



Centre for Research in Digital Education, University of Leeds

Online Symposium

Digital Transformation of Higher Education

November 25th 2020

10:00 – 17:00 (all times UK BST)

That Higher Education is in a period of transformation is a moot point. The COVID:19 pandemic has resulted in a period of rapid digital transformation for universities all around the globe. However, this rapid change has created positive and negative effects on student learning and experience, and some changes will be short-lived and others long-lasting.

The purpose of this symposium is to explore this transformation from the perspective of existing and on-going research in digital education, to help the higher education sector to set a direction of travel which creates positive effects on access to higher education and enhanced student learning, through long-lasting changes. The symposium will cover topics relating to online education, open education, blended and hybrid learning, learning data and its impacts, digital skills and lifelong learning.

The symposium will hear from global experts in digital education about their experiences of digital transformation in higher education and related sectors, and gather their views about the most appropriate courses of action to create sustainable, accessible, inclusive, quality higher education to support lifelong learning for all.

To register for this free, online, event please visit our Eventbrite registration page at: <https://bit.ly/2RFmCHk>



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Programme

10:00-10:30	Prof Neil Morris , Interim DVC: Digital Transformation, University of Leeds	Welcome and introduction
10:30-11:00	Prof Simone Buitendijk , Vice-Chancellor, University of Leeds	The role of universities in global education
11:00-11:30	Josie Fraser , Head of Digital Policy, Heritage Fund UK	Digital transformation: cross-sector lessons
<i>Comfort break</i>		
11:45-12:15	Dr Vitomir Kovanović , Senior Lecturer, Centre for Change and Complexity in Learning (C3L), University of South Australia	Learning Analytics in Higher Education: Past, Present, and Directions for the Future
12:15-13:00	Panel discussion and questions	
<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:00-14:30	Prof Allison Littlejohn , Director of University College London's knowledge lab, University College London	Moving to Online Teaching and Homeworking: Overcoming staff structural inequalities
14:30-15:00	Dr Bronwen Swinnerton , Senior Research Fellow in Digital Education, University of Leeds	The Unbundled University
15:00-15:30	Prof George Veletsianos , Canada Research Chair in Innovative Learning & Technology, Royal Roads University	Radical Flexibility as a Potential Solution to the Challenges Facing Higher Education
<i>Comfort break</i>		
15:45-16:15	Dr Michael Gallagher , Lecturer in Digital Education, Centre for Research in Digital Education, University of Edinburgh	Revisiting the near future of digital education: anticipation and acceleration
16:15-17:00	Panel discussion and questions	
<i>Wrap-up and Close</i>		

About the Centre for Research in Digital Education

We conduct world-class, impactful research into the role of digital technologies to support learning in the higher education and workplace learning sectors, exploring multiple contexts (formal education, informal learning, lifelong learning), and involving various modes (blended, hybrid and fully online).

Our vision is to conduct research on digital education which will facilitate the education of the next generation of global citizens to reach their potential and to foster a culture of lifelong learning in order to prepare individuals to work towards meeting global challenges and to bring about a more inclusive and just society. Through this research, we hope that more people globally will be able to benefit from effective digital education approaches which support their educational aspirations.

For more information and recent outputs, see our website: <https://crde.leeds.ac.uk/> Follow the Centre on Twitter at @digiduleeds. The Centre for Research in Digital Education is supported by the [School of Education](#) at the University of Leeds.



About the speakers

Simone Buitendijk is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, a major Russell Group University with a commitment to high quality education, a strong and dynamic research base and a track record of social, economic and cultural development. Before joining the University, she was Vice-Provost (Education) and Professor of Maternal and Child Health at Imperial College London. Before her role at Imperial, Professor Buitendijk was Vice-Rector at Leiden University in the Netherlands. She was responsible there for education, student affairs and diversity; and played a major role in the overall strategic leadership and direction of the university as a member of a three-person leadership team. She was previously head of a large research group in Paediatrics and Child Health at TNO Institute for Applied Sciences in the Netherlands and concurrently Professor of Maternal and Child Health at Leiden University Medical Centre and Professor of Midwifery Studies at the University of Amsterdam Medical Centre.



