



# OU-APS SEMINAR



The Open  
University

## Lessons from Digital Spaces: Inclusion and Support for Student Success

**Wednesday 25 May 2022**  
09:30-13:00 (Online)

### **OU-APS SEMINAR – presenter bios and photos**

### **Lessons from Digital Spaces: Inclusion and Support for Student Success**

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#### **Prof John Butcher, The Open University**



John Butcher is Professor of Inclusive Teaching in Higher Education at the Open University, where he is Director (Access and Open). He is responsible for the university's UK-wide Access Programme, is Deputy Director on the Open Programme and leads the Access Observatory (the OU's research centre for Widening Participation).

He was Principal Investigator on the research projects 'Understanding the impact of outreach on access to higher education for disadvantaged adult learners (OFFA, 2017) and 'Shoe-horned and side-lined: Challenges for part-time learners in the new HE landscape' (HEA, 2015). Publications include: Developing Effective 16-19 Teaching Skills and Leading Professional Development in Education (both Routledge) as well as numerous journal articles. He is Managing Editor for the international journal Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning.

#### **Jennifer Stokes, Senior lecturer, University of South Australia**



Jennifer Stokes is an award-winning educator, who specialises in digital media and enabling pedagogy. She is a Senior Lecturer who coordinates courses in digital and information literacy within Education Futures (University of South Australia). She is also an active member of the Centre for Change and Complexity in Learning (C3L), presenting and publishing on technology-enhanced learning, learning analytics, authentic assessment, and Universal Design for Learning.

Her doctorate explores enabling pedagogy, and she received a 2018 Australian Award for University Teaching citation for leadership in this area. She is passionate about educational access and the role universities can play in social inclusion and societal betterment. Her background in digital media production and her commitment to social inclusion inform an innovative approach to quality digital learning, enabling pedagogy and student engagement.

## **Annette Hayton, Senior Research Fellow and NERUPI Convenor, University of Bath**



Annette convenes NERUPI (Network for Evaluating and Researching University Participation Interventions) which has over 70 members from higher and further education. She was previously Head of Widening Participation at the University of Bath and at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has many years of experience in managing activities designed to support successful progression to higher education as well as developing strategies to ensure that all students have a positive experience of university study. She is a member of ICHEM (International Centre for Higher Education Management) at the University of Bath and Innovative Practice Editor for the journal 'Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning'. Annette is a Trustee of Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership and leads on the Bath Hub for MNSP. Annette is interested in how educational theory, research and evaluation can be developed and applied in practice to promote positive change

within the education system, aiming to combine theory and practice in her work. She has published a number of books and articles on widening participation

## **WPLL - journal article presentations**

### **Presentation 1: Navigating pedagogical challenges during the transition to online learning during Covid 19 through Authentic Pedagogy**

#### **Dr Jennifer Robson, Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood, University of East London**



Dr. Jenny Robson is a Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood in the School of Education and Communities at the University of East London. She joined the University of East London in 2015 after working in children's services in England in both the public and voluntary sector. Jenny's research has two strands. The first is pedagogies that promote participation and justice for students within Higher Education in the discipline of early childhood studies. The second strand focuses on values education in early childhood and issues of equality and social justice for young children and their families; specifically, the ways in which these issues are addressed in early childhood policy, pedagogy

and practice. Her most recent research examines the implications of the securitisation of early childhood spaces by the UK government's Counter Terrorism strategy.

#### **Francesca Zanatta, Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood & Education, University of East London**



Fran Zanatta is Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood & Education at the University of East London. In both teaching and research, Fran aims to disrupt conceptualisations of identity, kin(d)ship, and interpersonal dynamics.

## Presentation 2: Pivoting Transitions to the Online Space: an example of student engagement in action

### Dr Karen Campbell, Research Fellow, Glasgow Caledonian University



Karen Campbell is Research Fellow at Glasgow Caledonian University. A specialist in widening participation research and evaluation, Karen completed her PhD entitled, 'Widening participation in Higher Education: Immersion as an enabler' in 2020.

As well as enhancing the University's national and international profile in relation to educational research, Karen's work provides an evidence base for policy and practice in learning and teaching across GCU through institutional research aligned to key institutional priorities and impact evaluation.

Karen has published widely in journals such as Higher Education Research and Development and the Journal for Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning. Her award winning [paper](#), 'How can universities contribute to the common good?', published in Perspectives: Policy and Practice in Higher Education, won the Association of University Administrators writing prize in 2019.

Karen is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a Research Associate for the College Development Network.

