

Distinguished Scholars Seminar Series 2023



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Biography

Diana Laurillard, Professor of Learning with Digital Technology at UCL Knowledge Lab, University College London. Formerly: Head of the e-Learning Strategy Unit at the government's Department for Education and Skills; Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning Technology and Teaching at the Open University. Previously served on: the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for IT in Education, Moscow; Visiting Committee on IT, Harvard University; currently on McGraw-Hill Editorial Advisory Board. Researching: 'The Transformational Potential of MOOCs' (Centre for Global HE, UCL-Oxford); 'Future Education' (RELIEF Centre, UCL-IGP); the Learning Designer tool. Leading the Blended and Online Learning Design course, free and open to all; adaptive games for low numeracy. Currently supervising MA and doctoral students researching educational technology. Recent book: Teaching as a Design Science, Routledge. Lifetime Contribution Award, E-Assessment Association; Honorary Life Membership for Association for Learning Technology and Club Fondation Universitaire, Belgium; Honorary Fellow UCL. Named in top 2% world scientists, Stanford University Jan 2022.

ABSTRACT

Making an effective impact on the quality and reach of education through online learning design

Do universities optimise their impact on the current huge social challenges for education and the world? The aim of the workshop is to explore what more HE could do to improve the quality of learning and teaching, at school and university education, and in professional development. Digital technologies can help us with this by making learning more active, more socially constructive, and with better personalised feedback. AI can help with this, but can also hinder, if it is developed without a fundamental understanding of the nature of formal learning. We will then explore what more we can do to reach beyond our privileged students who are able to attend top universities. Online communications technologies, including MOOC platforms, now enable us to reach into remote schools, colleges, and communities, to collaborate with them on effective ways of using technologies for learning.

The workshop will illustrate these ideas in short presentations, interspersed with opportunities for plenary and group discussion and debate, and to explore one or two key websites, ending with a plenary Q&A.