

Ciara O'Farrell and Alison Farrell *editors*

Emerging Issues in Higher Education III

From Capacity Building to Sustainability



Emerging Issues in Higher Education III

From capacity building to sustainability

Ciara O'Farrell and Alison Farrell *editors*

May 2013

edin

educational developers in ireland network



PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Emerging Issues in Higher Education III: From Capacity Building to Sustainability

Edited by Ciara O’Farrell and Alison Farrell

Published and distributed by: Educational Developers in Ireland Network (EDIN)

Website: www.edin.ie

Designed by: Anú Design, Tara, Co. Meath, Republic of Ireland

Printed by: GPS Colour Graphics. Ltd. Belfast, Northern Ireland.

ISBN No: 978-0-9550134-6-1

COPYRIGHT

Original Works

The separate and original works comprising this collection are subject to copyright by their individual authors. The aggregation of the works into the collection and all ancillary original works are copyright by the editors. All these original works are made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 3.0 licence.

Informally: this means you are free to:

Share — to copy, distribute and transmit the work **under the following conditions:**

Attribution — You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).

Noncommercial — You may not use this work for commercial purposes.

No Derivative Works — You may not alter, transform, or build upon this work.

With the understanding that:

- **Waiver**— Any of the above conditions can be waived if you get permission from the copyright holder.
- **Public Domain**— Where the work or any of its elements is in the public domain under applicable law, that status is in no way affected by the license.
- **Other Rights**— In no way are any of the following rights affected by the license:
 - Your fair dealing or fair use rights, or other applicable copyright exceptions and limitations;
 - The author’s moral rights;
 - Rights other persons may have either in the work itself or in how the work is used, such as publicity or privacy rights.

This is an informal, human-readable summary of the licence terms, which has no force in its own right. The legal terms of the licence are determined solely by the Legal Code (the full license).

Third Party Copyright Works

All usage of third party copyright works in this collection, by way of quotation or otherwise, is done in good faith under the “fair dealing” and/or “incidental inclusion” provisions of the Irish Copyright And Related Rights Act, 2000, sections 51 and 52. Any specific query in relation to such usage should be referred to the individual author(s).

Recommended citation: O’Farrell, C. and Farrell, A. eds. (2013) *Emerging Issues in Higher Education III: From capacity building to sustainability*. Athlone: EDIN.

Acknowledgements

No piece of text writes itself and no book comes together by wishing and hoping alone. Several people contributed to this book moving beyond a conversation and becoming a reality. We would like to acknowledge them here.

We would like to sincerely thank the authors and the international contributors – there would be no book without you.

Many thanks to Nuala Harding (EDIN Chair) and Joan Mannion, both of Athlone Institute of Technology where EDIN is currently based, for their stalwart contribution to the project management and administration behind this publication. We also acknowledge the members of the EDIN Executive for their help and support in bringing this work to fruition.

We are very grateful to Saranne Magennis and Marian Fitzmaurice for their conscientious copy-editing and proofreading of the book. Their encouragement and enthusiasm around this work was also most welcome.

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of Catherine O'Mahony (NAIRTL), and the support of NAIRTL and the Higher Education Authority (HEA) through grant funding that contributed to the process and production of this book.

We thank our own institutions, NUI Maynooth and Trinity College Dublin, for allowing us the time to devote to this publication.

We are grateful also to Bill Kelly (owner) and Rowan Gillespie (sculptor) for the use of the beautiful image of 'Enigma' on the cover of this book.

We both thank our families, especially our husbands who, besides ourselves, have lived this book more than anyone else.

Finally, we each dedicate this book as follows:

to Dr Brian Coates, the teacher who mattered most (AF)

to Cameron, Luke and Josh, students of the future (COF).

Contents

1	Introduction: Conversations on a Journey Alison Farrell and Ciara O’Farrell	1
SECTION 1 – COLLABORATION AS A WAY FORWARD		
2	Conversations on an Emergent Professional Network: a personal reflection on the background, development and sustainability of the Educational Developers in Ireland Network (EDIN) Nuala Harding Response by Tai Peseta	13
3	Developing a Regional Approach to Outstanding Teaching and Learning: A case study Mary Fitzpatrick and Elaine Vaughan Response by Jacqueline Potter	29
4	Discourse and Connectivity: Capturing the voice of educators Fiona O’Riordan, Susan Bergin, Kevin Casey and Larry McNutt Response by Sally Brown	42
SECTION 2: SUPPORTING ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT		
5	Practising what they Preach? Academics’ views on professional development for their teaching role. Maria Slowey and Ekaterina Kozina Response by Shirley Walters	55
6	Sustaining Academic Leadership in Higher Education Pauline Joyce and Ciarán Boyle Response by Hossam Hamdy	69
7	Possibility Portals: Building sustainability amongst academics in challenging times Alison Clancy Response by Robert Kennelly	82
SECTION 3: USING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE TEACHING AND LEARNING		
8	An Investigation of Students’ Experiences of Using Virtual Learning Environments: Implications for academic professional development Angelica Risquez, Claire McAvinia, Damien Raftery, Fiona O’Riordan, Nuala Harding, Robert Cosgrave, Theresa Logan-Phelan and Tom Farrelly Response by Gráinne Conole	99
	A Critical Discourse on the Role, Motivations and Beliefs of the Educational	113

9	Technologist in Higher Education Larry McNutt Response by William Hunter	
10	Digital Repositories and their Associated Services: From capacity building to sustainability. Ann Marcus Quinn Response by Dermot Brabazon	129
SECTION 4: EMERGING APPROACHES AND PEDAGOGIES		
11	Promoting Student Engagement by Engaging Staff: Implementing a survey of student engagement Sylvia Huntley-Moore, Aileen Patterson and John Panter Response by Amber Lambert	145
12	Threshold Concepts: Informing the curriculum Bettie Higgs and James Cronin Response by David Pace	161
13	Supporting First Year Students in their Academic and Social Adjustment to Higher Education. A case study of the First Seven Weeks Programme at the University of Limerick Yvonne Diggins, Angelica Risquez and Maura Murphy Response by John R. Schermerhorn	178
14	Development of a Model for Blended Postgraduate Research Supervision in Irish Higher Education Roisin Donnelly and Marian Fitzmaurice Response by Gina Wisker	193
15	Curriculum Development for Sustainable Civic Engagement Josephine Boland Responses by Robert Bringle and Juliet Millican	210
	Reader's Response	
	Emerging Issues in Higher Education III: From capacity building to sustainability A reflective response: What have we learned and what must we do now? Saranne Magennis	229
	Contributors	233