



Online Learning Futures Festival

Futures for Knowledge

27–30 March 2012

Three continents, three time zones, a non-stop online global conference

Keynote speakers

Keynotes for Australian programme



Aaron Corn



Susan A. Kelly

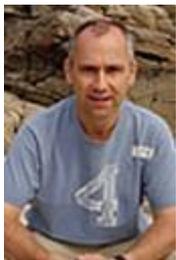


Cath Rogers-Clark



Peter Terry

Keynotes for European Programme



Alasdair Blair



John Fothergill



Wendy Hall



Mike Petterson

Keynotes for North American programme



Martha Cleveland-Innes



Michael Geist



Thomas Patrick Keenan



Connie K. Varnhagen

Session recordings FTS12

We will continue to add individual recordings of sessions over the coming weeks.

AUSTRALIA DAY 1 SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY	<p>(Professor Peter Terry) Chasing Olympic Dreams and Promoting Healthy Living in a Digital World</p> <p>(Dr Gene Moyle, Professor Peter Terry, Professor Gregory Kolt and Professor Tony Morris) Sports Psychology Round Table</p> <p>(Professor Joseph Mula and Adam Lin) Introducing the Mobile ECG System: using multi-touch function to support cardiac diagnosis</p>
AUSTRALIA DAY 1 NURSING AND MIDWIFERY	<p>(Professor Cath Rogers-Clark) Nursery and Midwifery Education for a Healthier World</p> <p>(Dr Clint Mahoney, Marie Cleary and Ruth Terwijn) Nursing and Midwifery Round Table</p> <p>(Paul Fenn) Real World Scenarios with PowerPoint</p>



The University of Southern Queensland
Participant Information Sheet

**Instructions to be sent to all participants registered for the conference on Tuesday 27
March 2012 (Day before conference begins)**

HREC Approval Number: H12REA039

Full Project Title: Follow the Sun Learning Futures Festival Evaluation

Principal Researcher: Dr Angela Murphy

Other Researcher(s): Dr Amy Antonio, Dr Helen Farley, Dr Shirley Reushle

Dear Follow the Sun Delegate

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Follow the Sun Online Learning Futures Festival 2012. We at the Australian Digital Futures Institute, Beyond Distance Research Alliance and Athabasca University have collaborated to provide you with a dynamic and innovative 48-hour Festival, at no charge to you. However, we know we can do it better and so, to ensure that future events meet your needs for information and resources, we invite you to contribute to our Festival evaluation.

Evaluation rationale and approach

Research has identified (¹Anderson & Anderson, 2010) that most evaluations of online conferences are aimed at obtaining feedback on the satisfaction of participants with the event and, as a result, they do not effectively capture the benefits and limitations of conferences as experienced by participants or evaluate the learning that actually occurs.

We have therefore structured the evaluation activities in a manner that will allow you to reflect on your experiences during the conference and provide us with more detailed insight into which components of the Learning Festival facilitate or hinder learning. We will also be providing you with an overview of the results in the hope that you will actively engage in discussions with the research team about your perceptions of the findings.

The following evaluation activities will occur during the festival:

1. Festival analytics

We would like to do some research on participation trends to see how people are accessing Festival events. We will therefore be analysing the Festival analytics provided by Blackboard Collaborate. This will give us insight into preferences for access to sessions, the length of time spent in sessions and which sessions attract the most participation.

2. Twitter and social media conversations

Online Festivals such as Follow the Sun provides us with a unique opportunity to interact and network with colleagues from around the world and the use of social media to communicate during Festivals is an exciting

¹ Anderson, L. & Anderson, T. (2010). *Online Conferences: Professional Development for a Networked Era*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

trend. We would like to determine how Festival attendees are using social media to interact during the online Festival, what the primary themes are that are being talked about and new connections that are being made. We will be conducting discourse analysis with the tweets using the Festival hash tags, questions posted during the sessions and on forums or social media sites set up for the Festival. We would also like to conduct polls via twitter during the Festival.

