

TEACHING MATTERS

No. 8, March 2015

Welcome!

Welcome to our packed newsletter for March, reflecting a busy semester but also highlighting opportunities for you to participate in teaching and learning research and development over the next number of months.

Colleagues may be interested in the **Mobile Learning Project**, **IJAP call for papers** or the current **AISHE-J call on Entrepreneurship in Higher Education**. This month we have also highlighted a new **Education and Research blog** written by colleagues from the Library.

Please visit [our website](#) for more information about any of the items here, and of course you are welcome to [contact us](#) with any questions or feedback you may have.

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Mobile Learning Project @ DIT 2015

Have you a smart phone and/or a tablet pc and have you ever wondered how you could use them to great effect in the classroom to engage your students? Have you heard of colleagues using their mobile devices, and those of their students, to run assessments and to access content in class? Or have you heard of apps that can be used to gather feedback quickly, allow students to collaborate and engage in some peer learning during class time, or allow them to undertake some experiments in the field in the absence of specialised equipment? Do you want to learn more and try out some ideas of your own?



Then the **Mobile Learning Project @ DIT 2015** is for you!

The mobile learning project is running again this year from September to December 2015 and will be facilitated by **Dr Frances Boylan**. If you'd like to know more and possibly get involved, please visit [the dedicated website](#) or give Frances a call at 4027863.

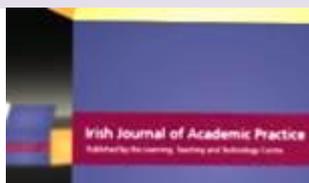
Open the Door To Your Learning! Applications for LTTC Programmes Open

- Interested in exploring new methods and techniques for your teaching?
- Want to know more about how new technologies can transform learning experiences? The LTTC's accredited courses could be for you!
- **Applications are currently open for all of our programmes with start dates in September 2015:**
 - **MA in Higher Education**
 - **MSc in Applied eLearning**
 - **Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching**
 - **CPD Short Courses**
- To find out more, [please visit our Programmes page](#) or contact any of the Programme Co-ordinators for more details.



- Corner AISHE-J Special Issue Call for Papers
- News from the National Forum
- New Library Blog for Education and Research

Irish Journal of Academic Practice (IJAP) Call for Papers 2015



IJAP, the LTTC online peer reviewed journal for pedagogic research and scholarship [learning, teaching, technology and professional development, with special emphasis on innovative practices] is now inviting articles for **Issue No 4, June 2015**.

The aim of the journal is to provide a platform to academics, researchers, scholars, professionals and postgraduate students, for publishing papers in the fields of third level learning, teaching and technology, and related areas.

Important Dates:

- Paper Submission Deadline: **April 30, 2015**
- Issue Publication Date: **June 16, 2015**

Manuscripts should be between 4000-6,000 words in length, including all references. Author guidelines are available on the [journal website](#).

If you would like to discuss a contribution please contact one of the editors, **Roisin Donnelly** (roisin.donnelly@dit.ie) or Kevin **O'Rourke** (kevin.orourke@dit.ie)

LTTC Special Event: Developing research-based curricula in college-based Higher Education

The LTTC is delighted to welcome back **Professor Mick Healey** (www.mickhealey.co.uk), who spoke at the 2014 Showcase of Learning and Teaching Innovations, for this special workshop.

"All undergraduate students in all higher education institutions should experience learning through, and about, research and inquiry"

(Healey and Jenkins 2009, 3)

- **Thursday 23rd April 2015**
- **DIT Kevin Street**
- **9.15am - 12.15pm**
- **BOOKING: [Online](#) or phone 4027866**
- **[More details on our website](#)**



Professor Mick Healey who will visit DIT on 23rd April 2015

Overview: Much current debate concerns the form that research and scholarship should take in the College-Based HE (CBHE) sector. Most of these discussions have concentrated on the implications for staff. In this interactive workshop we extend this discussion to how students in college-based higher education may be engaged in research and inquiry, how curricula may be designed to achieve this and what departmental and institutional strategies are needed to foster these developments. The talk will draw on numerous mini-case studies from Europe, North America and Australasia. Particular emphasis will be placed on engaging students as partners in professional and community-based education.

