UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

QAA SCOTLAND

15th Annual Academic Development Symposium | Thursday 25 April 2024 | King's College Conference Centre, Old Aberdeen Campus and via MS Teams

Embracing Diversity: Supporting Inclusive Learning Communities

PROGRAMME

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME

9:30 - 10:00 Registration and Poster session | McKay Hall

10:00 Welcome and Introduction | KQG5 Auditorium, King's College Centre|MS Teams Room 1

10:00 - 11:00 External Keynote | Embracing Diversity: Critical Virtual Exchange (CVE) for inclusive Internationalisation at Home (IaH) by Dr Mirjam Hauck | KQG5 Auditoriumm, King's College Centre|MS Teams Room 1

11:00 - 11:15 Break | McKay Hall

11:15 - 12:15 Parallel Sessions (Details on pages 5-6):
A: Inclusion and interdisciplinarity |KCF7 Collaborative Lecture Space, King's College|MS Teams Room 2
B: Inclusion and internationalisation |KCG7 Collaborative Lecture Space, King's College|MS Teams Room 3
C: Inclusion and sustainability | KQG5 Auditorium, King's College Centre|MS Teams Room 4

12:15 - 13: 00 Lunch and Poster Session | McKay Hall

13:00 - 14:30 Workshops (Details on page 7):
1. The TESTA Experience: Streamlining your Assessments for Workload Efficiencies |KCG7 Collaborative Lecture Space, King's College|In-person only
2. Strictly Come Dragon: Creating an Assessment that Enhances Students' Employability | KCF7 Collaborative Lecture Space, King's College|MS Teams Room 5

14:30 - 14:45 Break | McKay Hall

14:45 POSTER VOTING CLOSES

14:45 - 15:45 Debate | Higher Education: Is it worth it? | KQG5 Auditorium, King's College Centre|MS Teams Room 6

15:45 - 16:00 Presentation of Principal's Teaching Excellence Award, Symposium Poster Competition Awards and Closing Remarks | KQG5 Auditorium, King's College Centre|MS Teams Room 6

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE OF WATER AND REUSABLE CUP

DR. MIRJAM HAUCK
Associate Head for Internationalisation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the School of Languages and Applied Linguistics at the Open University/UK & a Senior Fellow of the UK's Higher Education Academy

Currently her scholarly work focuses on theorising and framing the nascent field of critical virtual exchange (CVE) which takes the fact that VE is not inherently equitable and inclusive at its point of departure. Like other forms of online or blended education, VE is prone to Western hegemonies and influenced by inequalities in access to and experience with technology, institutional constraints (e.g., lack of support and incentives for educators), gender, race, age, English language dominance, and socio-political and geopolitical challenges. CVE is VE through the social justice lens and aims to ensure more equitable, inclusive, and purposeful student exchange experiences

KEYNOTE: EMBRACING DIVERSITY: CRITICAL VIRTUAL EXCHANGE (CVE) FOR INCLUSIVE INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME (IAH)

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are responsible for preparing young people for living and working in a globally interconnected world. One way of assuming this responsibility is through internationalisation at home (IaH) (Beelen & Jones, 2015) as only a minority of students are able to study abroad. Virtual exchange (VE) – also known as telecollaboration or globally networked learning- is increasingly seen as "the" solution to IaH (O'Dowd and Beelen, 2021). It is a research-informed practice consisting of sustained, technology-enabled, people-to-people education programmes in which constructive communication and interaction occurs between students who are geographically separated and/or from different cultural backgrounds. It combines the deep impact of intercultural dialogue with the broad reach of digital technology (EVOLVE, 2019).

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Yet IaH and VE are not inherently inclusive. They are as prone to suffer from Western hegemonies as any other form of online or blended education (Helm, 2020), the dominance of English being one example.

Hence, my starting point is critical VE, i.e. VE through the social justice and inclusion lens and instantiated through

- the use of low bandwidth technologies

- a focus on students underrepresented in IaH (from low socio-economic backgrounds)

- exchange topics informed by "glocal" challenges and aligned with the UN SDGs

- the integration of local student outreach work with businesses, NGOs, and charities to promote transversal skills development, enhance graduate
  employability and further support SDGs achievement

- multilingualism and translanguaging approaches.

My contribution will be a mix of theoretical framing and practical exchange examples from across the curriculum that speak to the critical VE agenda.

ROOM: KQG5 Auditorium, King's College Centre | MS Teams Room 1

A: INCLUSION AND INTERDISCIPLINARITY

How can the pursuit of interdisciplinarity at the University of Aberdeen foster inclusive learning experiences for our students?

CHAIR: PROFESSOR JENNIE MACDIARMID Director, Interdisciplinary Centre for Health, Wellbeing & Nutrition

PANELLISTS: PROFESSOR ELEONORA BELFIORE Director, Interdisciplinary Centre for Social Inclusion and Diversity

DR SILVIA CASINI Senior Lecturer, School of Languages, Literature, Music and Visual Culture

COURTNEY CRILLY PGR Student, LLM by Research

ROWENA GOMEZ PGT student, MSc Business Consulting with Psychology

CUSHLA GRAY UG Student, Intercalated Medical Humanities Programme

DR HELEN KNIGHT Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology

ROOM: KCF7, King's College | MS Teams Room 2

B: INCLUSION AND INTERNATIONALISATION

What form should internationalisation take at our University to ensure a truly global and inclusive educational experience for all our students?

