

Engaging higher education teachers in reflective teaching practices using an online tool:

A PhD Study

ABSTRACT

This conversation is based around a PhD study in Education looking into the conceptions of teaching that new academic or tertiary teachers held before and after an intervention. In particular this talk is centred on the process and experience of an online tool to gather qualitative data from participants in the study. An online journal system and a third party triangulatory questionnaire were used. The online journal captured the ongoing theoretical development of new teachers' through a set of activities and tried to manage the participants along the way. What was planned and expected, what were the challenges, and what happened? The ins and outs of the data gathering experience will be followed by a discussion with the audience to share and focus their own ideas and (online) research needs.

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Overview

- About the study
- *Sharing processes*
- *Online methods*
- *Challenges during the planning*
- *The intervention*
- *Challenges during the intervention*
- *How they were faced.*
- *Outcomes & Findings*
- *Discussion*

The study

- Capture conceptions of teaching held by new tertiary teachers ([Neophytes](#)).
- How teaching conceptions might be changed/evolved with intervention and activities.
- How a framework of intervention might assist conceptual changes.
- Aim to improve teaching for new teachers faster and sooner.

The Questions

- Keep Q's focused & limited
- **What are the changing conceptions of teaching for new tertiary teachers?**
- BEFORE & AFTER an intervention?
- What is the effect of the intervention?
- What is the influence of reflection?
- What is the overall influence of the conceptual change framework?

~~What is the influence of the EPSS?~~

Sharing Processes

- Need before and after to detect change
- Need to define conceptions of teaching
- How to capture
- Share process with others
- Get your supervisor involved
- Talk, cogitate & talk more

- > Interviews > change activities & journals > Interviews<
- Triangulation to strengthen findings

- Online seems a good way to go???

Journals & Forums

Journals to capture process of change

- Participant areas (private area)
- Seminar Room (shared area)
- Program and guide (calendar)

Ongoing use of instrument after project

- Gets your work out there
- Harnesses intellectual credit
- Google Groups (public membership)

The Online Tool

- **Tertiary Teachers' Reflective Practice Web Site:**
http://australianfamilyinternet.org/ecujweb/reflective_practice/
- Overview, Activities, Forums & Journals
- Documents & References, Links

- Blogs or Journals (used in the project):
<http://www.australianfamilyinternet.org/ecujweb/blogs/admin/>
On going public access online journal (Google Groups):
<http://groups.google.com/group/reflective-practice-journal>

- Triangulatory questionnaire!
http://www.teachingperspectives.com/html/tpi_frames.htm

Challenges During the Planning

- Designing a system
- Making the system work
- Managing the system
- Managing the participants

- Keep your supervisor informed
- Keep a progress journal

The Intervention

- Make it worthwhile to all
- Stay deeply involved
- Keep confidentiality
- Read lots and talk about it
- Keep up your journal

Challenges During the Intervention

- Getting the participants to engage
- Getting the participants to finish the program (staying the distance)
- Collating the results
- BACK UP EVERYTHING OFTEN - on & off site

How they were Faced

- Give talks about your study
- Invite likely participants
- Communicate with participants
- Build rapport
- *Communicate with participants*

- Provide alternative methods

Outcomes & Findings

- Now you have data what are you going to do with it.
- Coding (choosing software - start early)
- [Cogitation](#) or [cunctation](#)... Timeline >>>>
- Life always gets in the way!!!
- How are you going to report the findings
- What will you report & what to leave out
- Is it useful to your discussion
- Keep those questions in focus

Discussion

- Often a personal journey driven by interests.
- How are you going to decide on processes?
- How are you intending to implement?
- How are you going to get participants?
- How many do you need?
- How are you going to engage them?
- How are you going to manage them?

- Keep focused on your questions throughout!
- Keep your supervisor informed.

Thank You
&
Good Luck



Definitions A

Neophyte – noun

1. A beginner or novice:
2. A novice of an order.
3. A recent convert to a belief; a *proselyte*.
One who turns from what s/he believes to have been a decided error of faith or practice. Such a change may relate to religion, politics, or other subjects. Properly considered, it is not confined to speculation alone, but affects the whole current of one's feelings and the tenor of his or her actions.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/neophytes>

Definitions B

Cogitation - noun

1. Concerted thought or reflection; contemplation;
“After hours of cogitation he came up with a new proposal.”
2. Carefully considered thought or reflection about something;
“Her cogitations were dutifully recorded in her daybook.”

Cunctation - noun

1. The act of *procrastinating*; putting off or delaying or deferring an action to a later time.
“After many days of cunctation she wished she had recorded her thoughts.”

<http://dictionary.reference.com>