SAVE THE DATE! 12th, 13th May - Re-imagine the TU4Dublin 1st Year experience

Join us for the second workshop to re-imagine the TU4Dublin 1st Year Experience on 12th and 13th May 2015.

Facilitated by **Ewan McIntosh**, Educator, Technology Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO of NoTosh. Ewan McIntosh works with global clients in both the worlds of Education and the Creative Industries. NoTosh is one the world's most innovative education companies. To find out more about Ewan and NoTosh see <http://notosh.com/>. This immersive workshop will provide the three partner Institutes with an opportunity to build upon the design thinking ideas from last year as they design and implement a new first year experience that will characterise our Technological University learner encounter – to shape and support their transition into higher education.



*Ewan McIntosh
who will visit DIT on
May 12th and 13th*

Special Event: Writing and Enquiry, 29th April 2015

Facilitate, INEW, DIT and the Writing Centre at Maynooth University are delighted to host a workshop facilitated by [Professor Chris Anson](#), North Carolina State University on the topic of **Writing and Enquiry: Providing higher-order feedback on written assignments.**

- Wednesday 29 April 2015, 2pm to 4pm
- LTTC Boardroom, DIT Aungier Street
- Maximum number of participants: 30
- **BOOKING:** via [Eventbrite](#)

In this workshop we will examine issues relating to offering higher-order feedback on students' written assignments. We will focus on offering an overview on approaches to giving relevant feedback to students on written assignment structure, development of ideas and concepts as well as argumentation. We will consider how to make feedback transparent and what approach to feedback is more readily understood by students.

- The event is supported by the [National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning](#)
- More information on Chris Anson? see <http://www.ansonica.net/bio.html>
- More information on the event? please email maria-jose.gonzalez@dit.ie

SAVE THE DATE! 22nd-26th June DIT eLearning Summer School 2015



The thirteenth eLearning Summer School will run this year from Monday 22nd June to Friday 26th in a DIT venue.

More information available soon at
<http://lttc.dit.ie/lttc/elearning/elearningsummerschool/>

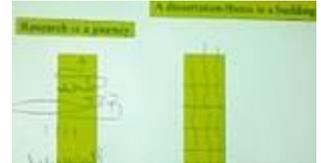
For provisional bookings email lttc@dit.ie

Supervising Undergraduate Dissertations – Facilitating the Transition to the Workplace or Further Research

Approximately 40 participants from a range of HEIs attended the seminar on 'Supervising Undergraduate Dissertations: Facilitating the Transition to the Workplace or Further Research' on 3rd March which was hosted by the LTTC. Two informative and thought-provoking workshops were facilitated by **Prof Gina Wisker** and **Dr John Dallat**, both of whom have researched and published extensively on supervision. In advance of her workshop, Prof Wisker also met participants on the LTTC *Supervising Undergraduate Dissertations* CPD module to discuss questions they had prepared. Materials from the day will be made available on the LTTC website soon. The event was supported by National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning in Higher Education Seminar Series 2014-5 funding.



Professor Gina Wisker working with colleagues at the DIT



*Research is a journey,
a thesis is a building*

Community Based Learning and Research Kickstart Workshop

As series of four **Participate** workshops in Cork, Galway and Dublin coordinated by Campus Engage have just been completed (<http://www.campusengage.ie/groups/register-now-limited-places-26th-march-campus-engage-participate-programme-dublin-ii-kick>).

