



International Network of Educational Institutes (INEI)

Summer Term Seminar (Mini) Series

Date:

Wed 31 May 10-11am UK time Dr Lauren Clark, UCL IOE *and* Dr Amelia YEO, NIE

Wed 31 May 17-18pm Beijing time

Speaker 1: Dr Lauren Clark, IOE, UCL's Faculty of Education and Society

The University as a Transformative Space

In recent years the idea of the university as a safe space has been quite controversial, with some identifying the university as a space to be exposed to new ideas and others seeing it as a space where controversial ideas should be kept out of the 'safe space'. Indeed, some might argue that the university should be a space where students and staff are encouraged to challenge knowledge and the status quo by engaging with different perspectives. This presentation will explore the idea of the university as a transformative space, one that can provide a safe space to explore new ideas through freedom within a structure (Woods, 2005). As well as drawing on research on learning spaces (Savin-Baden, 2008; Cousin, 2010), this presentation will use primary data from interviews and observations with nine critical educators in higher education to consider how educators can create a transformative space in the university.

Biography

Lauren is a Lecturer in Education at the IOE and is also Chair of the IOE Early Career Network. Her research interests include student-staff partnership, higher education pedagogy, critical pedagogy, and academic identity. Lauren completed her PhD in Curriculum & Pedagogy at the IOE in 2020, which focused on exploring the relationship between critical pedagogical beliefs and practice in English universities. Lauren currently teaches on the MA Education programme and leads one of the core modules, What is Education.



Speaker 2: Dr Amelia YEO, NIE, Singapore

The Psychology of Hand Gestures in Teaching and Learning

When people speak, they sometimes move their hands. These hand movements are referred to as gestures. Do these gestures convey any meaningful information? In a classroom, teachers might gesture in different ways. For example, they might point to graphs on the whiteboard or trace a shape with their hands. Can these fleeting hand movements affect student learning outcomes? In this presentation, I discuss how gestures that co-occur with speech are meaningful and influence student learning from a psychological perspective. I will describe research on the usefulness of these gestures across a variety of student levels and discuss the attitudes of teachers towards using gestures in teaching and learning. I will also discuss the emerging finding that not all hand gestures could be helpful for learning and directions for future work.

Biography

Amelia is an Assistant Professor with the Psychology and Child & Human Development Academic Group at the National Institute of Education in Singapore and the Early Career Network representative of the Educational Research Association of Singapore (ERAS). Amelia obtained her PhD in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison examining how a speaker's hand gestures influenced people's thoughts about narrated events. Her current work examines how multimodal cues such as hand gestures affect the processes of learning and communication. Her work is highly interdisciplinary, crossing the fields of cognitive science, embodied cognition, psycholinguistics, and education.