



School of Education: Series of Research and Practice-based Seminars



Effective teaching of sustainability within a multidisciplinary online context: The University of Nottingham Experience

Abstract

This paper explores the experiences of three academic members of the University of Nottingham Open Online Course (NOOC) and Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) team, comprising an engineer (tutor), an engineering education specialist (facilitator) and a specialist in higher education pedagogy (convenor). The paper explores notions of what makes for effective teaching of sustainability within a multidisciplinary online context, and the extent to which this experience has impacted upon personal behaviours and attitudes to sustainability, from an Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) perspective. Team members' experiences are further supported by findings from student and learner evaluations of the NOOC and MOOC courses. Key findings of the research include:

- (a) Interdisciplinarity is a strength of the course
- (b) The course can lead to genuine change in the understanding of sustainability;
- (c) Teaching sustainability online is different;
- (d) Involvement in the course impacts upon teaching practices;
- (e) Cultural and disciplinary diversity within both the course team and the student cohort is a major contributor to the overall sustainable development learning experience in the NOOC/MOOC.

The findings of the study will pave the way for engineering and non-engineering educators to explore the potential of integrating sustainability within the modules they teach, via online teaching and learning means.

Inquiry-led learning: Facilitators and Inhibitors

Abstract

This presentation is based on a study of schools following the Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate Organisation, which has a strong emphasis on inquiry-led learning. Drawing on data from seven case-study across five countries, the presentation will explore the extent to which the PYP Exhibition - the culmination of this inquiry-led approach - was seen as successful learning by parents, teachers, school leaders and students. It will examine the facilitators and inhibitors to a successful inquiry-led approach across these contrasting cultural settings.

Please note that Lucy Cooker and Jane Medwell from our UK Campus are also researchers on this project.

Details

Date: 11 October 2017, Wednesday

Time: 16:00 to 17:00

Venue: F4B09a

The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus
Jalan Broga 43500 Semenyih Selangor Darul Ehsan

This event is free and open to all. All are welcome.

For more information on the event, kindly contact Dr Wong Tze Peng.

The Series of Research- and Practice-based Seminars are run by the School of Education academic members of staff and external speakers in various education-related strands (e.g. Education; Educational Leadership and Management; Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL); Special and Inclusive Education).

[Email Dr Wong Tze Peng](#)



Subarna Sivapalan

Dr Subarna Sivapalan, a University of Nottingham PhD graduate, is attached to Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Malaysia where she heads the Social Transformations & Development for Resource Sustainability research cluster, and the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning research cluster, within the university's Centre for Excellence in Teaching & Learning. Her areas of expertise and interests are in translational and education research, specifically in Education for Sustainable Development, Sustainability Communication, Environmental Humanities, Blended Learning and Higher Education Teaching and Learning. She is presently working on her second book, *Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: Innovations for Engineering & Technology Education*, which is due to be published in 2018. Subarna has over 15 years of experience within the Malaysian higher education sector, and is presently also an Adjunct Fellow at Western Sydney University's School of Education, where she is attached to the School's Centre for Educational Research and the University's Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development. She is also a Visiting Fellow at the University of New South Wales, where she works with the CRC Low Carbon Living on her work on environmental humanities. Subarna is also Deputy Chair of the National Eco-Campus Committee, and Co-Chair of the National Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Workgroup, both hosted by WWF Malaysia. This research seminar is based upon a recently published journal article authored by Dr Subarna Sivapalan, Assoc. Prof. Dr

Michael J Clifford and Professor Dr Sarah Speight, on the Nottingham MOOC and NOOC experience.



Lucy Bailey

Dr Lucy Bailey is Associate Professor in Education at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. She studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Oxford, and initially pursued a career in politics and educational policy-making before deciding to focus on educational research. To that end, she completed her MA in the Sociology of Education at the London University Institute of Education and her PhD in Sociology at the University of Bristol. She is now engaged in a range of research and consultancy work focused on social transformation through education. She is currently working on a World Bank project to develop the college education sector in Bangladesh.