



LTA Connect Series 2024-25: Compassionate Pedagogies

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About

The LTA Connect is a long established lunch-time webinar series hosted by the Learning and Teaching Academy at the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). Designed to share practice, to facilitate dialogue, to share educational research and develop ideas and knowledge. A new theme is chosen each academic year, with the 24-25 focus being 'compassionate pedagogies'.

Who

The LTA Connect series provided the opportunity to explore compassion in leadership, teaching, assessment, student support and through quality assurance and enhancement processes.

A call for proposals encouraged UHI colleagues to present their practice and invited speakers in the sector provided further perspectives on compassion in further and higher education.

Compassionate Pedagogies

Although compassion in education is not a new praxis, the Covid pandemic shifted the way that tertiary education is delivered and received. Educators and institutions were in a new position to rethink compassion in teaching post-Covid and in the context of a changing sector (Waddington, Bryan and Gibbs 2024).

Recordings and slides



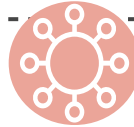
Open



UHI is a geographically distributed university, utilising technology across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to connect students and staff in learning and development (Walker and Smyth 2021).

This context meant that the LTA already offered some online development opportunities openly to the sector prior to Covid. However the pandemic shifted the sectors use of technology to engage in CPD and normalised cross-sector engagement which opened up dialogue and collaborative development of knowledge.

Audience



This was an open webinar series, with over 312 registrations from across the sector.

Challenges

- The ongoing challenge of registration vs attendance.
- The balance of being long enough to allow for meaningful reflection and dialogue and short enough not to allow busy colleagues to attend.
- Gender balance, being predominately women participants.

Feedback



"Excellent presentations with plenty of time for Q&A - a model example of how to share best practice."

"Can't overstate how much I really enjoyed this session.. I think it will be really invaluable for me as a lecturer"

"Great to have these opportunities to connect with colleagues, hear their experiences and thoughts, and exchange ideas."

All session outlines, slides and recordings are available on the LTA events programme website

Waddington, K. and Bonaparte, B. (eds.) (2024) *Developing pedagogies of compassion in higher education : a practice first approach*. Cham: Springer. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-67543-0>. Walker, A. and Smyth, K., 2021. Developing online learning through the pandemic: Digitally enabled approaches to student and staff peer support within a distributed university. *Educational Developments*, 22(1), pp.13-18.

Compassionate feedback: how to reduce inequity in our feedback practices

Vikki Hill, Director of Learning Enhancement and Academic Development, Queen Margaret University
Dr Thea Stevens, Academic Development Lead and Academic Coordinator: Interdisciplinarity, School of Design, Glasgow School of Art
Dr Marianne Greated, Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Art Practice and Theory, Edinburgh College of Art

Pass/fail grading as compassionate assessment

Vikki Hill, Director of Learning Enhancement and Academic Development at Queen Margaret University

The role of compassionate leadership in supporting innovative teaching

Fiona Denney, Professor of Leadership and Business Education, Brunel Business School, Brunel University London

Compassionate student learning environments, services and support

Nicola Smith, UHI Head of Student Experience
Simon Varwell, Director of Student Engagement & Representation, HISA
Shannon MacCallum, Vice-President Education, HISA

Practice-based reflections on student-led module co-creation and design

Dr Linsey Hunter, Lecturer UHI History Department

Beyond the classroom, how compassion is exemplified through UHI processes and regulations

Sharon Rankin, UHI Faculty Liaison Lead
Gillian MacLellan, UHI Faculty Liaison Advisor
Leigh Montgomery, UHI Interim Head of Student Records
Elena Arroyo, HISA Advice Service Co-ordinator
Anna-Wendy Stevenson, Head of Academic Standards and Enhancement UHI

The three C's of inclusive practice: compassion, creativity, and cultural-sensitivity

Dr Alison Purvis, Dean Teaching and Learning Sheffield Hallam University

What's Love got to do with it? - A loving pedagogy in Higher Education

Julie Jones, Programme Leader UHI Inverness

Pedagogies of place: Exploring digital and cultural belonging and not-belonging

Dr Bonnie Stewart, Associate Professor of Online Pedagogy and Workplace Learning, University of Windsor