



**THE OBSERVATORY**  
on Borderless Higher Education

## **Global Forum 2017**

11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December, One Drummond Gate, London

### **Ready or Not?**

### **The Role of Online and Blended Learning in Higher Education**

#### **Programme**

Whatever you call it- online, digital, virtual, e-learning- it has been a rough ride. In the 1990's, champions imagined a near-future of dramatically better access to higher education, a wealth of online learning resources and plummeting costs. All over the world, students would be able to enrol at the best universities, and all but the top institutions would perish. Reality proved a bit more complicated.

The Observatory's 2017 Global Forum will reassess the potential of online and blended learning in higher education, to meet the needs of domestic and international students. Drawing on a unique series of country studies from around the world, this event is an opportunity to engage with the latest data, learn from experience, and consider new models and technologies.

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### **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**09:00-09:30**

**Registration and Refreshments**

**09:30-09:45**

**Welcome (Richard Garrett, Director, OBHE)**

**09:45-10:30**

**Key Takeaways from the Observatory's 2017 Online Higher Education Country Case Studies (The Observatory Team)**

In 2017, the Observatory assessed the state of online and blended higher education around the world, from the United States to India, and Mexico to China. Hear our take on whether, where and why online learning is ready for action.

**10:30-11:00**

**Coffee and Networking**

**11:00-11:45**

## **Simon Nelson, CEO, FutureLearn**

FutureLearn is one of the world's major MOOC providers, with university and other partners in the UK and internationally. Simon Nelson will discuss the impact of MOOCs to date, MOOC degrees, and FutureLearn's evolving business model.

**11:45-12:45**

## **World Café- Part 1**

Always one of the most popular features of our Global Forums, the World Café is all about small-group discussion. Delegates have the opportunity to talk directly with experts on online learning from around the world, and to share their own goals and challenges. Hosts and delegates learn a lot.

You will have the opportunity to visit three tables during the hour with 20 minutes at each. **All World Café tables will be available on both days of the conference.**

Choose from the following discussion groups:

- **Case Study in Innovation in Inter-Disciplinary Virtual Formats** - Dr Michael Horowitz, President, TCS Education System and Emily Brinkmoeller Karem, Vice President, Global Engagement, TCS Education System, US
  - What happens when five different HEI from different fields of study join together to tackle the topic of immigration? TCS Education System leverages online learning for students to create global, inter-disciplinary experiences that cannot be paralleled in the on-campus format.
- **Professional Development Models** - Mirjam Hauck, Senior Lecturer, Department of Languages, The Open University and Stephen Tippett, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Course Development Coordinator, State University of New York COIL Center, US
  - COIL/Virtual Exchange is an approach to learning and teaching which provides low-cost internationalization strategies by linking classes from different countries in virtual environments for online interaction and collaboration. Faculty and students work with their peers across time zones and geographical distance to explore topical issues in their subject areas and in cross-curricula tailor-made modules preparing learners to work in a multi-cultural and connected world. SUNY COIL Center and UNICollaboration will host this World Café session to provide a discussion around the rationale, processes, and impacts of COIL/Virtual Exchange in our respective programs and among the wider higher education field in Europe, the US, and around the world.
- **Building a student community across time and space: Online learning at British University in Dubai** - Chris Hill, Director Doctoral Training Centre, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, British University in Dubai
  - The British University in Dubai is a research-only postgraduate institution. The student population is largely professional and teaching takes place in the evenings and weekends. Chris Hill will discuss the opportunities and challenges of leveraging online and blended learning to enhance knowledge exchange, skill development and community building.

