

2010 UNIVERSITY ANNUAL LEARNING & TEACHING CONFERENCE

Research and Teaching – correlated or co-related?

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Abstract Template

Experiments in the Lecture Room with Non-Linearity - the ‘Choose your Own Adventure’ Lecture

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Theme: Learning in research mode through enquiry-based learning

Type of contribution: Workshop

Abstract:

The ADM-HEA funded innovation project described by this workshop concentrates on translating concepts introduced in two books published in the 1960's (McLuhan, M. 1994; Boal, A. 1993) to the provision of new media approaches within learning and teaching. The first concept, introduced by McLuhan, is that the medium is the message. This means that it is the medium itself (coupled with the whole manner in which it disseminates its information and affects the mental and emotional make-up of the recipient) that is more important than any single message it can possibly be used to convey. Secondly, the approach draws on Boal's concept that dialogue is the common, healthy dynamic between all humans, which all human beings desire and are capable of.

The main concept of the project is focused on the premise that there can be no complete version of anything we wish to teach and there are multiple ways in which the concepts can be delivered. Therefore as long as we are clear about the learning item/concept we wish to deliver, we can involve students in making decisions about how they wish it to be covered. This project investigates this idea through the development of an innovative new approach to learning and teaching – the ‘choose your own adventure’ lecture. A ‘choose your own adventure’ lecture involves the creation of lecture experiences where students can decide on content direction. In the ‘choose your own adventure’ lecture, different learning branches exist in delivered content and students participate in choosing what to explore next. For example, a student group exploring abstract art can choose to learn more about Piet Mondrian or Robert Rauschenberg when presented with both options. They are also free to leave the confines of the prepared lecture entirely.