



Connections Seminar: Learning Environments of Postgraduate Distance Programs and the Efficacy of Structured Peer Critiquing therein

Presented by Dr Keith Joiner, School of Engineering and IT (Canberra)

Increasingly postgraduate courses are delivered on-line so as to meet professionals' demands for life-long learning. Research examined the distance learning environment and the efficacy of students critiquing each other's seminal work, by either direct exchange or via online fora, as a structured part of their formal assessments.



A total of 377 students were given standardised learning environment inventories and some undertook qualitative interviews. Students from three subjects were given the experimental pedagogy of structured peer critiquing (SPC), while students from two subjects were a control group without SPC. The research findings show significant differences in environment across most demographics and by prior academic achievement. The research found that SPC was more effective for students with lower or average prior achievement and led to improved perceptions of their learning environment. Forums were found to be a more subtle means of structuring critiquing and engagement than direct exchange; however, care is also needed to ensure online debate is incisive.

Encouraged by the incisiveness of the standardized environmental instruments, future work is proposed to benchmark the overall University's postgraduate distance program using an environment inventory specific to tertiary distance learning and another to on-line Constructivist pedagogy.

*This session will be held at UNSW Canberra in LT03, Bldg 30. We have booked Central Lecture Block 2 for those of you who would like to come and watch the livestream at UNSW Kensington. Alternatively, you can also access the livestream as it is happening via our **Connections Moodle** site.*

[Register here](#)

About Keith



Dr Keith Joiner was an Air Force aeronautical engineer, project manager and teacher for 30

years before joining UNSW to teach and research test and evaluation. As a Director-General he was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross and for drawdown plans in Iraq a U.S. Meritorious Service Medal. His 1999 PhD was in reform of calculus education and he is actively researching classroom environments for distance and student engagement.

Event details

Event date:

17th Oct 2019, 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Location:

Central Lecture Block 2 (Kensington) - LT03, Building 30 (Canberra)

or

Livestream via the [**Connections Moodle site**](#) (self-enrolment key: **unswconnections**)

Open to:

Staff Only: Event open only to UNSW Staff

Contact name:

PVCE Projects Team

Contact phone:

x50044

Contact email:

[**pvce.events@unsw.edu.au**](mailto:pvce.events@unsw.edu.au)

Register now:

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[**Add to calendar**](#)

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