

CGHE Annual Conference 24-25 May 2022: Session details



Realising the potential of MOOCs as a decentred process for collaborative professional development

25 May 2022, 3.10-4.10pm (UK)

Chair: Golo Henseke

Speakers: Diana Laurillard and Eileen Kennedy

Our research has explored how open online learning platforms could expand access to HE. MOOCs have been shown to be effective in engaging professionals who have the skills to learn online, but HE has traditionally had little to do with professional development. Instead, access to learning is restricted to those few who are enrolled on formal undergraduate or postgraduate courses. Yet, in a constantly changing and increasingly complex world, we need more porous boundaries between universities and professional communities. Professionals need practical knowledge to take action in the world. They need access to collaborative learning opportunities so that they can share their own practical knowledge with each other. This means that those professionals themselves must become part of the co-design process. We have developed a Theory of Change to bring large scale online teacher professional development using massive open online course platforms. This presentation will evaluate our Theory of Change, and present a new model for co-designed, collaborative, open, online learning that we call a “CoMOOC”. We demonstrate the impact that our design-based research is already having, and propose the CoMOOC as a new way of conceptualising professional development, as a decentred collaborative process.

Diana Laurillard leads CGHE Project 2, ‘Realising the potential of digital technology for scaling up higher education’.

Eileen Kennedy is a Senior Research Fellow on CGHE Project 2, ‘Realising the potential of digital technology for scaling up higher education’.