

student as producer

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Students as producers: Using a Directed Study Approach to Create Student Designed Projects

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Abstract

This paper discusses a unique learning opportunity for undergraduate students located in two countries which allows them the opportunity to create a class project. During the Spring 2010 semester, students in the UK and the US completed an online, international class project where they collaborated on a variety of issues related to a hypothetical crime. Feedback was positive and many of the US students wanted to continue their involvement by co-designing the 2011 project. By signing up for a directed study module during the Fall 2010 semester, they created all the characters, storyline, photographs, delivery schedule and other artefacts for the project that ran during the Spring 2011 semester. The project utilises a wiki platform and includes crime scene photos, suspect profiles and requires students to examine evidence. Everything within the wiki is created by students, for students. The activities described above require critical thinking, collaboration, project management, and problem solving skills. Most interestingly, it allows US and UK students to virtually collaborate in a way that highlights both the similarities and differences between their respective societies and judicial systems. This process was successful and has been repeated for 2013. This conference presentation discusses both the pedagogy and international collaboration aspects of the project and identifies the value of allowing students to create projects, to take an active role in their own learning, and in the learning of others.

Presenter details

Dr Helen Jones

Nationally, I am Discipline Lead for Sociology at the Higher Education Academy. Locally, I am Principal Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. At the HEA it is my role to promote learning and teaching developments and to establish and build on relationships between the HEA, institutional departments and professional associations. A sociological criminologist by discipline, I have taught a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in criminology, sociology, social policy and related areas.
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Dr Kathrine Johnson

I am Associate Professor and Coordinator of Criminal Justice at the University of West Florida, Emerald Coast Campus. I graduated with a Ph.D. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1995 and since then have taught on a range criminal modules, with specialism in pedagogy. I am the Coordinator of the Emerald Coast Faculty Group, a Committee Member of the Emerald Coast Dean's Council have held positions on the Center for University Teaching, Learning and Assessment and Employee Satisfaction Team (Making Way for Excellence). I have been associated with my co-presenters for the last decade on delivering innovative learning opportunities for students. kjohnson@uwf.edu

Dr Liz Frondigoun

I have worked at Glasgow Caledonian University since 2003. Prior to that I worked on various research projects and held lecturing posts since 1997. I contribute to the teaching of research methodologies at Masters Level and to undergraduate teaching of Sociology and Criminology. My specialist areas of research are in the fields of policing, policy, and violence. I am Co-Chair of the Learning and Teaching Network for the British Society of Criminology and a prize committee member for The National Award for Excellence in Teaching Criminology. Liz.Frondigoun@gcu.ac.uk

