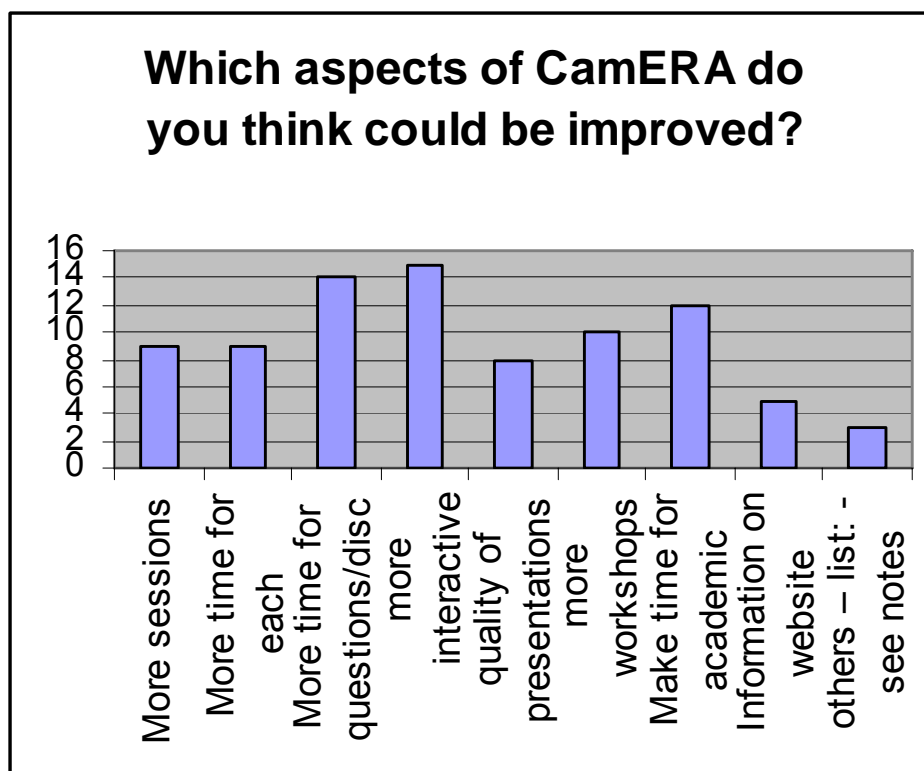
- catering:
 - I thought the sit down lunch was an excellent idea – much better than a buffet. Also gave a little bit of time for chatting/networking
- Others:
 - Punctual

2. Which aspects of CamERA do you consider could be improved, and in what way? (see chart below)

Comments:

- More time for questions/discussion
 - More time for questions/discussion raised by presentations e.g. 2 x 30 minute presentations + 30 minutes discussion
 - without the need for a discussant
 - length of presentation is about right, but there wasn't enough time to probe more deeply
- quality of presentations :
 - 2 presenters in session I attended read out their presentations and one of these was poorly prepared considering the complexity of the subject

matter.



- more workshops
 - more workshops – perhaps not just one workshop session?
 - I wanted to attend two workshops (publication and funding). I think quite a few people would have found both of these useful, so maybe they could be held at different times (or two sessions for each so that people could attend both if they wanted).
- Others – list
 - A little more time for networking / informal discussion. E.g. lunch was a rush to get everyone through and then insufficient time to digest ideas from the morning (and food!) before starting again. The discussion on our table was a real sharing of ideas from the earlier sessions. (Perhaps take 15 minutes from workshops and make lunch full hour?)
 - Please ensure that there is a 10-minute set up time before any set of presentations. One way perhaps to make CAMERA distinctive could be to make the key purpose of CAMERA presentations to be a methodological and/or conceptual/substantive knotty problem that one is grappling with. The presentation provides the research context in which to understand the problem, then the final slide shows the questions, then it is left open for discussion that can be managed in plenary or small groups etc.
 - The first paper presentation session was already behind schedule after the introduction overran and it is a little difficult to be in GS3 and 2S3 both at 9.30 am! The paper presentations could not start before the presenters had their presentations ready - and they could not be put on in advance as the PWF would have shut the computer down during the introductory session. Of course the second presentations has the 30 minute gap of coffee break in which to set up so cold keep to time!
 - Attendance
 - Fewer parallel sessions/ repeat sessions to enable opportunities to go to more
 - Timing was good this year (later end), but more parallel sessions would be good: we have dozens of active researchers in the Faculty but there

were only 6 symposia. Ask each AG to do two sessions, like we did in STeM!