If you do not want your tweets, questions or comments to be included in this research, please let us know and we will remove your responses from the results. Alternatively you can Tweet without using the Festival hash tag.

3. Evaluation questions to be asked after each session

In order to gain insight into the learning or new ideas that you take away from each session, the session moderators will be directing you to a few evaluation questions at the end of each session. There will be no more than 5-6 questions asked at each stage. **Participation is voluntary and your responses will be anonymous.**

4. Survey evaluation for participants

We would like to determine participation trends as well as the value and impact of Follow the Sun 2012 to guide future events. In order to do so, an online survey will be emailed by conference organisers to all those who registered for the conference. The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and will provide you the opportunity to reflect on both your experience of the Festival and actions you will put in place as a result of the Festival.

Please consider participating in the survey even if you were not able to attend any of the sessions as we would like to identify ways to make future online events more accessible and convenient. If you do not want to complete the survey but would nevertheless like to offer your feedback or thoughts on the success and/or challenges of the online Festival, please contact us by email at any time. Any comments would be greatly appreciated.

We would like to track the impact of the Festival on you over the long term and would like to touch base with you again in 3 months, after 6 months and after a year to see how the leanings from the Festival have influenced your practice.

We will be offering all participants who complete the final survey opportunity to win one of five copies of international Author Gilly Salmon's new book All Things in Moderation - E-moderating, 3rd edition to thank you for your time. All those who wish to enter the draw to win are asked to provide their name and contact details at the end of the survey.

5. Survey evaluation for presenters

Our Festival presenters will be asked to complete a 5-10 minute survey that explores their experiences presenting in an online setting verse a face-to-face environment.

6. Evaluating ourselves

To inform the conduct of future online events, the core organising team for Follow the Sun will be evaluating the process in order to identify potential areas for improvement.

Voluntary Participation and confidentiality of responses:

There is no risk associated with this research. Moreover, any comments posted by presenters or delegates may be removed prior to content analysis if requested.

Completion of the survey is voluntary, as is participation in the social media space. **If you do not wish to take part, you are not obliged to.** If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage. Any information already obtained from you will be destroyed. We will not publish any personally identifiable information without explicit prior permission. In addition, we will communicate results to participants for comment during the research process and prior to publication of any results for you to provide additional comments on.

Any identifiable information recorded by Blackboard Collaborate during the conference proceedings will be anonymised and substituted with a unique identifier to be used during the research analysis. Personal information such as email addresses will be password protected and deleted securely directly after completion of the research.

If you choose to participate in social media conversation threads such as Twitter or Facebook, your comments, questions and/or posts **may be removed** prior to content analysis if you request.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the University of Southern Queensland or any of the partner organisations.

Accessing the evaluation survey and additional information

Information on the research and survey invitations will be sent out to all those who registered for the conference. Only the conference organisers who are listed on the Follow The Sun 2012 registration website will communicate directly with you unless you request specific information from the research team.

Please notify the researcher if you wish to withdraw from this project at any stage and we will ensure that no further emails about the research process will be sent to you.

Should you have any queries regarding the progress or conduct of this research, please contact the principal researcher:

Dr Angela Murphy
Digital Futures Institute
Angela.Murphy@usq.edu.au
+61 7 4631 1638

Alternatively please reach out to the conference organisers mentioned previously using the following details:

Australia: Dr Shirley Reushle, shirley.reushle@usq.edu.au

Europe: Simon Kear, simon.pear@le.ac.uk or Brenda Padilla, bcp4@le.ac.uk

North America: Professor Terry Anderson, terrya@athabascau.ca

If you have any ethical concerns with how the research is being conducted or any queries about your rights as a participant, please feel free to contact the University of Southern Queensland Ethics Officer on the following details.

Ethics and Research Integrity Officer
Office of Research and Higher Degrees
University of Southern Queensland
West Street, Toowoomba 4350
Ph: +61 7 4631 2690
Email: ethics@usq.edu.au