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Karen-Campbell-22>

<https://gcuacaddevelopment.wordpress.com/2022/01/10/towards-an-anti-racist-curriculum/>

### Farah McAdam, Glasgow Caledonian University



Farah joined the College Connect Team in 2019, changing from a career in Marine Engineering due to her interest in Widening Participation in Scottish Higher Education. She holds an Honours Degree in Aeronautical Engineering, and has been actively involved in education and outreach throughout her career, with a focus on helping children and young adults, especially girls, gain access to STEM education and careers.

Farah is now responsible for supporting students as they transition from college to university, acting as a point of contact and developing a programme of activities to equip HN and SWAP students for degree level study. Challenges brought about by Coronavirus in 2020 shifted her focus to developing innovative online and blended learning to support this transition, and to maintain engagement with new students. This has since evolved into the evidence-based development of novel methods of hybrid learning, adapting to recent changes in Coronavirus regulations.



## Digital Inclusion

### **Helen Milner, Group Chief Executive (UK and Australia), The Good things Foundation**



Helen has over 30 years' experience of working in and leading organisations creating and delivering education over and about the internet. She is the Group Chief Executive for Good Things Group in the UK and Australia. Helen was awarded an OBE for services to digital inclusion in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List. In 2017 she won the title of Digital Leader of the Year (UK) and was named by Computer Weekly as the 14th most influential person in UK IT in 2020. Working with British Parliament, Helen was a member of the Speaker's Commission for Digital Democracy and an Advisor on Digital Engagement to the Public Accounts Committee. She is a Board Member of FutureDotNow

### **Laila Burton, Senior Manager, The Open University**



Laila is a Senior Manager within the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students) at The Open University. In this role, Laila manages the Tuition Programme, as well as projects within the Access, Participation and Success Team. One of Laila's current projects is the Digital Inclusion Project, and she is collaborating with colleagues from across the University to remove the barriers to learning posed by digital exclusion, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Laila has been working on programmes and projects aimed at enhancing the student learning experience for 20 years. Prior to joining The Open University, she managed the Employability and Employee Learning and Curriculum Design programmes at the Higher Education Academy (now

Advance HE). Laila is a Senior Fellow of Advance HE, and undertook research into distance learning and accessibility as part of her Masters' degree in Education.

### **Andrew Ross, Head of Widening Access and Participation, University of Bath**



As Head of Widening Access and Participation at the University of Bath, Andrew manages the strategic direction of the Access Team to engage under-represented students with university. He also works across the University to coordinate and support on-course activity supporting APP targets. Originally from a deprived area of Derby, Andrew was the first in his family to go to university; he went on to complete a degree and PhD in Chemistry at the University of Sheffield. Andrew has a passion for helping disadvantaged students achieve their goals and in early 2013 he joined the world of Widening Participation. He has delivered many different projects in several roles at Bath through that time.

Andrew is well known around the local area for his exciting liquid nitrogen shows and for his Guinness World Record for the fastest time to make ice cream.

## In Conversation/panel members:

### **Sarah Jones, President of the OU Students Association**



Sarah Jones has been a student with The Open University since October 2017. Sarah started a Masters' in Education in September 2020, having completed a Primary Education degree, gaining a First Class honours in the summer of 2020. Sarah is interested in Lego Therapy and the benefits it has for children with English as another language, as well as the benefits of using Lego in research with adults using Lego Serious Play.

Sarah is interested in Digital Inclusion and making a difference for others

Sarah was elected the OU Students Association President in the summer of 2020 and is looking forward to helping represent the student voice in all levels of the University and beyond.

Sarah lives in Bristol with her husband and two sons.

### **Tracey Inverary, Inclusive Curriculum Student Consultant, The Open University**



I am a Mentor, People Professional and a Masters Human Resource Management student. I have significant experience in mentoring students with English, students whose second language is English and employees with career development. I have BNA (British Neuroscience Association), CIPD, CDI (Career Development Institution) and EMCC (European Mentoring and Coaching Council) membership. I have a Accreditation in Business Skills Coach and over 20 years' experience in training employees from across several industries which has enabled me to build a proven track record of establishing success in employee promotion and all-round employee performance improvement. I have taken this experience and the transferable skills to make a difference as an Academic Mentor, a School Governor and Committee member of various committees at the Open University.

### **Professor Lawrie Phipps, Senior Research Lead, Jisc**



Lawrie Phipps is the Senior Research Lead at Jisc, his current portfolio includes research into institutional digital practices, digital leadership and a range of emerging issues impacting on digital experiences in education and digital transformation. He is a qualified executive coach and has worked with a range of individuals and teams to support digital transformation and change initiatives in universities over more than 25 years. In 2001 he set up and ran the Jisc TechDis Service, aimed at changing how both disabled staff and students were seen and supported in Higher and Further Education, with an emphasis on

technology. He is a professor of digital education at the Keele Institute for Innovation and Teaching Excellence (KIITE), Keele University. He can be found on line at <http://lawriephipps.co.uk>