- have an inaugural lecture (or keynote) from a professor each year; I suggested this last year but it hasn't been taken up (though having the Director of Research speak is great) or put to wider opinion? I know that many colleagues want to see inaugural lectures instated generally, and we have loads of new profs lately/coming whose work we are not all familiar with. You could maybe ask about this instead of Q7/8 next time!
- I would like to see more emphasis on including PhD students in the research work of faculty academic groups – perhaps encourage presentations from studies with faculty PhD students who participate in research.
- Perhaps encourage staff who haven't given presentations at CamERA
- before to do so...

3. Did you think the workshops were successful?



Comments:

- being more interactive might have helped.
- Those who attended my workshop seemed happy but you'd have to ask them
- Can only comment on the one I attended – publications – which was useful, yes
- The publication workshop can include aspects related to writing papers for conferences
- The writing for publication session can be more writer-oriented
- The one I went to was OK but I'm slightly iffy about this aspect. It was difficult to know which one to go to and I suspect hard for leaders to meet the differentiated needs of the audience.

Do you have any suggestions for future topics:

- Using CamTools to support teaching and learning – the basics
- Appoint 1 academic staff to give a talk on the latest development in the meeting of each research group.
- Any aspect of research methodology/Methodological focus?
- Could be targeted at different levels of experience rather than a one-size fits all if there were enough people to participate / lead
- RAE submission / process / feedback / building post-RAE research capacity

4. Two thirds of respondents would be interested in methodological sessions rather than sessions organised by academic groups, in which colleagues working in methodologically similar ways might offer papers?

Two thirds of people would like methodological sessions; one third were against.

- As an addition - maybe in place of workshops but not as an alternative to the academic groups.
- I'd favour groupings other than academic e.g. thematic or interdisciplinary, but not methodologically, since that kind of difference almost always emerges anyway.
- No, although similar topics would be good.
- No – the methodology should be clear from the abstract, and hence you can make your choice of which to go to.
- Perhaps on one occasion but as a principle it is best that most sessions are framed by the academic groups
- Yes, eg one on issues in video analysis; such sessions need to be discussion based not presentation based though

5. 63% of people attended the whole day; 37% part of the day. Reasons for not attending all day:

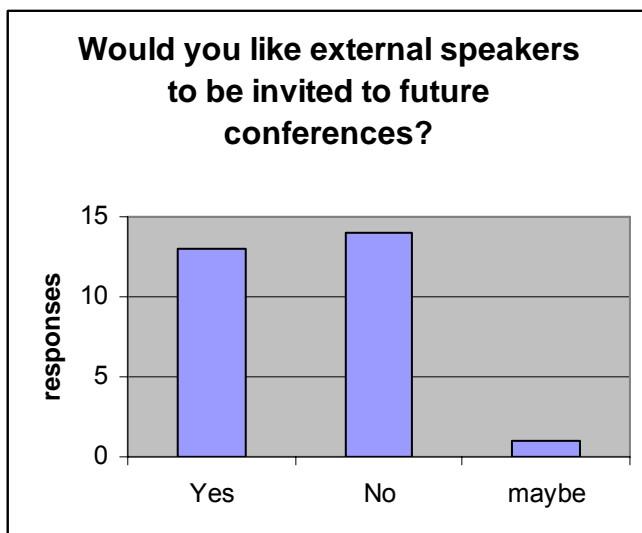
- Other work deadlines/limited time/too much to do
- The date for CamERA was set too late. We already had a partnership meeting timetabled for the afternoon. Since CamERA has become a regular fixture, the date should be fixed and announced now, before things like partnership meetings are finalised.
- I had a long standing commitment to another meeting/unavoidable conflict
- PI insisted on project meeting
- I was not interested in the afternoon presentations and had a lot of work to do.
- I skipped the Primary Review because my focus is on secondary school education
- Other sessions were not in my field

6. Did you refer to the information on the Faculty website?

70% of people referred to the website and 84% of those found it helpful.