- **How to Meet the Challenges of Online, International Education: A Practice From Utrecht** - Maggy Ovaa, Strategic advisor to the Executive Board on International Affairs and Strategic Collaborations, University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands, and Renée Filius, Program Manager, Elevate Health and Researcher in Online Education.
  - Maggy Ovaa and Renée Filius will share their research results and lessons learned on the different online educational models used in various international programmes. Topics of discussion are the existing online educational models (MOOCs and SPOCs), models tailored to your ambition and audience and engaging (teaching) staff in your online programmes.
- **Transitioning into online learning** - Dr Susi Peacock, Centre for Academic Practice, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
  - Online learning can provide a dynamic educational space, allowing students access to educational opportunities, whilst retaining employment, and fulfilling their familial responsibilities. However, we still know very little about the online learner experience and particularly how we, as educational institutions, can assist our often under-prepared students in this virtual space. We discuss early findings about learner experiences of moving online, shine a light onto our learners' expectations of online learning and consider the challenges students face in meeting their professional and personal aspirations.
- **University of London International Programme (ULIP) and the MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies** - Sarah Singer, Lecturer in Refugee Law, ULIP
  - A case study on using online learning to contribute to the educational sector's response to the global 'refugee crisis'; and employing online learning to 'cross borders', serving a diverse and mobile workforce in the refugee and humanitarian field.
- **Assessing the Performance of MOOCs: An Empirical Case Study of PoliMi Open Knowledge (POK) Experience** - Mara Soncin, PhD Candidate, Dept of Management, Economics, and Industrial Engineering, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
  - Authors study the results obtained by attendants of POK (PoliMi Open Knowledge), the MOOC platform by Politecnico di Milano (a technical University in Milan, Italy). After analysing which course characteristics are related to higher completion rates, authors investigate whether students attending MOOC obtain better results in discipline-related on-campus exams, finding heterogeneity in results.

**12:45-14:00**

**Lunch**

**13:25-13:55**

### **Special Lunchtime Session**

#### **Online Pedagogy: a car is not a horseless carriage – Lucian Cosinschi, Regional Manager, Europe, Minerva**

This session will discuss the pedagogy employed at Minerva, an innovative undergraduate institution combining online and in-person learning.

Minerva was founded in 2012, in California, to re-think the undergraduate student experience. Formally in the world. Contemporary undergraduate education needs to be multidimensional, developing students' intellects across disciplines, imparting critical life skills known as Minerva Schools at KGI (Keck Graduate Institute, one of the Claremont Colleges), Minerva offers a unique education for the brightest, most motivated students, building professional capabilities, and reinforcing key aspects of personal character. Minerva students are nurtured through rigorous academic and experiential learning programs, including extensive time abroad, to gain critical wisdom, to become better leaders, smarter innovators, life-long learners and more informed global citizens.

Minerva will run a complementary session during lunch on Friday. Global Forum attendees are encouraged to attend one or both sessions.

**14:00-14:45**

#### **Swinburne Online and SEEK- Duncan Bentley, DVC (Academic), Swinburne University of Technology, Australia and Kay Lipson, Executive Director at OES**

Swinburne Online has quickly become Australia's leading provider of online degrees. Founded in 2012, in partnership with SEEK, Australia's top jobs and career marketplace, Swinburne Online now enrolls over 10,000 students. Duncan Bentley and Kay Lipson will explore Swinburne's model and plans for international expansion.

**14:45-15:30**

#### **Alternative providers, Institutions and Online Learning**

Some alternative providers are among the most internationalized education providers, and many have been quick to embrace online and blended learning, and award of qualifications. This panel session will explore alliances between alternative providers and higher education institutions, as well as tensions and competition.

**Chair: Mary Bishop, ACCA Global Forum for Education.**

- Roxanne Stockwell, Vice President of HE, Pearson College
- Tiska Wiedermann, Postgraduate Programme Director, Raindance
- James Wakefield, Director of the Council of the Inns of Court (COIC) and Dean of the Inns of Court College of Advocacy (ICCA)

**15:30-15:45**

#### **Coffee and Networking**

**15:45-16:30**

**Contemporary challenges and opportunities of online universities - Josep Planell, Rector, Universitat Oberta Catalunya (UOC), Spain**

Open University of Catalonia (UOC), founded in 1994, is one of the world's pioneer fully online universities. Today the university enrolls over 50,000 students in Catalonia, in Spain, and around the globe, not least in Latin America. Programmes are offered in Spanish and English, as well as Catalan. Josep Planell will reflect on lessons learned, and offer his take on the future of fully online and blended learning.

