

Forum Insights

ICEP



Introduction

The International Conference on Engaging Pedagogy (ICEP) is an annual event that brings together researchers and practitioners in the field of third-level teaching. The conference format includes standard paper presentations intermingled with workshops and panel style discussions. 2015 is the eighth year of the ICEP conference series, its aim to further discussion and collaboration amongst researchers and practitioners in third level teaching and learning. A persistent theme of the conference series is *The Voice of The Educator, which is enhanced with topical themes each year*. The first ICEP conference was in 2008 and has since taken place in the National University of Ireland – Maynooth, University College Dublin, Griffith College Dublin, the National College of Ireland, the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown, and the Institute of Technology, Sligo, and most recently the Athlone Institute of Technology.

Traditionally the annual conference takes place in December. It supports participants through the joint aim of capturing the voice of the educators and providing them with a co-owned space for pedagogical discussion and development. The broad scope of the core values underpinning this mission include:

- ICEP is a place where the voice of the educator is paramount;
- The conversation that educators have at ICEP events are the source for the future direction of ICEP, and in this way sustain ICEP;
- ICEP provides activities and events designed to facilitate and capture delegate conversations and to have these inform future meetings thus furthering and supporting important themes that emerge.

Current work

At each conference there is a collaborative session whereby educators pitch ideas and practice with other practitioners, with a view to advancing key pedagogical ideas in a targeted way. One such idea that received much traction was one pitched at ICEP 2013 in IT Sligo – Contemplative Pedagogy. This became a theme of ICEP. With support from the National Forum for

Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, ICEP collaborated with the Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education (ACMHE). The Executive Director of ACHME, Professor Daniel Barbezat, provided a keynote address, and practice session at ICEP 2014. This was very well received.

Subsequently ICEP collaborated with FACiLiTATE (a PBL Network, and National Forum partner) to provide a 'Facilitating Mindful Learning' Workshop which was held on Friday 17th April 2015. Again, this was made possible with National Forum funding. At this workshop, Dr Lyndsay Lunan of the City of Glasgow College provided insight and practice sessions for educators wishing to use mindfulness as a teaching and learning technique.

The theme for ICEP 2015 is 'Voice of the Educator – Self Care and Contemplative Pedagogies'. Professor Daniel Barbezat and Dr Lyndsay Lunan have expressed an interest in working with ICEP 2015. There are three tracks currently proposed for ICEP 2015:

- Research Papers (10 pages);
- Practice Papers (extended abstract of between 4 – 5 pages); and
- Pecha Kucha presentations for networking and collaborating opportunities.

Other ongoing work that ICEP are advancing in order to enhance and sustain ICEP operations, and again with National Forum funding, are:

- Development of an ICEP policy handbook to hand over to new members on the various committees (at final draft stage);
- Develop the ICEP website with a view to drawing more participation from educators by making it more dynamic and current, drawing on past keynote and paper presentations (currently in progress); and
- Indexing past ICEP proceedings in Google Scholar to facilitate dissemination.

Call for expression of interest

ICEP welcome interested parties for both the organising and programme committees for the coming year. If this is something that you are interested in exploring please email info@icep.ie or the Conference Chair, Dr Brett Becker at brett@icct.ie.



NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION
