

Networked Learning Conference 2020

Title of Presentation:

GELO and GreX: A framework and dashboard to investigate technology competency and culture.

Intended Audience

Individuals and institutions interested in taking a look at fully online learning with community supports; those interested in assessment tools that speak to the readiness for participation in fully online learning environments; those involved in the creation of supports required by institutions for students and faculty.

Workshop Description

Participation in 4th Industrial Revolution society is increasingly dependent upon competencies related to the use of digital technologies for a wide variety of purposes. A person's competence in the use of digital technologies has implications for a wide variety of contexts and situations, including learning in physical as well as virtual spaces, career choices and employability, digital citizenship, cultural orientations and values, and even democracy (Erstad, 2010). This workshop will provide an overview of the Global Educational Learning Observatory (GELO) project and invite participants to experience a variety of self-assessment tools accessed through the customizable dashboard, the Global Readiness Explorer (GREx). The GELO project attempts to provide a framework for an international network of institutions utilizing data-driven evidence to inform evolving best practices for online and mobile learning.

To achieve this, the project (i) assembles a nucleus of formal educational institutions, (ii) constructs the necessary tools to extend research on formal learning models, and (iii) reaches into the workplace as well as other more public spaces to integrate with informal learning settings. The primary source of data derives from a customizable dashboard, the Global Readiness Explorer (GREx), and the tools that can be implemented within it. These tools are designed to give individuals, organizations, and institutions the means to construct complex profiles that can be used to identify gaps in competency attainment and development. Through small group activities, participants will examine and discuss the various tool suites in the GREx including the digital learning competency profiler (DCP); the fully online learning community survey instrument (FOLCS); the Personal Cultural Orientation Scale (PCOS) and others. In this workshop, participants will choose a self-assessment instrument to participate in and then discuss their experience with a focus on improving the GREx tool suite for global use. In addition, participants will examine the GREx for use with their students as a component of determining readiness for moving into fully online learning environments. The workshop will conclude with an explanation of the global educational learning observatory (GELO), and participants will be invited to join this global research network.

Participant Engagement

Participants in small groups will discuss, and experience the DCP, the FOLCS and a variety of online tools associated with GREx, and contribute to the evolution and refinement of theoretical descriptive and predictive models of contemporary online learning.

Participant Outcomes

Participants will examine and discuss:

- what it means to be a fully online learner;
- what does it mean to be working in an online community in formal educational contexts;
- ways to measure readiness;
- collaborative research (GELO) approaches and tools to examine readiness, culture, competence (confidence and frequency of use of technology) and the impact of this in fully online learning environments.

Workshop Alignment with Conference Themes

- Theories, methodologies, and design for Networked Learning
- Methods, research design, data and analysis in Networked learning (e.g. phenomenography, social network analysis, ANT and post-ANT, learning analytics, big data)
- Networked learning in the public arena (open learning and networked publics)
- Learning on the move; places and spaces for networked learning

Workshop Process/Activities (please provide an indication of how long each activity will last)

Proposed draft agenda for the workshop:

Timing	Task
5 min	Introductions & description of context (UOIT, RRU, EILab)
15 min	GELO and GREx history and toolset, theoretical underpinnings and model description
20 min	Small group examination of some of the toolsets (think, pair, share, group) 1 min silent reflection; 3 min w elbow partner; 12 min w group of 4
20 min	Individual or pair completion of the DCP; FOLCS or other tools in GreX
10 min	Small group discussion about the toolset experienced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · gap analysis re: match/differences/ areas of question · write gaps and edits to definitions on flip chart paper on the table
10 min	Gallery walk
10 min	Large group structured debrief and next steps (GELO invitation)