

LEARNING ECOLOGIES: A NEW WAY OF VISUALIZING & DESIGNING TEACHING for LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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This contribution can be customised for the institution. It can be offered as a keynote or seminar, a short workshop (1 or 2 hrs) or an extended workshop or developmental process over 1 or more days. Based on a substantial programme of research and scholarship, it provides an ecological perspective on learning and teaching in higher education with an emphasis on pedagogical practices that encourage and enable students to use and develop their creativity.

The CPD session will introduce the idea of learning ecologies arguing that in the world outside higher education we continually develop our own ecologies for learning in order to deal with complex situations in life, solve problems and engage with opportunities. Higher education teachers, through their pedagogic practices, create ecologies for learning within a supportive university ecosystem. Viewing learning from an ecological perspective requires us to consider how different pedagogic practices result in different types of ecology for learning some of which are more facilitative of students' creativity than others. During the session we explore the features and characteristics of pedagogic practices that encourage and enable students to use and develop their creativity and examples of pedagogies for creative learning ecologies are provided to stimulate thinking.

RESOURCES

- 1) Background concept paper & presentation slides
- 2) Video clips used in session
- 3) Link to Creative Academic Magazine #7 to provide examples of ecologies for learning & creativity
- 4) Post-event synthesis of what is shared in the workshop as a downloadable paper

BIOGRAPHY



Norman Jackson is Emeritus Professor of the University of Surrey and Founder of two social educational enterprises - Lifewide Education and Creative Academic. An important focus of his work over the last 15 years has been concerned with higher education's involvement in developing students' creativity which is documented in four books including 'Developing Creativity in Higher Education: an imaginative curriculum', and his recent book 'Exploring Learning Ecologies'. He is currently leading a practitioner-oriented research and development project 'Exploring Creative Pedagogies and Learning Ecologies' <http://www.creativeacademic.uk/2016-17-programme.html> You can find out more about his work at: <http://www.normanjackson.co.uk/> @lifewider1

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