

Session No. 5.1

Who are you today? An exploration of professional identities in Learning Development

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Abstract

The lecturer, the tutor, the adviser, the expert, the friend. Learning Developers are a diverse professional body with a wide and expansive range of responsibilities. What does that mean for our professional identity? This workshop will explore these issues to help participants inform their practice, personal development and student engagement.

The diverse 'roles' such as those outlined above can be seen as 'positions' on a spectrum that place us as an insider or outsider in any given situation. Exploring these positions collectively will allow us to look at what opportunities they provide and what limits they place on our own practice in a range of contexts. This will also demonstrate how our positions influence relationships with staff, students and peers.

This workshop will enable participants to:

- Identify what 'positions' them
- Reflect on how their positions influence their practice
- Look at these positions in the context of other learning developers
- Explore the differing professional backgrounds of learning developers and what it is to be a learning developer.

This is not just a workshop. It is a conversation. Participants will be encouraged to physically position themselves in relation to each other and together we will start constructing a shared map of learning development practice. The map will not just be based on our 'roles', job titles or hierarchy, but will be framed through a new three-tier model designed to help us recognise our professional identity by how we are 'positioned' as individuals, institutional practitioners and within our wider profession. This will help delegates understand where they are positioned within this landscape both in their own institution and within the wider network of learning developers, and may be particularly helpful for colleagues and teams undergoing organisational change.

Session Plan

- Welcome and brief introduction to positioning
- Interactive positioning exercise
This will form the body of the workshop and delegates will be taking part in a series of activities to start constructing a shared map of learning development practice.
- The map so far
A facilitated discussion on the map produced in activity 1 . What does that mean for our professional identity?
- Close and questions