**16:30-17:15**

**Online Learning in Practice - international institutional case studies**

- Fernando León García, President, PIMSA Distinguished Chair, CETYS University, Mexico
- Jo Smedley, Director of USW Online, University of South Wales
- Marinke Sussenbach, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
- Jon Taylor, Teaching Fellow for Technology-Enhanced Learning, Aston University

**17:15-18:15**

**Drinks Reception**

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**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**09:00-09:30**

**Arrival Refreshments**

**09:30-09:45**

**Welcome and Introduction to Day 2- The Observatory**

**09:45-10:30**

**Mary Stiasny, PVC (International) and Chief Executive, University of London International Programmes**

The University of London has unrivalled experience with cross-border distance learning, and runs one of the biggest operations of its kind in the world. Mary Stiasny will explain the history and key features of the *International Programmes* model, and some of the pedagogical and technological innovations under development.

**10:30-11:00**

**Coffee and Networking**

**11:00-11:45**

## **Quality Assurance Panel- how to handle cross-border online learning**

Online learning casts aside geographical borders but must contend with national quality assurance agencies. This session will hear from quality assurance leaders from around the world- panellists to be announced- about different national efforts to accommodate cross-border online delivery, and a unique initiative to enhance quality assurance through inter-agency cooperation.

**Chair: Carolyn Campbell, Senior Consultant, The Observatory.**

- Joe Hong, Registrar, Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), Hong Kong, SAR
- Nitesh Sughnani, Director, University Quality Assurance, Knowledge & Human Development Authority Dubai (KHDA), Dubai, UAE

**11:45-12:45**

## **World Café- Part 2**

Always one of the most popular features of our Global Forums, the World Café is all about small-group discussion. Delegates have the opportunity to talk directly with experts on online learning from around the world, and to share their own goals and challenges. Hosts and delegates learn a lot. Please see World Café session on Day 1 for details.

**12:45-14:00**

**Lunch**

**13:25-13:55**

## **Special Lunchtime Session**

### **Online/Offline Learning Mix: finding the right balance – Lucian Cosinschi, Regional Manager, Europe, Minerva**

This session will explore how Minerva has developed specific online and offline learning experiences, helping students foster practical and adaptable skills, and an understanding of how to apply them in the world.

Please see Minerva's lunch session on Day 1 for company background.

**14:00-14:45**

## **Learning Analytics- Sizing Up the Promise**

The generation of granular, personalized insights about learning effectiveness is the tantalizing promise of learning analytics. A panel of companies and institutions will showcase some innovative partnerships and sift rhetoric from reality in this complex area.

**Chair:** Phil Richards, CIO, Jisc

- Ben Betts, CEO, HT2 Labs
- Nick Moore, Director of LTI, University of Gloucestershire
- Richard Palmer, Product Manager – Student Insight, Management Systems & Solutions, Tribal Group
- Katie Piatt, eLearning Services Manager, University of Brighton

**14:45-15:30**

**Expert Panel: Chris Ziguras, Professor and Deputy Dean at RMIT, Australia, Paul Bacsich, Sero Consulting and Matic Media, and Helen O'Sullivan, Associate PVC Online Learning, University of Liverpool**

Three of the world's experts on transnational education and cross-border online learning give their views on why online has been slower to take off than many expected, and whether the future holds evolution or revolution.

**15:30-15:45**

**Closing comments- The Observatory**

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**For more information**

[www.obhe.org](http://www.obhe.org) /[info@obhe.org](mailto:info@obhe.org)/[@theobhe](https://twitter.com/theobhe)

**[Registration available here](#) .**