CHAIR: DR SRINIVAS SRIRAMULA Dean for International Student Recruitment

PANELLISTS: EMILY CLELAND Teaching Fellow, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition (MMSN)

MAZZ CUMMINGS Student and Go Abroad Ambassador

TONI GIBSON Teaching Fellow, School of MMSN

PROFESSOR ANA IVANOVIC Personal Chair, School of Engineering

LOUISA STRATTON Go Abroad Manager

THEO WILLIAMSON Student and Go Abroad Ambassador

YUQIAN ZHANG TNE Student

ROOM: KCG7, King's College | MS Teams Room 3

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C: INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Given our regional context and the need to rapidly shift to Net Zero and a sustainable society, what inclusive solutions can we identify to embed sustainability in our curricula and student experience?

CHAIR: DR PIOTR NIEWIADOMSKI Senior Lecturer, School of Geosciences

PANELLISTS: PROFESSOR TIM BAKER Personal Chair, School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture

AINHOA BURGOS AGUILERA AUSA VP for Communities

DR MARTA DONDINI Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences

DR TOMILOLA AKANLE ENI-IBUKUN Lecturer, School of Law

DR DAVID FLOOD Teaching Fellow, School of Geosciences

ROOM: KQG5 Auditorium, King's College Centre | MS Teams Room 4

12:15-13:00 LUNCH & POSTER SESSION

LUNCH AND POSTER SESSION

Tea/coffee and a light sandwich lunch will be available, but please bring your own water. We also encourage you to bring your own reusable mug! Grateful thanks to QAA Scotland for supporting this event, including the catering, through this year's Enhancement Activities funding.

ROOM: James McKay Hall, King's College Centre

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1. THE TESTA EXPERIENCE: STREAMLINING YOUR ASSESSMENTS FOR WORKLOAD EFFICIENCIES

Come and experience a simulation of the TESTA (Transforming the Experience of Students Through Assessment) process. Participate in a programme review reflecting on intended learning outcomes, formative and summative assessment practices and formulating effective feedback processes.

FACILITATORS: PROFESSOR KIRSTY KIEZEBRINK (CHAIR) Dean for Educational Innovation

DR MARY PRYOR Centre for Academic Development

DR CHLOE ALEXANDER Centre for Academic Development

DR JOANNA WILSON-SCOTT Centre for Academic Development

TAMZIN WESTHEAD TESTA Student Assistant

BETHANY PARRILLO TESTA Student Assistant

ROOM: KCG7, King's College |In-person only

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2. STRICTLY COME DRAGON: CREATING AN ASSESSMENT THAT ENHANCES STUDENTS' EMPLOYABILITY

Come along to this Dragons' Den meets Strictly Come Dancing collaborative workshop, where you will work in groups to design an assessment that boosts students' employability and helps them stand out in a crowded graduate job market. The challenge is to design an impactful, inclusive and authentic assessment that prepares students for the world of work. The goal? To convince the judges to "invest" in your idea.

HOST: DR DARREN COMBER Senior Educational Development Officer, Centre for Academic Development

JUDGES: PROFESSOR JOHN BARROW Dean for Employability and Entrepreneurship

TRACEY INNES Assistant Director and Head of Careers

NASSIMA BROWN Director of Strategy, Fennex

RHIANNON LEDWELL AUSA VP for Education

ROOM: KCF7, King's College | MS Teams Room 5

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14:45-15:45 DEBATE

HIGHER EDUCATION: IS IT WORTH IT?

Come along for a debate-style session on the topic "Higher Education: Is it worth it?". We will be joined by a panel consisting of an employer, staff, student and alumnus, each offering their unique perspectives on the value of higher education and challenging the assumptions that underlie it.

CHAIR: PROFESSOR KIRSTY KIEZEBRINK Dean for Educational Innovation

PANELLISTS: NASSIMA BROWN Director of Strategy, Fennex

MITKO DIMITROV Alumnus, MA in Business Management and Psychology

DR MALCOM HARVEY Lecturer, School of Social Science

KIRSTEN KOSS UG Student, MA in History and Politics

HOSSA SKANDARY-MACPHERSON UG Student, MA in International Relations and French

ROOM: KQG5 Auditorium, King's College Centre | MS Teams Room 6

15:45-16:00 AWARDS & CLOSING REMARKS

PRESENTATION OF PRINCIPAL'S TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD, SYMPOSIUM POSTER COMPETITION AWARDS AND CLOSING REMARKS

Presented by **PROFESSOR JO-ANNE MURRAY** Vice-Principal (Education)

ROOM: KQG5 Auditorium, King's College Centre | MS Teams Room 6

The Centre for Academic Development supports staff and students from across the University in teaching, learning and professional development.

For general enquiries, please contact the Centre at cad@abdn.ac.uk or +44 (0)1224 27 3030

https://abdn.site/CADSymp24