Josie Fraser's work focuses on equitable and inclusive digital transformation. She has worked across education, government, and more recently, the cultural sector. She has advised and represented major organisations and governments nationally and internationally. She is currently Head of Digital Policy at the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the UK's largest funder of heritage. She leads on the UK wide *Digital Skills for Heritage* initiative, designed to drive up digital skills and confidence across the heritage sector, and ensure organisations can make strategic and effective use of technology. She previously worked for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport as a senior technology adviser, leading on a range of policy areas including digital government and economies, online harms, internet regulation and international digital policy. She was awarded Honorary Life Membership by the Association for Learning Technology in 2017 in recognition of the impact and scope of her work as an educational technologist, particularly in relation to digital literacy and open education.



Michael Gallagher is a Lecturer in Digital Education at the University of Edinburgh, and a member of the Centre for Research in Digital Education. My research interests include digital education in HE, ICT4D, and educational mobility. My research examines the mobilities exhibited by groups and sectors in flux and how technology is used to both structure and manage these mobilities: post-Brexit, with greater concentrations of international students, displaced peoples, and refugees, with the unbundling of labour and education, and with global edtech regimes unmooring local educational expertise and higher education as vehicles for social mobility.



Vitomir Kovanovic is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Change and Complexity in Learning (C3L), University of South Australia. His research focuses on using learning analytics for the development of students' self-regulated learning and assessment of skills and competencies in online and blended contexts. Vitomir currently serves as the Secretary of the Society for Learning Analytics Research (SoLAR), a leading scholarly society in learning analytics field and was also the program chair for LAK20 conference. He is also an associate editor for Higher Education Research & Development Journal and academic editor at PLoS One Journal. Follow him at @vkovanovic.



Allison Littlejohn is Director of the UCL Knowledge Lab, a centre exploring the future of education with technology in the UCL Institute of Education. Her research focuses on the role of professional learning in addressing global challenges, making contributions to the understanding of how people learn for work across the Energy, Finance, Health, Education and International Development sectors. Professor Littlejohn is leading a study examining the experiences of working from home for university staff and chairs a panel exploring the future of teaching with technology in the UCL Institute of Education. Profile: <https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=ALITT35>
UCL Knowledge Lab: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/departments-and-centres/centres/ucl-knowledge-lab>



Neil Morris is Chair of Educational Technology, Innovation and Change in the School of Education and Dean of Digital Education at the University of Leeds, leading on a number of strategic digital education projects. He is a National Teaching Fellow, winning a number of national awards for teaching excellence. His research interests include educational technology, online and blended learning. He was the UK PI on an ESRC Newton Funded research project on the unbundled university. He has conducted a number of published studies on the impact of digital technologies on student learning and engagement and is the co-author of Study Skills Connected, a successful textbook on using technology to enhance learning.



Bronwen Swinnerton is a Senior Research Fellow in Digital Education in the School of Education, at the University of Leeds and a LITE (Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence) Fellow in Learning Analytics. She is also Deputy Director of the Centre for Research in Digital Education. Her background is in education research, having worked in the history of education, research in assessment and evaluation and in digital education research for many years. She was a Co-I on an ESRC Newton Funded research project on the unbundled university.



George Veletsianos is Professor in the School of Education and Technology at Royal Roads University, in Victoria, BC, Canada. He holds the Canada Research Chair in Innovative Learning and Technology and the Commonwealth of Learning Chair in Flexible Learning. His current research examines people's experiences and practices surrounding online and flexible learning, networked participation, and the future of higher education. George has authored or co-authored more than 80 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, and his latest book is [*Learning Online: The student experience*](#) (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020). George blogs about his work at <http://www.veletsianos.com>.

