

Response from Professor Dame Lynn Gladden, Executive Chair EPSRC

Received by email on March 3rd 2020.

Dear Professor Sutton,

Thank you for your email regarding your book “Rethinking the PhD”, which shared valuable information on the activities and ethos of the Theory and Simulation of Materials (TMS) CDT. We are enthusiastic that those involved in CDTs share initiatives and approaches so that we can work together to improve the quality of doctoral education across the UK, and you have led by example.

Like you, EPSRC recognises the importance of training doctoral students for careers beyond academia, in supportive environments, providing opportunities for professional skills’ development and advanced technical training, in addition to acquiring skills and knowledge through research. As you have highlighted, EPSRC will be conducting a review of doctoral education this year and will focus on how best to support the critical success factors of doctoral study in engineering and physical sciences disciplines. Part of this review will include gathering information on other models, and your reflections on the MPIE in Germany are therefore particularly timely. I also note your thoughts on the operation of the CDT and the benefits to industry partners. There will, of course, be further opportunities for input into this review to inform how EPSRC invests in doctoral training in the future.

I have shared your publication with my colleagues in the talent and skills team and will also be sharing it with my directors. Thank you again for making contact.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn,
Professor Dame Lynn Gladden
Executive Chair, EPSRC