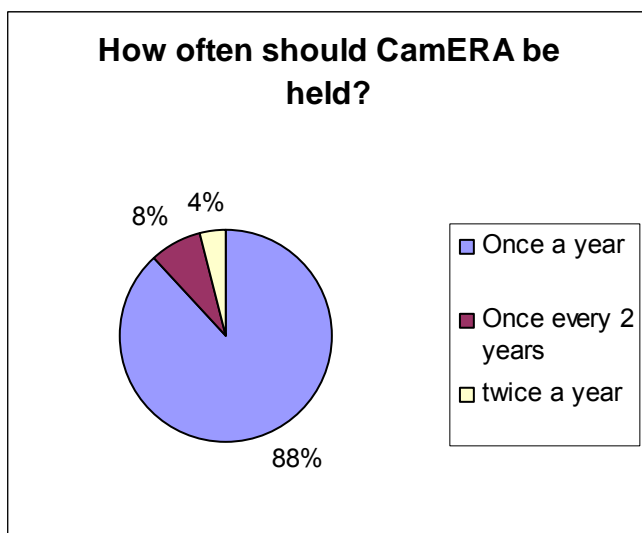
- Abstracts helped me decide which sessions to go to
- Yes, though it would be even better if it replaced any paperwork rather than replicating it.
- Yes but it did not offer the timings of the day
- Only to see the abstracts; these were helpful in making a decision about what to attend
- Yes, it reminded us the schedule and where to go. The abstracts were good guides for us to choose whether we could go for other presentations not in our academic group
- Yes, it helps me to get the overview of what CamERA is.
- Helpful although the schedule was missing - abstracts (I think) appeared twice
- It was very helpful since all the necessary information was provided

7. Would you like external speakers to be invited to future conferences?



- We have enough world-class research going on internally.
- It seems to me there are still plenty of people within the Faculty who it would be interesting to hear e.g. new professors, since we don't seem to have a tradition of inaugural lectures here and it would be a chance for everyone to hear about their work.
- No – definitely not; we have plenty of expertise in-house and dozens of external speakers every week! CamERA is a unique opportunity to celebrate, disseminate and build on Faculty work. Since there was a strong consensus about this in the feedback last year I am not sure why the question is repeated here?! Let's not keep questioning what we know is working well! Ditto the question below.
- Perhaps but then this might mean fewer opportunities for sharing and networking amongst colleagues

8. How often and in which month should CamERA be held:



- I would be disappointed not to have this as a yearly event.
- Easter term is good as prep for bera/ ecer
- A day in Easter term is good when students have an idea of where their research is headed. Even first year students are clearer at the end of academic year.
- I think camera has done a great job in the last few years but has served its immediate purpose and perhaps need not be an annual event – given the arm - twisting needed to rustle up a set of papers. Could it be biennial?

9. Have you any further comments/suggestions about this or future CamERAs?

- Expand the poster session to all groups.
- Papers presented should be published
- I thought that the two STeM group sessions were excellent and of the other two CamERAs I have attended this was by far the best.
- Just to say I really enjoyed it – it was stimulating, had a friendly but purposeful atmosphere and offered a well balanced programme. Thank you for all your efforts.
- I liked the range and variety of the day – thought structure was good – the time flew by. However, I did feel the Primary Review session went on too long (considering all the info is so easily available on the web). Thought it was a bit of a dull finish to the day (sorry – but from the back of the room I found it a real strain to hear Professor Alexander). Contributions from other faculty staff involved in the team would also have been nice eg how were lit reviews conducted, what range of data gathering methods have been used, data analysis approaches – something a bit instructional and a bit more imaginative to keep attention.
- ... definitely a fantastic opportunity to get accademic connection with people in the Faculty. I really benefit a lot from it. Thank you!
- Thanks for your hard work - i wasn't keen to attend this year but enjoyed it very much in the end
- Well done to the organisers
- Thanks for organising it - it seemed to run really smoothly with a balance between coherence and choice.
- Thanks for a brilliant and well-organised day!
- Thanks a lot for organizing the event. I enjoyed the time being there.
- I really enjoyed this year's CamERA - thank you to all the organisers and speakers