The aim of each one day event was to give attendees the tools to incorporate community-based learning and research into their curriculum and workplans and over 100 academic staff took part in total. Several DIT staff were involved in developing and delivering these workshops; **Claire McDonnell** (LTTC), **Sinead McCann** (Students learning With Communities Office, <http://www.dit.ie/ace/studentslearningwithcommunities/>), **Carmel Rooney** (Business) and **Catherine Gorman** (Hospitality Management and Tourism). In addition, **Sheila Sugrue** (Biological Sciences) presented a detailed case study at one of the workshops. The contribution that DIT staff made reflects the significant experience and expertise in relation to community and civic engagement within the Institute.



*Participants at the
Kickstart Workshop in the
Mansion House, Dublin*

LTTC Perspectives Seminar Series

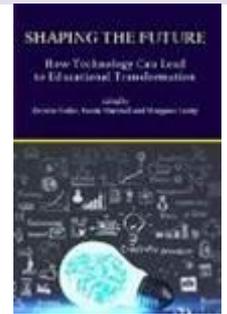


The next LTTC's *Perspectives* Seminar will focus on plagiarism and academic integrity and will take place on Thursday 16th April from 3pm-4.30pm at the LTTC in Aungier Street.

Contributions will come from **Dr Kevin O'Rourke** and **Dr Claire McAvinia** of the LTTC, with **Dr Dympna Morrow** of Colaiste Dhulaigh who has recently conducted research in this area as part of her Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching at the LTTC. Other speakers will be confirmed and details on our website.

Research Corner

Roisin Donnelly of the LTTC has published a paper with **Nuala Harding**, Learning and Teaching Coordinator at Athlone Institute of Technology, in the current issue of [AISHE-J](#). The paper is part of an AISHE-J special issue examining leadership in academic and educational development in higher education, and is titled *An exploration of the effects on programme design and development effected by educational leadership in reaction to societal and economic factors in Ireland*. The full text is available [on the AISHE-J site](#).



Claire McAvinia of the LTTC, has had a chapter published in *Shaping the Future: How Technology Can Lead to Educational Transformation*, edited by Deirdre Butler, Kevin Marshall and Margaret Leahy and launched on 11th March at St Patrick's College Drumcondra. The chapter was based on an evaluation of the [TeachNet project](#).

AISHE Journal Special Issue: Entrepreneurship in Higher Education – Call for Papers

The [All Ireland Society for Higher Education, AISHE](#), has issued a Call for Papers for its upcoming special issue *Embedding Entrepreneurship in Higher Education Institutions: Reconceptualizing entrepreneurship education*.

The Guest Editors of this special issue will be **Professor Colette Henry** (DkIT) and **Professor Pauric McGowan** (UU). Submission of short abstracts (400 words) to guest editors is by **17th April 2015** (collete.henry@dkit.ie, p.mcgowan@ulster.ac.uk). The publication date is expected to be February 2016. You can read more on the AISHE website at <http://www.aishe.org/2015/03/23/auto-draft/>

News from the National Forum



- The National Forum has opened its **consultation process** on proposals for the establishment and management of a professional development framework for those who teach in Irish higher education. The Forum website contains full details and consultation documents, along with an open response mechanism for submissions. You can find out more at the [consultation pages on their site](#).
- The Forum has also now launched its **Roadmap for Enhancement in a Digital World** to guide institutions and organisations in the development of local and national digital strategies and to ensure alignment, coherence and a sense of common endeavour at a sectoral level. The summary and full document are [available to download from the Forum site](#).
- New **Forum Insights** have been published in recent days and are also [available from the Forum website](#).

Teaching Tip of the Month

This month, our recommendation is to check out a new Education and Research blog published by our colleagues in the Library, **Diana Mitchell** and **Roisin Guilfoyle**. You can read the blog here: <http://ditlitt.blogspot.ie/>

The blog aims to keep readers connected and updated with the latest information taken from national and international sources including newspapers, blogs and journals. The content is taken from the field of higher education and covers issues mostly related to learning, teaching and research.



And Finally...



Wishing colleagues an enjoyable and restful holiday

CONTACT US!

We welcome enquiries and your feedback to lttc@dit.ie